

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – March 3, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheridan Town Hall, 103 East Hamilton St., Sheridan, Montana.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Giem	Rick Sandru	Neil Barnosky
George Trischman	Jim Powell	Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Audra Bell, RVCD Stewardship Director	Kayla Mehlhoff, Admin. Assistant
John Wagoner, NRCS	Ben Masters, BSWC Member

Excused absences: Jeremy Miller, John Anderson, motion by Rick to excuse, second by Jim, motion carried.
Approval of minutes of last meeting (Feb. 2, 2022), motion by George to approve as mailed, second by Rick, motion carried.
Treasurer's Reports for February 2022, motion to approve by George, second by Neil, motion carried.
Contributions Account spreadsheet updates thru January 31, 2022

310 BUSINESS: NEW APPLICATIONS
REVIEW - - DECISION
SET UP INSPECTIONS
INSPECTION COMPLETE

TABLED: Complaint #RV2020-02 Ramshorn Creek tributary. Complaint to USACE, WO their decision. USACE will send out a notice when they finalize their decision. Matt will check with Mr. Dietrich (406-694-3147) on status.

NRCS REPORT: John Wagner

Madison CD is hosting a local working group meeting April 26 at 1pm at Ennis Library to hear public comment. Fertilizer shortage and skyrocketing prices for fertilizer and crop seed, so order your seeds now. Listened to an FWP talk about cheatgrass management on a large-scale. John will meet with his old boss and sagebrush partnership to discuss adopting some techniques for treating it in Ruby. EQIP- they have \$7,000 worth of projects. Ranking deadline was last week for the grant money and are currently waiting on green light for money. New area biologist is coming next week for wetland easement monitoring.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning Board – David Laufenberg, MadCD – February meeting canceled
2. 310 Boundary MOA with Madison CD updates
3. Watershed- written submission from Audra Bell and Ben Masters, BSWC member (attached)
4. Carcass Management Program – Site is operational still, please tell your friends. There is discussion about extending the fence line for the site and spreading the current compost on site to make room for more carcasses.
5. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – Working on request for bids, will be completed in the next week or two.
6. Upper Ruby- Multiple funding sources now. Wrapping up final planning grant paperwork. The Scope of work will be done in the next few weeks. Lawyer from the CD Bureau is helping with how to proceed with the procurement process.
7. Granite Cr. Restoration – Met with Great West and landowners to discuss the road right-of-way. Hydrometrics soil samples inspection was completed. Landowner agreements have been finalized and

distributed. Request for qualifications was published twice last month in Madisonian and only received one bid back from Great West. motion by Rick to approve using Great West on the Granite Creek Restoration Project, second by George, motion carried.

8. Pollinator Grant – no activity in winter. Met with Jackson’s Garden to discuss the plants and seeds needed for the plots this year. Ben is researching places to get seeds.
9. FWP Future Fisheries grant was submitted, approved, and accepted with scope of work completed. \$46,309 for engineering designs and implementation.
10. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for March 14, 2022 @ Alder Comm. Ctr, 10a-2p
11. BSWC Member- Ben has started a grant for BSWC project funding for bank stabilization on lower Ruby Duncan District. Wrote a natural resource article that made the front page in Madisonian. Monthly newsletter has been sent out. Has attended soil symposium in Billings, and training in Bozeman. Will be attending training in Helena next week. Completed online GIS course.
12. Banquet Planning- Kayla has moved forward with banquet planning for April 23. Venue is secured, sponsor letters have been mailed, entertainment has been secured, linen rentals quote request has been emailed. Free Range Floral MT will be doing the flower arrangements, design for posters and tickets is confirmed, marketing in 3Rivers, on Dillon Radio, Southwest MT news, Madisonian, and Dillon Tribune moving forward. Eventbrite tickets available. Board confirmed \$40 for tickets. Motion by Rick to grant the catering and bar contract to Chick’s, second by George, motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. MACDEO Dues 2022 - \$30 each employee. Neil moved to pay the dues for CD employees, second by Rick. Motion carried.
2. Screens for Audra and Ben’s laptops will be sent in to Dell to get replaced, and cases will be purchased.
3. Newland & Co. based out of Butte will complete Audit after tax season in May/June 2022
4. Candidate forms due to County Clerk & recorder March 11, 2022 for John, Neil, and Rick.
5. The CD is in need of Quickbooks online subscription for payroll and financial reporting. Motion by George to purchase Quickbooks subscription, second by Rick, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – March 2022 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Quarterly Mtg. – Mar. 2022 TBD
3. Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance Mtg. – Mar. 14, 2022 – Alder Comm. Center – 10a-2p

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public. None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Kayla Mehlhoff
Administrative Assistant

Gary Giem
Chairman