



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD Programs Committee Meeting May 18th, 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 Henrichson, Eric Rannestad, Melissa Downing, Rebecca Boslough, & Jim Simpson.

Meeting called to order by Heidi Fleury at 8:04 AM.

Meeting Minutes from January 26th

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

Grant Funding Report

Stephanie recapped the Grants overview and pointed out a few items of interest:

- An additional ~\$20,000 is being added to the Ranching for Rivers DEQ 319 agreement for a project in the Sun River Watershed that was previously unable to be funded but ranked high with the review committee.
- Majority of the pending income is from invoices to our NRCS agreements for subawards that are awaiting reimbursement.

BPMC Updates

MACD is still waiting to finalize the merger at the federal level before we move forward with previously discussed BPMC structural changes such as adding WACD to the deed and forming an LLC for the BPMC. This is because all agreements and leases will also need to be amended with the new MACD name.

Program Updates

Attached is a programs overview for the last month, Stephanie discussed a few points:

- A Job Announcement for an SGI Employee in Circle, MT is open until filled
- Jill, BSWC member, gave an update on her work with the Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership. Recently She developed a postcard that went out to 2,500+ residents of Flathead and Lake County and is currently working on a newspaper ad strategy for the summer.
- Eric gave an update on his work including re-starting our monthly publications of TMC
- Stephanie mentioned that she is also providing coordination assistance to the Soil and Land Use Standing Committee and the creation of a Forestry Subcommittee
- Stephanie and Rebecca will be attending a grant review session on May 19th regarding their AmeriCorps Planning Grant application for a Soil Corps program.

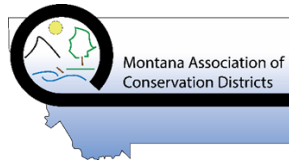
Reports/Open Mic

There will not be a dedicated Programs Committee meeting during the Spring Board meeting. There is a slot of time for Stephanie to provide program updates to the MACD board as well as a BPMC update. Any pertinent topics that may need to be addressed may be discussed at that time as well.

Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Roddy Rost
- VOTE: Motion Passes

NEXT MEETING: July 20th, 2021 8:00 AM



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April - May 2021 Programs Update

Grant-Funded Programs:

1. Education & Outreach Mini-Grant Program

- a. FY2019 contract: Ongoing, 4/11 subawards completed. 5/11 extended through 12/31/21.
- b. FY2020 contract: 10/11 applicants were fully funded. Currently working on finalizing all MOA's
- c. FY2021 contract: Executed (2022 Round of funding)

2. Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership (FBWP)

- a. Monthly meetings with the partnership, spearheaded by our BSWC member, Jill
- b. Jill developed a postcard that is being sent to 2,500+ residents of Flathead County advertising the cost-share program and has printed flyers to put up in local business and county offices.
- c. 10 residents have enrolled in the program thus far
- d. Jill and Flathead partners are applying to have a table at the NW Montana Fair and Rodeo

1. Ranching for Rivers

- a. All funds have been encumbered, and additional \$24,000 is being added to the contract to fund another project in the Sun River Watershed.
- b. Meeting with partners in June to discuss a continued program.

2. Watershed Stewardship Funding

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

3. District Assistance & Communications

- a. New \$25,000 agreement with DNRC was executed in March. Eric and Stephanie hold monthly meetings with DNRC to discuss deliverables and direction.
- b. [The Montana Conservationist](#) is back up and running. Jill is also assisting Eric with finding and putting together CD-focused interviews and articles.
- c. Created four posters for the Wildlife Speaker Series: [link](#) | [link](#) | [link](#) | [link](#)
- d. Completed the [2020 Merged Annual Report](#)
- e. Continued 1:1 website assistance for districts and maintenance to MACD network as needed.

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
 - iii. \$ 27,336.19 for Pollinators
- b. Soil Health Symposium:
 - i. \$13,900 in sponsorships secured
 - ii. Secured Pre-conference workshop speaker, Jolene Brown

2. Montana Conservation Partnership Initiative

a. Subawards

- i. MRDC: \$ 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. YRCDC: \$ 60,000
- viii. TOTAL encumbered: \$ \$1,302,680.24 (Funds expire September 2022)

b. Sage Grouse Initiative:

- i. New SGI Range Conservationist for the Malta office will be starting June 7th
- ii. Position vacancy announcement for a Range Con. in Circle, MT.

Bridger Plant Materials Center

- Juddi Knapp and Anthony Spiering (WY) have been re-appointed, retroactively.

Other Completed Activities since 03/16/2021 :

- Late March - April: met with MACD staff and partners from DNRC, MCC, NRCS, Office of Community Service, and other interested parties about the possibility of applying for an AmeriCorps Planning grant on the budding idea of a Soil Corps program.
- April 15: AmeriCorps grant application submitted
- March 30: Soil & Land Committee meeting
 - Assisting committee with identifying interested individuals in a Forestry Subcommittee
- March 31st: Flathead Basin Commission Meeting
- May 4th: Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership Meeting
- May 6th: Meeting in Bozeman with Soil Health Symposium planning committee
- *Upcoming: May 12th: AmeriCorps Planning Grant review meeting*

2021 Program Funding Budget Overview (05-11-21)

PROGRAM INCOME	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Grant Expiration
FEDERAL			
NRCS MT Conservation Partnership Initiative	\$ 730,552.93	\$ 161,393.88	Sep. 2022
NRCS Conservation Delivery	\$ 86,827.13	\$ 12,305.91	Jun. 2021
DEQ 319 FY20 Mini-Grant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,181.00	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	\$ 17,593.75	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	\$ 5,000.00	Closed
DNRC - RD-MACD-643	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,144.14	Mar. 2022

LOCAL / NGO

WWF - Sage Grouse Initiative Contribution	\$ 5,800.00		Jan. 2021
Big Sky Watershed Corps MOU	\$ 14,500.00		Annual
Soil Health Sponsorship/ Registration	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 8,450.00	for 2022 Event
Website Hosting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 357.50	
TOTAL Program Income	\$ 1,092,125.23	\$ 223,776.98	

Pending Income:	\$ 86,105.73
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PROGRAM EXPENSES (Passthrough)	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Partner Subawards	\$ 486,866.13	\$ 128,589.99
2022 Soil Health Symposium	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
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	\$ 12,250.00
MACD BSWC	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL Passthrough Expenses	\$ 651,800.18	\$ 162,968.99

Sage Grouse Initiative Employees	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Payroll Expenses,	\$217,919.10	\$ 43,620.36
Travel & Supplies	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL SGI Expenses	\$229,919.10	\$ 43,620.36