

Mineral County Conservation District- March 15, 2022 at 6:00pm
Alternate Meeting Location – Virtual/Phone

Mineral County Conservation District Attendees: James Lommen, Board Chair; Joe Spangler, Supervisor; Layne Hansen, Supervisor; Charlee Thompson, Supervisor; Joe Hughes, Supervisor Tom Castles, Supervisor; Cathy Tsukimura, Supervisor .

Additional Attendees: Laurie Johnston, Mineral County Commissioner; Meeting; John Bowe NRCS, ; Andy Short, County Planner, Larry Lambert, Superior Resident, Heather Burman, FS

Absent:

All Present

Minutes

February 15, 2022. A motion was made by Lane to approve the minutes with said changes. Seconded by Joe S. All in favor. Changes: Stephanie Todd's hourly wage was to be changed to \$18.00 an hour. Motion carried. 7-0.

Public Comment - There was no public comment at this time.

310 Permit

Larry Lambert- New 310 Application Presentation-Larry Lambert was present to present his 310 permit for the removal of 2 trees from the stream bank. Larry stated that there are 2 trees that are in need of cutting down. Tree one is already down with a split trunk, it is an eye sore and laying within the stream bed and perpendicular to the river. Tree two is standing dead and is leaning towards his lawn. No disturbance below the current work area. Landowner request for tree one removal denied. Jim L. recommendation: Cut tree one above the root ball 3-4 feet. Leave the tree laying on the bank, do not remove. Joe H. stated caution for safety while cutting tree one. Tree two Jim L. approves for the tree to be cut above the root wadd. If the tree falls towards the lawn it may be cleaned up and removed. If the tree falls towards the river, leave it lay on the bank. Landowners will also need to revegetate and mend the site. No site inspection needed at this time. **A motion was made by Joe Hughes to approve the application with said modifications. Seconded by Lane Hansen. All in favor. Motion Carried. 7-0**

Montana Rail Link Violation-54-3-2022V- Photos were presented and acquired, by social media, of the violation in progress. Stephanie gave the timeline of events, which are found in the file, that transpired to call the "acts/violation" to the attention of MRL Corporate. An Ethics complaint was filed through a 3rd party and communication was established with MRL. Jim stated that this was not the first infraction and that he has a concern for the current violation as an act of negligence on MRL. Jim orders a cease and desist letter to be sent along with a \$500.00 fine and 310 remediations plans to be submitted with a 310 permit. Joe H. and Tom C. both agree on the fine to be set at \$500.00. Charlee recommends \$1000.00. Final decision is \$500.00. **A motion was made by Tom Castles to approve the decision. Seconded by Lane Hansen. All in favor. Motion Carried. 7-0**

Montana Rail Link Emergency-54-5-2022- Trent Hansen from MRL submitted the emergency 310 application for the repair of a failed culvert. Trent furnished photos of the culvert prior to repair and after repair. No need for site inspection. Jim L. Accepts the emergency permit with modifications as approved

as submitted. Modifications: All disturbed areas are to be seeded and mulched. **A motion was made by Joe Hughes to approve the decision. Seconded by Joe Spangler. All in favor. Motion Carried. 7-0**

Idaho Forest Group 54-6-2022 Complaint- Complaint was brought forth by Stephanie Todd. Pictures were furnished by the Complainant. Trash and debris is scattered along the stream bank alongside the mill. Jim L. recommends contacting the plant manager, Doug Mancini, with a phone call and letter of violation. Time given for bank clean up, 5 days. This action is a deferment of violation if trash is removed. No vote.

Business of the Board

National Forest Service- Heather Burman- Loge Trail Permit- Heather attended virtually and answered the board questions pertaining to the term of special use permit for the St, regis park. Heather supplied documentation of the renewal and after questioning it was determined by Jim L. that the Conservation District does Not have any responsibility in the acquisition of the permit and denies involvement. Responsibility was established between the County Commissioners office and affirmed by Laurie Johnston. **As established by the supervisors, the CD has no jurisdiction in this matter.**

Town of Superior rehabilitation Project- Announcement- Accepted as “Do Not Reply”

Letter of recommendation MCCD- Clark Fork Meadows Subdivision Mar 21, 2022 6 p.m.- Joe Spangler retracted his letter. Joe would also like to conduct a study of planning boards in the state of Montana. Andy Short’s recommendation pertaining to the meeting is to follow State, county and city law. As to date Joe Spangler and Stephanie Todd were planning on attending the public hearing meeting.

Supervisor reimbursement update- Current policy states that Supervisors were to be reimbursed for site inspections, at 15.00/hr. A list of current reimbursement across the state was presented. **Jim requested that this be tabled for April’s meeting.**

DEQ- Approved application for the removal of levee and restore floodplain on St. Regis River- Announcement- Accepted

DNRC 310 Administrative Grant- Direction of MCCD, deadline May 1st

-GIS Mapping, Education Outreach, 310 signs at launching ramps, Realtor’s lunch-in- DNRC grant opportunities were submitted to the board for future consideration. The recommendation of the board was to brainstorm on what direction the CD would like to move this year. Consideration was given to education and outreach. The Decision was tabled for the next board meeting. Recommendations were given to create a facebook page, and establish a working group (NRCS). Establish a monthly calendar for every meeting and make it accessible to Supervisors. Charlee recommends the use of HB223 Grant for 5th grade tour and District Development Grant for additional Admin hours. **Board tabled Admin. Grant for April meeting.**

Administrative update- WiFi, Outside signs need moved to West side Door, Website updated-Accepted, **no recommendation for website to be changed at this time. Scholarships to be sent out this Month.**

Reports

- a. Andy Short, County Planner- Andy was present and gave an open invite to the Conservation District to attend the Monday night planning board meeting on the 21st.
- b. Ladd Knotek, Fish Wildlife and Parks - Ladd was Absent; recommendation for Clark Fork Subdivision was given in the agenda.
- c. John Bowe, NRCS Field Rep - John was present and gave his report; Working Group deadline is May 2022 for 2023. Call out to establish working rapport with local landowners for timber and weeds programs for West End mineral county.
- d. Laurie Johnston, County Commissioner- Present; no report given

310 Follow-Ups

54-8-2020: Andrew Short- Clark Fork River- Bank Rehab and provide pedestrian access to the river. Geocode: 54-2631-35-22-03-26-0000- **No further action was taken.**

54-7-2021: WGM Group / Steven Delisle – Clark Fork River – Installation of Private River Access Facility.- Geocode: 54-2322-06-3-03-02-0000- **No further action was taken. EXPIRED**

54-14-2021: Jason Nordberg- Clark Fork River- Two Rivers Subdivision. Removal of Dead Tree and Clean up Bank from overgrowth. Geocode: 54-2744-19-3-03-04-0000- **No further action was taken.**

54-11-2021: Wheeler, Yvonne – Nemote Creek – Prevent blowout of soils and shifting culvert bridge. Geocode: 54-2423-23-4-01-02-0000.- **No further action was taken.**

54-11-2021: Chris Lane- Alberton - Build Bridge over West Mountain Creek. Geocode: 54-2425-33-2-01-58-0000- **No further action was taken.**

54-16-2021: Meenach, Phil - Remove large cottonwood trees on shoreline that have sections that are dead. Clark Fork River. GeoCode: 2744-19-3-03-06-0000. - **No further action was taken.**

54-6-2022: Yvonne Wheeler- Nemote Creek- reduce the beaver pond depth upstream of the dam by 10-12 inches because the water is inundating a well and raising water levels to within several inches of an electrical box. Geocode: 54-2423-22-4-01-01-0000.- **No further action was taken.**

Adjourn

Motion by Tom Castles, second by Lane Hansen 8:41pm, motion carried 7-0