

Park Conservation District

5242 Highway 89 South Livingston, MT 59047
Office: (406) 946-3007 Cell: (406) 223-1048

August 6, 2024 – 11:00am REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

USDA Conference Room
5242 US Hwy 89 S
Livingston, MT 59047

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ned Zimmerman, Dave Haug, Judy O’Hair, DeWitt Dominick, Martin Davis, Jamie Lannen (call)

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: Ashley Lowrey, SVWG/UYWG Watershed Coordinator; Kelly Arterburn, PCD Administrator; Sacarra Molina, FSA; Nate Brown, NRCS; Ted Nelson, NRCS; Scott Opitz, FWP; Buddy Drake, FWP, Ashley Brubaker, Trout Unlimited; Brad & Lorraine Greenwood, landowners; Mark Thompson, SGCD Chair.

ZOOM: Ryder Bechtold, DMS Natural Resources, LLC; Jeremy May, Headwaters Engineering.

- I. **11:08am - Call the Regular Park CD Board Meeting to Order – Ned Zimmerman, Chairman**
Automatic **NO votes for Board Members not present.

II. **310 Applications: Inspection Reports, Discussion and Board Decision:**

A. **PK-01-23**

Soda Butte Creek, 279 Bannock Trail, Cooke City, Michael & Michelle Rosengren.

Jeremy May – PE.

EPA – decision 7.19.2024 to take the lead for Clean Water Act Section 404 enforcement.

DeWitt – feedback on conceptual plans submitted to PCD – consider establishing some kind of riparian zone planting in lieu of lawn, similar to the stream front vegetation that was there before the flood. Chair – requested this to be put in Old Business for future meetings.

B. **PK-08-23**

Mill Creek, Pray, Trout Unlimited, Ashley Brubaker, Jeff Dunn. Post runoff inspection of PALS.

FWP – recommend cutting some of the posts down at an angle, upstream woody debris at bridge collecting sediment. PCD – consider planting willows / vegetation to camouflage. Ashley Brubaker – would like to let the PALS go through a few cycles to make sure they are locked into place before cutting posts down.

***Judy made a motion to approve the extension on (PK-08-23) 310 Permit with the modification on the issued permit, DeWitt 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**

C. **PK-32-24**

Shields River, Livingston, Tim Sundling. Bank stabilization on vertical banks.

FWP – distance seems longer than shown in plans, recommend to out rock toe in below channel bed and only go up half of proposed bank height. Erosion on blanket rip rap typically occurs at the toe.

***Ned made a motion to approve with recommendations on team member report: 1) toe rock must be placed in a 1 to 2 foot trench at sub-channel bed grade, 2) rock may not be placed above half the bank height, 3) you are required to slope the bank, mulch, and seed above the rock, 4) post construction pictures must be submitted to the Conservation District, and 5) work must be done during low water. Dave 2nd. Motion carried (5-2).**

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- D. **PK-35-24**
Shields River, 72 Elk Creek Rd, Wilsall, DeWitt Dominick, Point Bar Resources.
DeWitt – PCD received DNRC Project Planning Grant for bank restoration to stabilize road and bridge alignment on Elk Creek Road bridge, with support from the Park Co. Road Department. Bridge needs to be replaced, but no funding to do the replacement in upcoming years. FWP – well-designed project, will make a huge difference in how the bedload moves through.
***Jamie made a motion to approve, Martin 2nd, motion carried (4-1, with 2 abstaining).**
- E. **PK-36-24**
East Fork Spring Creek, 243 Rock Creek Rd, Clyde Park, Park Electric, Tom Kersbergen.
Underground utility crossing. FWP – straightforward project.
***Martin made a motion to approve and waive 15-day waiting period, Dave 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**
- F. **PK-37-24**
Shields River, 1257 Hwy 89 N, Clyde Park, Steven Shplet. Install 25HP pump. FWP – foot valve, pad on top of bank.
***DeWitt made a motion to approve, Judy 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**
- G. **PK-38-24**
Pine Creek, 212 Pine Creek Rd, Livingston, Brad Greenwood. Bank stabilization to protect bridge. FWP – Recommend extending bridge length, creating a berm at the top of the bank is not allowed by USACE or Park CD, Pine Creek channel is still adjusting post-fire. There is a bottleneck at the bridge. Need to seek a long term solution to protect the resource and downstream landowners. Brad Greenwood – would like to install 4-5’ boulders to stabilize the bank along 35’ of bank. They only increased the bank height by about one foot during work done on prior 310 permit.
***Judy made a motion to put the application on hold, Dave 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**
- H. **PK-39-24-E**
Shields River, 7 Castle Mountain Rd, Livingston, Joe Croston. Temporary rock dam placed next to point of diversion due to low flow.
***Dave made a motion to acknowledge the work done, Martin 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**

III. Reserved Water Applications – Reports, Discussion and Board Decision:

- A. **PA 2301, West Creek Ranch, LLC. – 606-CD**
- Request for Pre-application meeting submitted to Bozeman Water Resources Office July 31, 2024. Will need signature once the application form is complete and \$500 check.
 - Need to submit application and all records for approved application to DNRC director for Yellowstone Basin approval.
- B. Site inspections on current authorized users – FWP willing to do inspections with PCD on our monthly site inspection day.

IV. Public Comment – *none*.

V. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Items

- A. Approval of Checks and Financial Reports
B. Balance sheets, profit and loss
C. Supervisor Reimbursement forms – sign and submit forms, approve checks for reimbursement.
D. Checks: MACD - \$23.29 for website hosting
***Dave made a motion to approve the checks and treasurer’s report, Martin 2nd, motion**

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carried (5-2)

VI. Minutes Approval – July 9, 2024 Minutes

***DeWitt made a motion to approve as corrected, July 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**

VII. New Business

- A. Permissive Levy – proposed PCD health benefit 2025 - \$1,300/month for full time employee, (\$200 PCD Base, \$1,100 Permissive Levy). Based on equitable health benefit to Park County employees.
***Ned made a motion to increase the health stipend for 2025 to \$1,300/month for full time employees and weighted for other employees at or over half time. The base stipend of \$200 for full time employees to be paid from the general budget and \$1,100 to be paid from the 2025 Permissive Levy for the health stipend and weighted for other employees. DeWitt 2nd. Motion passed (5-2).**
- B. DNRC Shields River Restoration Grant – pay professional services invoice. Check approved in financials.
- C. Sweetgrass CD – Mark Thompson - SGCD plans to seek funding to repair two bridges on the Boulder River, in partnership with Park Co. Commissioners and Sweet Grass Recreation Group. One bridge is in the river on Forest Service land. Access is needed for communication towers that serve Park County. Seeking Section 595 Grant through USACE.
***Martin made a motion to draft a Letter of Support for Sweet Grass CD grant proposal to pursue bridge repair funding on the Boulder River, Dave 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**
- D. Bank of the Rockies –
***Dave made a motion to allow Kelly account access to Park Conservation District Accounts for deposits and expense tracking, July 2nd, motion carried (5-2).**
- E. USACE – request for comments, MT FWP application to excavate sediment & debris at boat ramps on Yellowstone. Scott Opitz will follow up on this.
- F. MACD Area 6 Meeting – Tuesday, September 24, Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds. Ned or Kelly to attend – time permitting.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Oath of Office forms – Martin submitted his to Clerk and Recorder.

IX. Planning & Development Board Update– *Dustin Homan – no report.*

X. NRCS Update – *Ted Nelson/Nate Brown*

Drought monitor maps for the water year. NRCS team participated in the Park Co. Field Day to see completed projects throughout Park Co.

XI. Watershed Business

Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group – upcoming drought meeting and working lands group meeting planned for September.

Shields Valley Watershed Group -

- Next meeting: August 26th at 6pm, Wilsall
- 2024 Fall Watershed Tour – September 23rd, 10:00am – 2:30pm
- Shields Weed Field Day September 10th, 9:00 – 1:00.

XII. Conservation District Updates

- Grant updates – will request an extension for the 310 Database Grant.
- MSU Extension – seedling order forms. Spring 2025 orders open September 18th, delivery to Fairground early May 2025.
- Water Reservation Training – 3 part series, July 11, 18, & 24th. Yellowstone has received time extension for development. All new forms developed by CDB.

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XIII. Adjourned at 2:32pm

NEXT PROPOSED PARK CD MEETING: September 3, 2024 at 11:00am - USDA Conference Room

Judy Otter Supervisor _____ *9/20/24*
Minutes approved by Date

Keg Arterburn _____ *9/20/24*
Minutes prepared by Date