

UPPER YELLOWSTONE WATERSHED BASIN

PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

General Membership Meeting

January 5th, 2006 at 7:00 PM

St. Johns Church, Emigrant

-MINUTES-

Those Present: (21)

Bob Anderson	Leanne Roulson, Garcia & Associates
Bob Weber	LouAnn Skattum
Bruce Malcolm	Mark Rose
Debbie Zarnit, Montana Watercourse	Nicole McClain, Coordinator
Dennis Skattum	Roger Nelson
Eleanor Bossert	Scott Opitz, FWP
Gayleen Malone	Sean Murphy
Jeannette Romig, ADC Services	Steve Libsack
Jeff Dunn, PBS& J Consulting	Thad Berrett, NRCS
Jim Franck	Tom Arrandale
Jim Johnson, Confluence Consulting	

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by acting Chairman, Sean Murphy.

2. **VISITOR INTRODUCTIONS.**

- ◆ Debbie Zarnit, Montana Watercourse
- ◆ Jeannette Romig, ADC Services
- ◆ Jim Johnson, Confluence Consulting
- ◆ Leanne Roulson, Garcia & Associates
- ◆ Scott Opitz, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. **APPROVAL OF December 2005 MINUTES**

4. **UPDATES**

• **Coordinator's Report:**

◆ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◆ Peter Kolb, scheduled speaker for tonight cancelled due to a death in the family. He has rescheduled for the March 2nd meeting. He apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.
- ◆ Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology. John Olson will be speaking next Thursday (1/12/06) at 1:30 in the City-County Community Room about ground water resources in the Shields and Livingston Valleys.

◆ **OLD BUSINESS**

- ◆ DEQ Update, Heidi Lindgren, Watershed Planner resigned from DEQ & a stop-work was issued until they can hire a replacement Planner according to an email update from interim DEQ Watershed Planner, Dean Yashan.
- ◆ Field units for UYWB & Weeds, update. At the December meeting it was suggested and agreed upon to create display units containing informational brochures on the UYWB and different projects we are working on such as weeds. These haven't been started yet, but a mock-up will be ready before the next meeting on March 2nd.
- ◆ MWCC. Nicole and Amy will attend the quarterly meeting on 1/24/06 in Helena. It was agreed upon by the MWCC Retreat Committee to ask the B-Bar to host the 2006 Training Retreat, and they graciously agreed.
- ◆ Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) grant, our application was mailed 12/2/05 (due date). A copy of the application is available for your review in the black notebook, or upon request. A grant hearing will be held in Lewistown sometime during March 14-17 and a request will go out to the membership in late April asking for volunteers to testify about our project before the Review Committee during that time.
- ◆ UYWB 2005 Year in Review was distributed at the December meeting. Copies are available upon request or on the website.
- ◆ Weber irrigation project, update. Research into possible funding opportunities was delayed due to the holidays, however, Nicole will begin work on this project in mid-January.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

- ◆ Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council. This group is looking for a member from the upper Yellowstone of the agriculture or commercial industries to serve on their Resource Advisory Council which meets quarterly. POSITION FILLED by Jerry O'Hair – Thank you!

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- **Chairman's Report:**
 - ◆ Acting Chairman, Sean Murphy briefly discussed the stop-work order from DEQ. Sean reminded folks that as much as paperwork, etc., as the TMDL involves it will be worth it in the long-run to stay involved through the watershed group. Because in the end it will reflect what people in the UYWB really want vs. having no input at all. Our group needs to be patient as DEQ fills its vacancies.
 - ◆ Reviewed the results of December exercise/survey regarding the group's educational & resource needs, as well as comments regarding what should be the primary mission of this watershed group.
 - ◆ NCAT workshop for UYWB Irrigation Efficiency Project (AM400 - Soil Moisture Data Logger) coming in February. Please note: grant funds allow for the purchase of ten (10) units, 5 are still available.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Endangered Species/Wildlife Committee**
 - ◆ Update by Bert Otis. N/A
- **Irrigation Committee**
 - ◆ Update by Jerry O'Hair. Jerry attended an elk management meeting at FWP in Bozeman tonight and will report back to the group at the next meeting.
- **Range Committee**
 - ◆ Update by Alvin Pierce. N/A
- **Stream Stabilization Committee**
 - ◆ Update by Roger Nelson. Nothing new to report.
- **Weed Committee Update**
 - ◆ Update by Eleanor Bossert. Nothing new to report.

5. **OPEN ITEMS.**

- ◆ Mark Rose talked to the group about a project he is working on with Pat Byorth, FWP Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Restoration Specialist. It is a fish screening project, also known as the Fish Entrainment Prevention Project. They are finished with the design and plan but just need some more money to finish the project. The next step is permitting and installation on Big Creek. A tour of this project, which is located near the road, would be possible in late May or June. It was suggested that we invite Pat Byorth to a future meeting to discuss how this process works and help with the tour. This is a Future Fisheries project.

6. **PROJECT IDEAS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

- Input from the group on resource needs, future meeting topics, etc.
 - ◆ Scott Opitz, FWP Area Biologist suggested that the group allow he and Pat Byorth to present fish data that they have on Mill Creek and its function for recruitment to the Yellowstone, why they need and are pursuing water in Mill Creek. They would also have their water lease specialist, Andy Brummond, give a presentation on water leasing. This would cover leasing options, leasing authority, how the program works, etc.

7. **PRESENTATION** by Debbie Zarnt, of the Montana Watercourse. **Know Your Watershed Program**

A community-based watershed education project entitled "Know Your Watershed" is now available from the Montana Watercourse. The project involves development of a community workshop (and optional tour), which targets all citizens interested in learning more about the characteristics, operation and management of their watershed. The workshops are commonly developed through a collaborative planning process within the watershed, facilitated by staff of the Montana Watercourse.

Informal presentation about the Montana Watercourse. Background: Small non-profit group, work outside university in Bozeman, Started in 1989, they currently have 4 employees, and are grant funded. Their mission is to provide water resource education programs in Montana. Debbie's partner does a K-8 program in the schools to incorporate water resources education into the curriculum while Debbie runs adult/community program. Lately she's been talking to local governments about how to protect wetlands, setting up volunteer monitoring programs, and providing education on water rights, watershed management, etc. The Montana Watercourse has many resources available including publications. Know Your Watershed program (KYW): is mainly for groups just starting out... but for groups like ours use a tool to help focus on specific issues. Goals: educational workshop tailored by and for local community stakeholders and talk about what issues are most pressing and pertinent for the group to focus on. Next step a one-day workshop, bring in experts and organize tours, as a way to educate group members, create

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community awareness, etc. Increase knowledge & understanding, connect people to resources, human, printed material, and start facilitating dialogue for solutions to problems we may be facing. Debbie shared examples of watershed tours in the past, including agenda and materials, speakers, etc. to give us an idea of what they have done. Way to facilitate collaboration between community members, and different stakeholders. A KYW tour and workshop has been done in the Shields.

Questions:

Q: Can you give us some examples of tours and workshops?

A: Stream restoration projects, water rights issues, and ground water issues – they bring in people who are involved in this area to find funding to help kick-start a project like a ground water study, erosion control, and weed projects.

Q: How about having someone to talk to our group about Water Rights?

A: The Montana Watercourse could try to get someone from DNRC to come in and help explain the process. It is definitely a very important topic and would help to connect experts with the community to educate folks about this issue.

Q: What type of weed management projects have you done?

A: Debbie actually hasn't been a part of any weed projects first-hand, but they could arrange to have experts come in and help us with our weed projects.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS. Sean, as Acting Chairman, reminded everyone that there is no meeting scheduled for February and thanked everyone for coming!

9. ADJOURN

Thank you for coming!
Next Meeting: March 2nd, 2006

Key to Commonly Used Acronyms:

NCAT – National Center for Appropriate Technology	ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
DEQ – Department of Environmental Quality	MBMG – Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology
DNRC – Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Services
FWP – Fish Wildlife & Parks	Park CD – Park Conservation District
LEP – Local Empowerment Program (MACD)	TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load (DEQ)
MACD – Montana Association of Conservation Districts	UYWB – Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin
MWCC – Montana Watershed Coordination Council	WPA – Watershed Planning & Assistance Grant (DNRC)

Equipment List: (Available to members on loan)

- Trailer mounted weed sprayer (2)
- ElectroNet fencing – (9) 35" x 164'
- 10 Watt Solar Panel
- IntelliShock 42B battery energizer & 12v 44 amp battery