

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 295  
SHERIDAN, MT, 59749

MEETING MINUTES – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Monthly meeting for the Ruby Valley Conservation District was conducted at the Town of Sheridan building. Six board members joined the meeting and the meeting was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman, at 7:04 pm.

Approval of minutes for March, 2021, motion by George, second by Rick, motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report for March, 2021, motion by Rick, second by Gary, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ON CONFERENCE CALL:

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

GUESTS PRESENT ON CONFERENCE CALL

Audra Bell, Stewardship Director	London Bernier, BSWC Member	John Wagoner, NRCS
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310 BUSINESS:

TABLED: Complaint #RV2020-02 Ramshorn Creek tributary. Complaint to USACE, WO their decision.

TABLED: #RV2021-01 Barrett Minerals Hoffman & Carter Creeks – install Parshall flumes.

TABLED: #RV2021-02 Matson Excavation- Moran Creek – install culverts

TABLED: #RV2021-03 3 Rivers Telephone – Haypress Creek – bore in fiber optic cable, Inspection Waived by Mike Duncan, FWP.

TABLED: #RV2021-04 3 Rivers Telephone – No Name Creek - bore in fiber optic cable, Inspection Waived by Mike Duncan, FWP.

TABLED: #RV2021-053 Rivers Telephone – Moran Creek - bore in fiber optic cable, Inspection Waived by Mike Duncan, FWP.

#RV2021-06 Rick Sandru – Jefferson River – Place concrete blocks for temporary diversion - Rick recused himself – Motion by John to approve, contingent on Ron Spoon’s decision w/ in 30 days, second by Neil, motion carried.

#RV2021-07 Rick Sandru – Jefferson River – Place large rocks for temporary diversion - Rick recused himself - Motion by John to approve, contingent on Ron Spoon’s decision w/ in 30 days, second by Neil, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT

John Wagoner reported they were required to make some ranking criteria changes that resulted in the system crashing. Washington is doing study on “criteria changes”. No projects on the ground.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning Board- see email from David Laufenberg, attached.
2. 310 Law MOA with Madison CD dated 11/17/2020 – Gary Giem prepared a write up that Shirley sent to MCD. MOU states that RVCD will oversee 310s West of the Tobacco Root Mountain and Gravelly Divide and MCD will over see all 310 East of the divide. All water draining into the Madison River will be delegated to MCD and all water draining into the Ruby River will be delegated to RVCD. Waiting on response from MCD.

3. Watershed – written submission from Audra and London attached. Audra reported on Drought Resilience, Lower Ruby Monitoring, RDG Grant application status, DNRC pollinator grant application, DEQ 319 Grant LOA, BLM Award, Conifer Project, Carcass Management Program, Outreach & Education, and upcoming events. Minor updates to the RVCD website have been made. Need bio and headshot from Jeremy. London reported on the California Creek Restoration Project, the Quaking Aspen Project Maintenance, an Earth week event and the lower Ruby Monitoring Project.
4. Carcass Composting – Site currently has ~40 carcasses. RVCD had a well-attended tour, where interested parties learned about carcass composting. The site contractor has been conducting site maintenance as needed to improve site function. There has been a lull in calls for carcass compost and the board determined it would be worthwhile to conduct a mailing campaign to increase knowledge about the carcass composting site.
5. BLM- Helen Sladek and Audra Bell will be working on an award modification during April. London has been working on planning phase two of the California Creek restoration. London received additional funding from a MWCC grant to install 35-45 BDA structures. The RVCD will working with Warriors and Quiet Waters to install these structures.
6. FWP-WHIP Grant - Will be sending out request for bids in the newspaper during the month of April.
7. Granite Cr. Restoration – The RDG funding is currently in HB 14. Gary, Matt, and Audra have been attending regular meetings with DOT to ensure projects are on the same timeline. Once the funding is granted, the RVCD restoration will occur in fall/winter of 2022 and the bridge will be replaced in spring of 2023.
8. Conifer Removal – The RVCD has about \$60,000 to spend on conifer removal. Audra, London, Helen, Sean Claffey, TNC, and John Wagoner walked riparian reaches with cultural clearance for this year. RVCD will have finalized polygons within a few weeks to send out to contract.
9. 319 Grant - A letter of agreement has been signed and project development will start within the next few months. All work outlined in this agreement will be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Mark Oakey has suggested to reapply for this funding in 2022.
10. Drought Resiliency & Lower Ruby Monitoring Program- London has been working on data management and organization. RVCD staff will deploy loggers in early May.
11. Education and Outreach- London wrote about the Carcass composting site in the most recent Natural Resource News.
12. Pollinator Grant- the RVCD requested ~\$8,400 to establish 3 pollinator plot sites in the Ruby Valley.
13. Strategic Alliance – May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Alder Fire Hall

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. DNRC retiree Thank You Books- \$25 for five pages- Approved
2. 2021 Montana Natural Resource Youth Camp – Requesting sponsorship
3. Rangedrill- trailer needs to be welded – Cal Ward may weld, call to set up
4. MACD- Requesting 2021 Dues of \$1,182.03 and contribution of \$35 for Bridger Plant Material Center – Motion by George to approve payment, second by John, motion carried

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ruby Watershed Council meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
2. RVCD Earth Week Event – Week of the 19<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Monday: Recycling

- b. Tuesday: Pollinators
  - c. Wednesday: Water Supply & Snowpack
  - d. Thursday: Nature Scavenger Hunt @ Ruby Habitat
  - e. Friday: Seed Starting & Gardening
- 3. Wildlife speaker series – Virtual Presentations
    - a. RVCD: May 27<sup>th</sup> – Pollinators
    - b. CVA: June 24<sup>th</sup> – Trumpeter Swans
    - c. BHWC: July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Arctic Grayling
  - 4. 2021 Annual Banquet – Round Barn tentatively reserved for September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - 5. London will begin planning 17<sup>th</sup> annual KRRD for September 16<sup>th</sup>

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

With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Audra Bell  
Stewardship Director

Gary Giem  
Chairman