

**STILLWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Columbus USDA office Conference Room  
COLUMBUS, MT  
June 6, 2017**

Vice Chairman Corky Kem moved to make Bob Van Oosten Temporary Chairman for this meeting. Noel Keogh seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was called to order by Temporary Chairman, Bob Van Oosten at 7:03 PM. Supervisors present were Butch Behrent, Bob Van Oosten, Will Downs, Noel Keogh, Rod Fink, and Corky Kem. Also present were Garrett Larson, Krist Walstad, Keri Bilbo and Tanya Lester. Steve Story and Jim Edwards (Associate) were excused.

**MINUTES**

Butch Behrent moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with a typographical correction. Will Downs seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Noel Keogh moved to accept the treasure's report and pay bills as presented. Corky Kem seconded. Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

Noel - There will be a SVWC meeting on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Nye firehall with a tour of the West Fork Avulsion project area. They will meet at 5pm at the firehall and proceed to the project location from there. Range Days is coming up June 19-21 in Red Lodge.

Rod – City Planning Board meeting was cancelled.

Tanya – Had to cancel Conservation Day on May 17<sup>th</sup> due to rain. Will look in to having contingency plans next year. MACD Spring Board meeting is next week in Helena. Bugs coming in tomorrow for bio-control release project. Working on the YR CDC website and on registration for Montana Range Days.

Will – Attended the Ag Summit in Great Falls. Met US Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue and Senator Steve Daines. While at the Summit he also met MACD Executive Director Elena Evans and Cascade Conservation District Chairman Gayla Wortman. Discussed with Ms. Wortman some of the reasons CCD has decided not to participate with MACD.

Krist - Reviewed the June Snow Report for June. Discussed the plans for the upcoming Range Days in Red Lodge. Reported that there is going to be another employee in the Joliet office, hopefully before the end of the year.

Garrett – The NRCS office has been working hard on the CSP program. There are 8 applicants that have been working hard to create plans. Deadline to finish plans is June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Columbus office has been helping Krist with plans for Range Days. The NRCS is doing interviews with different producers around the state and Noel Keogh will be the producer from our area focusing on Range Health. There is a tour at BPMC on June 14<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> the NRCS office will be participating in the Palisades Weed Pull. On June 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> year planting evaluation at the Berry Ranch.

Keri – Thanked the supervisors for their support with locally led conservation. Reminded them that the Local Work Groups are an important factor in ranking projects. Went over the reorganization of the USDA under the new Secretary of Agriculture.

Public Comment: None

### **310 APPLICATIONS & COMPLAINTS**

16012 – Hogan RipRap – Al Hogan called. He has finished his project to fix a violation. Corky said he would be able to go out and look at it when Jason was available. Rod would like to attend also.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Grant Updates:**

RRG-14-1605 – Made quarterly payment. Kevin will be finishing up work on this grant in the next 6 months. Need to have public meeting to present results.

RRGL application Yanzick/Brey Riddle – Received notice from DNRC that an updated scope, schedule and budget will be needed to finish contract. Funding should start after September 2017.

223 Grant – Lower Stillwater Assessment – Warren has been selected as the contractor to do the assessment. He will be walking the river after high water.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Carl Gates Request – Carl Gates wrote a letter about changes in the flow of Keyser Creek and requested that the Stillwater Conservation District investigate. Because there was no specific complaint there is not much the district can do. Corky spoke to Carl and it is possible that the issue may be more a water rights issue than a 310 issue. The district will wait to see if Mr. Gate turns in an Official Complaint.

Landroller Repair – There is a small break in the cover of the ball hitch that covers the top portion of the hauling arm on the landroller. After the meeting the supervisors will look at to see what repairs or changes to the arm need to be made.

ST1601 Hamilton Water Reservation – Justin/Rick Hamilton have applied for another water reservation near the last one they received. Duane is waiting for Cove Ditch's approval before proceeding.

July Meeting – The 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in July will be a Federal Holiday (July 4<sup>th</sup>), therefore the supervisors decided the July meeting will be held on the second Tuesday (July 11<sup>th</sup>).

EQIP Conservation Plans – At 8:15 pm the meeting was closed for Garrett to go over one EQIP Conservation Plans with the supervisors. At 8:20 pm the meeting was reopened. Noel Keogh moved to approve the EQIP Conservation Plan. Will Downs seconded. Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Lester  
Administrator

Steve Story  
Chairman, SCD

Robert Van Oosten  
Secretary, SCD