

# UPPER YELLOWSTONE WATERSHED BASIN

## PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*General Membership Meeting  
September 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM  
Arrowhead School – Pray MT*

### -MINUTES-

#### **1. PRESENTATION:**

Community Meeting sponsored by the Gallatin National Forest. "The Paradise Valley Complex Update." For current information: visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/> or <http://www.inciweb.org/>

#### **Those Present:**

Alan Redfield	Kester Romans Jr.
Alvin Pierce	Lance Vines
Bert Otis	Leanne Roulson, Garcia &
Daryl Smith	Associates
Dave Molebash	Lewis Wilks
Edwin Johnson	Mark Rose
Eleanor Bossert	Nicole McClain, UYWB Coordinator
Eunice Petrich	Roger Nelson
Jerry O'Hair	Ryan Malone
Jill Wilks	Scott Opitz, FWP
Jim Durgan	Thomas Romans
Jim Johnson, Confluence	Tina Poncin
Consulting	Tom Bechtel
Jim Robinson, DNRC	Virginia O'Hair
Karin Neff, Confluence Consulting	

#### **2. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman, Mark Rose.**

#### **3. VISITOR INTRODUCTIONS.**

- ◆ Karen Neff, Confluence Consulting
- ◆ Jim Johnson, Confluence Consulting
- ◆ Leanne Roulson, Garcia & Associates
- ◆ Scott Opitz, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

#### **4. APPROVAL OF July 2006 MINUTES.** Discussion regarding distribution of minutes: due to budgetary restrictions watershed meeting minutes will be sent out electronically to our email list, they will be available on our website ([www.parkcd.org](http://www.parkcd.org)). Hard copies (printed) of the minutes will be available upon request, or at the following meeting.

#### **5. UPDATES**

##### **• Coordinator's Report:**

- ◆ Park Conservation District & the UYWB attended the Sustainability Fair on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and the Park County Fair from August 9 – 12 with the DNRC Rolling River's Stream Trailer.
- ◆ Amy and Nicole attended the MACD – CD Academy on July 17 & 18<sup>th</sup> which was sponsored by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.
- ◆ Capacity Building Grant – approximately 75 hours left of work for the Park Conservation District. To be completed by the end of September. NRCS obligation has been fulfilled.
- ◆ Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant. Funds are still available for fall spraying; please tell your friends and neighbors.
- ◆ Mountain Sky Guest Ranch fund grant application – we had a site visit on August 31<sup>st</sup> at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch. Dave Molebash, Nicole, Amy Miller and Daryl Sheehan attended on behalf of the Park CD watershed efforts.
- ◆ MWCC Fall Training Conference – September 11, 12, 13<sup>th</sup> @ the B-Bar Ranch.

##### **• Chairman's Report:**

- ◆ Dave Molebash. Stewardship Trail Ride, September 23 & 24. Putting together two workshops,
  - 1) Forest Health with Dennis Davas,
  - 2) Range management w/Marty Malone, Alan Redfield and Chauntelle Rock.

Bruce Malcolm will be the camp cook, there will be a BBQ on Saturday night as well as live music. The fee to attend will only be enough to cover the cost of food. There will be a riding component. Folks can come and

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camp, bring their trailers or tents, or go home for the evening as well. The idea is that this will be an ongoing event, followed up each spring with a fundraiser like a silent auction. Please contact Dave, Marty, Bruce or Nicole if you would like to get involved with organizing this event.

- **Vice Chairman's Report:**
  - ◆ Bert Otis

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Endangered Species/Wildlife Committee**
  - ◆ Scott Opitz. The Center for Biodiversity is appealing decision on Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout listing, so the issue is likely to come back.
- **Irrigation Committee**
  - ◆ Jerry O'Hair. Soil Moisture Data Loggers. They record what its doing, but not sure if it's reliable information or not. It would be interesting to hear from the Shields Valley folks about how the project has worked for them. It appears that there are compaction problems depending on soil types. Participants were asked to bring their boxes to the next meeting so we can download the data.
- **Range Committee**
  - ◆ Alvin Pierce. The Park CD sponsored a 3-day range monitoring workshop (through a Conservation Initiative Grant) with Charlie Orchard and attended by Alvin, Alise Donahue, Daryl Stutterheim and Alan Redfield. It was basically a crash course, but they learned an amazing amount of information about what is there. They clipped and weighed a plot of range grasses/forbs, etc. They learned that non-grazing can kill off good grasses. Regular grazing helps the grasses do better. Regarding club moss, having cattle walking on it actually breaks it up and allows moisture to penetrate the soil. The group agreed that we should keep Charlie Orchard's program and others similar to it, on the front burner and watch for grant opportunities in the future to sponsor more workshops.
  - ◆ **Stream Stabilization Committee**
  - ◆ Roger Nelson. Nothing to update.
- **Weed Committee Update**
  - ◆ Eleanor Bossert. Although it has been extremely dry, Eleanor urged folks to continue to treat their weeds due the residual effects of the pesticides. Once there is some moisture, it will be even more important to treat them. There is still money available in the grant to hire someone to treat your weeds for you or to buy chemicals.

### AGENCY UPDATES

- ◆ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Scott Opitz. Regarding the Mill Creek Flush and LEP grant. There was a flush on Mill Creek that began on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 PM. It ran for 60 hours and irrigators turned off their water while they flushed fry down into the main river. Scott and Andy Brummond monitored two sites, one upstream at the bridge, and one at the mouth. They measured 45 CFS and 37-38 fry at the upper station, and 25-27 CFS and only 4 fry at the lower station. The final report will be made available to the group soon. The funding for this flush is as follows:
  - \$ 4,900 – Mt Fish, Wildlife & Parks
  - \$10,000 – Montana Association of Conservation Districts (LEP program)
  - \$14,900 - total

### PROJECT UPDATES

- ◆ UYWB 2006 Yellowstone River Cottonwood Restoration project. We are working with the Custer County Conservation District and the Yellowstone Conservation Districts Council on this project in terms of funding. Currently we are awaiting a task order to be completed and submitted for review and signatures before the project can proceed.

#### 5. **OPEN ITEMS.** *n/a*

#### 6. **PROJECT IDEAS**

- Input from the group on resource needs and future meeting topics.
  1. Range Monitoring Workshops with Charlie Orchard.

#### 7. **CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS.** Mark Rose thanked everyone for attending and thanked Dave Molebash for all of his hard work as past Chairman.

#### 8. **ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM. St. John's Hall - Emigrant**