

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – December 1, 2021

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	Jeremy Miller	Rick Sandru
Neil Barnosky	George Trischman	Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Audra Bell, RVCD Stewardship Director	John Wagoner, NRCS
Jerry Meine, Beaverhead CD	

Approval of minutes of last meeting (Nov. 3), motion by George to approve as mailed, second by Rick, motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports for November 2021, motion to approve by Jeremy, second by Neil, motion carried.

Contributions Account spreadsheet updates thru October 31, 2021.

Excused absences: Motion by George to excuse John Anderson & Jim Powell, second by Jeremy, motion carried.

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.

TABLED: RV21-18 Bob Siedensticker (REMiller) – Beaverhead River – headgate repair of rock already installed Matt & Jim P. inspected 7/7/21. Still Tabled for design. Neighbor (Arrington Ranch) to correct problem and split cost with Bob.

Tanner from R. E. Miller is preparing design.

RV21-30 Trailsend Ranch (REMiller) – California Slough – replace irrigation structure. Matt is out of town but he talked to Tanner and said he is fine with this project if the Board is. The only condition he'd add is that the throat is the width of the channel. Motion by Jeremy to waive inspection and approve with modification that the "throat is the width of the channel" and a photo of completed project be provided with completion report, second by Rick, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT

John Wagoner reported that with the holidays and time off (hunting), they had a slow work month. They did a lot of training on new software and resolved issues for updating planning. Sara Lefingwell, the new soil conservationist, is doing a good job getting a lot of training on software as well and will probably be glad when things get more interesting. Rick asked John to research utilizing Juniper residue from conifer removal program for livestock feed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning Board – David Laufenberg, MadCD – email with November meeting highlights, attached.
2. 310 Law MOA with Madison CD – Gary reported he talked to Jason Garber at DNRC and it will take an act of the Legislature to change the CD boundary line.
3. Watershed – written submission from Audra Bell attached. Audra reported London's end of term was Nov. 19. She also has applied for the WS Mgmt Gt for funding our 2022 BSWC member and Duncan District access site. She reported on WHIP Program; RDGP Grant Granite Creek; 319 Grant for planning & BLM Monitoring additional award request; Conifer removal; Carcass composting; Drought Resiliency; London working on monitoring data issues from 2019 to correct before processing 2021 data; Education & Outreach; Ruby River bank stabilization at Duncan District was not funded; DNRC Drought Mgmt. Plan looking for committee participants; Natural Resource News; Jan. & Feb. Rancher Roundtable programs; quarterly grant reports; BSWC Member – Ben Masters will start in Jan/22; Kayla Coleman Mehlhoff will start Jan. 3rd as our

Administrative Assistant; Audra set up Shirley's new laptop; Adobe PDF Program – motion by Jeremy to purchase Adobe PDF Program, second by Rick, motion carried. Audra thanked the Board.

4. Carcass Management Program – Wildlife Conservation Soc. – 100+ carcasses on site. Bud's contract expires Dec. 31st. OK to ask if he wants to renew for 2022. Place advertisement in Madisonian before calving season.
5. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – in progress – 2021 modifications and potential increased funding.
6. MWCC California Creek Grant – finalized
7. FWP-WHIP Grant – no activity in winter. All 2021 fund requests paid by FWP.
8. Granite Cr. restoration – both RIT & RITP have been funded thru RDG Program! Pre site monitoring has begun on Granite Creek and Alder Gulch near the confluence. Restoration construction will begin in 2022 and the bridge construction by MTDOT will commence in 2023.
9. DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt #23G-20-3679 – expired 12/31/21 – finalized.
10. 2022 Dist. Dev. Grant for \$10,000 approved, will expire 12/31/22.
11. Pollinator Grant – no activity in winter
12. DEQ 319 planning grant – Pre-monitoring has begun on RVHA. Audra is working on Phase II & match funding. Received \$199,900 for implementation.
13. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – USFS Greenhorn Project. No longer meeting.
14. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for December 13, 2021 @ Alder Comm. Ctr, 10a-2p

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 1 Jerry Meine from the Beaverhead CD presented a rule-making petition to the FWP to remove the catch and release provision for Brown Trout from the Beaverhead River. The present rule is for catch & release only, no bait, single hook & cannot keep any fish. They also changed the time from Nov. 30 to Nov. 1st. Motion by Neil for the RVCD Board to support Jerry's petition, second by Jeremy, motion carried.
- 2 MACD Convention November 2022 will be in Helena. Lewis & Clark CD has requested assistance from all Area 6 Districts with planning and facilitating the Convention. The Board agreed that RVCD can help with planning and whatever, probably a good thing to do. Hopefully it will not take too much time from RVCD workload.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – Dec. 2021 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Quarterly Mtg. – Jan. 2022 TBD
3. MT Dept. of Agriculture, Young Ag Couples Conference, Jan. 19-22, 2022, Colonial, Helena, MT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Shirley Galovic
District Administrator

Gary Giem
Chairman