



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD Programs Committee Meeting March 16th, 8:00 AM 2021 Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hansen	Gary Giem	Roger Hybner	Kyle Tackett
Jeff Wivholm	Roddy Rost	Heidi Fleury	

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephanie Adams, Jillian Henrichon, Jim Simpson

Meeting called to order by Roger Hybner at 8:05 AM

Meeting Minutes from January 26th

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Roddy Rost
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Grant Funding Report

Stephanie reviewed the grants overview from funding coming in and out this year. Majority of funds have been for the NRCS-MCPI subaward agreements. A final invoice for DNRC agreement RD-SWCD-636 has been sent out and the new DNRC agreement for District Assistance (\$25,000 for Eric's time) is ready for signature by Rebecca.

BPMC Updates

Stephanie attended the BPMC's spring meeting on 03/11 in Bridger and gave an update:

- BPMC is currently working on hiring 4 seasonal employees and currently has one BSWC member.
- The Board of Managers discussed where we are in the process of adding WY to the deed and the LLC formation. It was previously recommended by our attorney that we wait until completely all the steps required by the merger before moving forward with these items since the name on all our agreements, leases, and the deed will need to be changed from SWCDM to MACD. It will likely be 2022 by the time the BPMC's new lease, deed amendments, and LLC formation is completed.
- Stephanie is working on ways to better showcase some of the publications BPMC has created regarding grass and pollinator plantings to CDs through social media and the website.
- It was discovered that we did not re-appoint Judi Knapp to the BPMC Board, as her term ended last November.
 - Motion to recommend re-appointing Judi Knapp as a MT representative to the BPMC Board of Managers, to the MACD Board: Mike Hanson
 - Second: Roger Hybner
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

Program Updates

Stephanie provided a programs overview including:

- New SGI hires for the Malta NRCS office
- Mini-Grant Call for Applications period ends March 26th
- Jill, BSWC member, is coordinating the Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership and is presenting in a webinar with Flathead CD about the septic pumping cost-share program
- NRCS extended our Conservation Delivery Agreement so we can hold our 2022 Soil Health Symposium under this agreement since we were unable to hold the 2021 event due to COVID.
- *More updates included in the attachment*

Reports/Open Mic

- Mike Asked Jim about updates on HB374, which passed out of committee
- Stephanie added that this committee should think about if we want to have a committee meeting during Spring Board in June and if there are any specific topics we would want to cover (i.e. program planning discussions). We can finalize this during our May conference call.

Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Roger Hybner
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- VOTE: Motion passes

NEXT MEETING: May 18th, 2021 8:00 AM



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February - March 2021 Programs Update

Grant-Funded Programs:

1. Education & Outreach Mini-Grant Program

- a. FY2019 contract: Ongoing, 2/11 subawards completed. All funds encumbered.
- b. FY2020 contract: Call for Applications close March 26th.
- c. FY2021 contract: Executed (2022 Round of funding)

2. Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership (FBWP)

- a. Application & Reporting forms for cost-share program are developed
- b. Jill is working on developing maps and webpages for the program
- c. Jill will be presenting the program to Flathead County residence on March 24th as part of Flathead CD's webinar series.

1. Ranching for Rivers

- a. \$15,000 funds available for projects.
- b. All incoming applications will be reviewed after March 30th
- c. Working with DNRC-Rangelands, MRCDC, DEQ, and RSA (Ranching Steward Alliance) on interest for continued program or similar-type programs.

2. Watershed Stewardship Funding

- a. Ongoing. \$6,125 for BSWC member spent, remaining fund for Gallatin CD & admin

3. District Assistance & Communications

- a. \$5,000 DNRC Agreement has been spent/expired
- b. Awaiting execution of new DNRC Agreement (\$25,000)

NRCS Contribution Agreements

1. Conservation Delivery Agreement (Pollinators, Soil Health, & Conservation Stories)

- a. Agreement was extended by one year. (\$ 133,342.64 remaining)
 - i. \$ 59,146.16 for Soil Health Symposium
 - ii. \$ 46,860.29 for Conservation Stories (\$31,000 for Carter CD, remaining unencumbered)
 - iii. \$ 27,336.19 for Pollinators (\$ 18,375.00 for BSWC cost-share, remaining unencumbered)
- b. Soil Health Symposium:
 - i. Currently 3 sponsorships taken - \$ 6,000
 - ii. Determining option for a pre-conference workshop with Jolene Brown, CSP

2. Montana Conservation Partnership Initiative

- a. Subawards
 - i. MRCDC: \$ 49,436.64
 - ii. Valley CD/MRWA: \$ 100,000.00

- iii. Blackfoot Challenge: \$ 30,000.00
 - iv. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies: \$ 174,043.60
 - v. Pheasants Forever: \$ 811,150.00
 - vi. Little Beaver CD: \$ 78,050.00
 - vii. YRDC: \$ 60,000
 - viii. TOTAL encumbered: \$ \$1,302,680.24 (Funds expire September 2022)
- b. Sage Grouse Initiative:
- i. Working on a new agreement with WWF for Malta-position support (\$5,800/yr)
 - ii. New SGI Range Conservationist for the Malta office will be starting June 7th
 - iii. Some discussions regarding a possible position in Circle

Bridger Plant Materials Center

- Assisted Theresa with 2021 budgeting
- Attending 03/12 meeting in Bridger

Other Completed Activities since 01/26/2021:

- Put together information for SWCDM's 2020 990 reporting
- Abstract for the Montana Stormwater Conference was accepted. Focus on successful projects through the Mini Grant program. Working on confirming panel speakers. Will be presented remotely (May 3rd-4th).
- 02/09 - Core Partners Meeting
- 02/12 - Soil and Land Use Committee Meeting
- 02/12 - Visited with Heidi and Jill (BSWC) in Ronan
- 02/17 - Conservation District Roundtable
- 02/18 - Flathead Basin Wastewater Partners meeting
- 02/26 - Attended MWCC's annual meeting - presented on Ranching for Rivers & Mini-Grants
- 03/02 - SGI Applicant Interviews
- 03/04 - Ranching Stewards Alliance meeting

2021 Program Funding Budget Overview

PROGRAM INCOME	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Grant Expiration
FEDERAL			
NRCS MT Conservation Partership Initiative	\$ 730,552.93	\$ 146,371.06	Sep. 2022
NRCS Conservation Delivery	\$ 86,827.13	\$ 12,305.91	Jun. 2021
DEQ 319 FY20 Mini-Grant	\$ 10,000.00		Mar. 2023
DEQ 319 FY19 Mini-Grant	\$ 24,379.05	\$ 937.50	Mar. 2022
DEQ 319 FY18 Mini-Grant		\$ 3,642.55	Closed
DEQ 319 Septic System	\$ 50,244.38	\$ 2,167.50	Jun. 2022
DEQ 319 Ranching for Rivers	\$ 83,036.24	\$ 14,660.25	Dec. 2022
STATE			
FWP - Sage Grouse Initiative Contribution	\$ 20,000.00	-	Dec. 2022
DNRC - Watershed Stewardship Agreement	\$ 18,785.50	\$ 7,603.25	Dec. 2021
DNRC - RD-SWCD-636	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,546.07	Feb. 2021
DNRC - PENDING RFP	\$ 25,000.00		TBD
LOCAL / NGO			
WWF - Sage Grouse Initiative Contribution	\$ 5,800.00		Jan. 2021
Big Sky Watershed Corps MOU	\$ 14,500.00		Annual
SH Sponership/ Registration	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	for 2022 Event
Website Hosting	\$ 1,000.00		
TOTAL Program Income	\$ 1,092,125.23	\$ 198,234.09	
Pending Income:	\$ 21,340.69		

PROGRAM Expenses (Passthrough)	2021 Budget	
Partner Subawards	\$ 486,866.13	\$ 125,553.88
2022 Soil Health Symposium	\$ 5,000.00	
Mini Grant Subawards	\$ 21,559.05	
Ranching for Rivers Cost-Share	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 12,629.00
Flathead Septic Cost-Share Program	\$ 26,625.00	
BSWC Cost-Share	\$ 24,500.00	
MACD BSWC	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL Passthrough Expenses	\$ 651,800.18	\$ 144,182.88

03/09/2021