



Stillwater Conservation District

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August 6th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room (334 N. 9th Street, Columbus, MT)

Meeting called to order by: Robert Van Oosten at 6:01pm

Supervisors Present: Robert Van Oosten (*Chairman*), Noel Keogh (*Vice Chairman*), Butch Behrent (*Treasurer*), Steve Story (*Secretary*), Ben Walker (*Urban Supervisor*), Nathan Jones (*Urban Supervisor*), Darryl Thompson (*Associate Member*)

Supervisors Approved Absent: NONE

Others Present: Sharon Flemetis (*District Admin*), Celeste Barnett (*310/Volunteer Coordinator*), Garrett Larson (NRCS), Bryan Giordano (FWP), Connie DeCelle, Brian DeCelle, Myles, Elooscer, Dennis & Roxanne Trees

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from July 9th, 2024 Meeting: **Noel** **Seconded: Ben**
Discussion: None **Vote: Approved**

Public Comment

* 3 Minute Limit * The Public will conduct themselves in a professional manner or be asked to leave.*

Connie DeCelle was present and wanted to discuss the Biel EWP project that partly occurs on her land. She had the original plans and had sent in a payment for the original project. She was unhappy with the work done by the original contractor, wants a copy of the new plans, and a copy of the financials. She was told new plans were not yet available, but they would be provided once finalized and financial documents will be provided when the project is closed out.

Noel Keogh introduced his intern with the Working Lands Internship Program Myles. Myles gave a brief description of the program.

REPORTS

Robert "Bob" Van Oosten – Planning Board was cancelled last month and meets tomorrow for this month.

Butch Behrent – Shared the Annual Report from the SVWC and the Ratt Team, let us know there is a new Storybook presentation available online, and the gala is Thursday.

Steve Story – No Report

Darryl Thompson – No Report

Noel Keogh– The SVWC weed float & pull is Sunday at the Nye firehall, bring boats & PFD

Ben Walker– No Report

Nate Jones – No Report

Garrett Larson– Have been doing a lot of Fuel Mitigation Inventories and hoping to expand the area soon. Field season is in full swing, and they have been doing a lot of Range Inventories too.

Sharon Flemetis – Opportunity was just sent to us today to host an AmeriCorp member. This is a fully funded position we just have to help find affordable housing and supervise them. We have been wanting to share something like this with SVWC and we have told them we are interested.

Celeste Barnett – No Report

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Presented by Sharon Flemetis

Motion to approve and pay warrants: Noel

Discussion: None

Seconded: Nate

Vote: Approved

GRANT UPDATES

EWP- Asked Bryan (FWP) for an extension until 9/31 on the projects still needing construction, Frank, Fromberg, Bartlett, Turkey Creek, Alvarez, & Biel. We have 1 project left in Stillwater and 5 in Carbon. Pre-con meetings are happening for these projects.

Mendenhall – Not yet closed out, still working on financials.

Forest Service/ERLA – Meeting tomorrow, ERLA EWP is not likely to get an extension

ARPA Danford- **Motion to move deadline to 6/1/25: Nate**

Seconded: Ben

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved

ARPA Orchard- **Motion to move deadline to 6/1/25: Nate**

Seconded: Ben

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved

EC – \$30,000.00 has been approved and awarded to Stacy Biel. RATT team request is also being awarded. Any additional available monies depend on how bad of a fire season it is.

NEW BUSINESS

Permissive Mill Levy – Increase is needed for staff health insurance. This is our first increase in 6 years. Base year was 2018 at \$1,000.00. The District has paid the health stipend to the employees 2018-present.

Motion to approve Permissive Levy increase from \$1,000 to \$4,000: Nate Seconded: Steve

Discussion: Increase was approved by Board on April 11, 2023, to help with insurance premiums. This motion is to allow the Permissive Levy to be used to pay the new BCBS Premiums.

Vote: Approved

FY 24/25 Budget & Employee Benefits – Budget shows a deficit of \$48,000.00, we only received \$25,000.00 from the Admin grant but there may be a second round available.

NACD TOUR – August 21st & 22nd a National CD tour event for Admins & Board Members. Wednesday will be a convention at the Double Tree in Billings. EO has given us verbal confirmation that they will cover Celeste & Sharon’s travel & registration. Thursday we will be hosting them, at their cost, at the Civic Center and putting on a presentation about the 22 flood. We would like all board members to attend. Lunch will be from the Fishtail Store. After the presentation Sharon will be leading a flood tour ending at Bridger Plant materials.

Motion to approve Sharon & Celeste attending Wednesday 8/21/24: Nate

Seconded: Ben Discussion: None Vote: Approved

Motion to pay for SCD attendees lunch on 8/22/24 : Nate

Seconded: Ben Discussion: None Vote: Approved

Area Meeting – It is our turn to host. Meeting will be on October 3rd. We have booked the Stillwater Pavilion and asked for bids from food trucks to cater lunch. Attendees will pay \$35. We will sell tickets online, Bob will run the meeting. More details in September.

OLD BUSINESS

Storage Shed – Tabled

Rain Barrel Workshop - Postponed

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Rec'd	Decision
24-026	Gray	Stillwater	Riprap	7/10/2024	Motion To Approve with Modifications: Butch Seconded: Nate

					Discussion: Not a great place to build a house. When they purchased the property in the 80s the river was in the other channel. All the houses in this row will continue to be in jeopardy, the river wants to be there. Vote: Approved, Noel Voted Nay, Ben Abstained.
24-027M	Kern	Stillwater	Headgate Maintenance	7/24/2024	Motion to approve a 10 year maintenance: Noel Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved
24-028	Smed	Ingersoll	Stock Culvert	7/25/2024	Motion to Approve with the Modification they use a 48"x30' Arched Flat Bottom Pipe, along with mods suggested in team report: Nate Seconded: Ben Discussion: None Vote: Approved
24-029	McCloud	Fiddler	Ag Bridge	7/25/2024	Motion to Approve: Noel Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved
24-030	Jones	Stillwater	Riprap Repair	7/26/2025	Motion to Approve with Modification suggested in the Team Report: Butch Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved
24-031E	SMC	Stillwater	Emergency Silt Removal	7/29/2024	Motion to Approve: Noel Seconded: Nate Discussion: This needs to be re-engineered, possibly a well, it needs to have sediment pass through and fish passage, and submit a new application Vote: Approved

					Motion to Approve: Noel Seconded: Nate Discussion: Will be moving road to bench above and this will be reclaimed Vote: Approved
24-032E	Watts	Stillwater	Emergency Road Repair	7/29/2024	

VIOLATIONS/COMPLAINTS

#23-088 D4 Properties – Will inspect before September meeting, Noel will be Board Rep

#23-052V Judy Krone – Still need to get the lawyer more information

#23-064V Montana Rail Link & #23-070V Montana Rail Link – Bob & Bryan feel that it does not need to be re-inspected. Bryan has floated past and did not see anything concerning. They do need to pay the assessed fines of \$7,400.00 as they still have not turned in a completed 275 form. We will send them a letter stating that if the fine is not paid in 30 days we will issue a new violation.

Motion to close their 310 permit : Noel

Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved

#24-025C John Skiles – Waiting for the As-Builts from Engineering West, Skiles is paying for those.

Save The Dates

August 22, 2024 – NACD Tour

August 29, 2024 - Site Inspections

September 2, 2024 – Labor Day

September 3, 2024 - Monthly Board Meeting 6pm

Motion to move September Meeting to 9/10/24: Noel

Seconded: Ben Discussion: None Vote: Approved

September 26, 2024 - Site Inspections

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Noel SECONDED: Nate

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:05pm

Minutes Approved on:

Minutes Approved By  Date: 9/10/24

310 Applications must be received by 12pm seven days prior to the meeting and have been inspected to be reviewed. Agenda items must be submitted to the CD Office by Noon the Monday before the scheduled meeting. Agendas are available at the CD Office upon request and at stillwatercd.org once finalized. All meetings of the CD are open to the public. Meetings may be recorded by the district for note taking purposes and then will be destroyed once minutes are approved. Once approved the minutes will be available at stillwatercd.org and the County Clerk and Records Office.