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**Missouri River Conservation Districts Council**

Executive Committee meeting

December 21, 2021 from 7:30am-9:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88402270390?pwd=eXQweXcxTU1CcE5VWC9NOW1CRHJQUT09>

Call in: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 884-0227-0390

Passcode: 251991

**Call to Order – Laura Kiehl, Chairman**

Approve Minutes

- Approve October 21, 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes

Public Comment

Financial Report

- Approve outstanding bills
- Financial Report

Committee Reports

- FEMA Floodplains Management Plan comments

Partner Reports

- MACD (Montana Association of Conservation Districts)
- DNRC (Department of Natural Resource Conservation)
- NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service)
- MRWA (Milk River Watershed Alliance)
- MCC (Montana Conservation Corp)

Reach Reports

- Lower Reach – Dick Iversen
- Reservoir Reach – Dean Rogge
- Middle Reach – Lorri Schafer

- Upper Reach – John Chase

Individual CD Reports (voluntary / as needed)

Old Business

- FEMA Floodplains Management Plan comment letter
- Ft. Peck Test Flow discussion

New Business

- MT Headwaters Legacy Act discussion (<https://www.healthyriversmt.org/#legislation> or informational book link <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/5ba7de70d6.html#page/1>)
- Approval of Executive Committee Minutes and Quarterly Minutes order
- Six-month MRCDC Coordinator review

Coordinator Update

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

**December**

- 21: *MRCDC Executive Committee meeting*  
25: Christmas  
31: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) report due

**January**

- 1: New Years  
10-11: Out  
27: Living On the Bank committee work meeting  
**25: *MRCDC Executive Committee meeting***  
27: FEMA Floodplain comments due  
TBD: CMRCWG planning committee meeting  
TBD: Fort Peck test flow discussion meeting, Helena

**February**

- 15: *MRCDC Quarterly meeting, Lewistown and virtual***  
TBD: CMRCWG meeting

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**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2021**  
**GoToMeeting Conference Call**

At 7:30am, Chair Laura Kiehl opened the MRCDC Executive Committee meeting. Council members present were Laura Kiehl, Petroleum CD; Karl Christians, Lewis & Clark CD; Lorri Schafer, Fergus CD; Steve Wanderaas, McCone CD; Jim Beck, Broadwater CD; Greg Jergeson, Blaine County CD; Dana Berwick, Roosevelt County CD; and Dick Iverson, Richland County CD. Partner present was Autumn Holzgen, Montana Conservation Corp. Guests present were John Chase and Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator.

**General**

Minutes were reviewed and Dick Iverson moved to approve as submitted. Lorri Schafer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

No public comments.

After discussion on the expenditure report, Lorri Schafer moved to approve the unpaid Verizon and Mastercard bills. Dick Iverson seconded. Unpaid bills were approved.

**Committee Reports**

National Forest Letter committee – hasn't met yet, but the committee set up at the July Quarterly meeting will convene to get a draft letter of ours done before the next meeting for approval.

UofM CMR Refuge meetings – two meetings were held for Conservation District folks to attend. There was a lot of good information and history told to UofM as well as good general discussion about the CMR. Highlights included discussion of the 'natural' environment with Fort Peck Dam, diseases, fencing, Henry Mountain, Utah information, and wildlife classification of buffalo.

**Partner Reports**

MACD – none

DNRC – none

NRCS – none

MRWA – Greg Jergeson reported they have finished the job description and are about to advertise for their new coordinator

HWCI – Autumn Holzgen reported the HWCI grant has officially concluded the end of September so her report can be changed to MT Conservation Corp. At the end of the year, she'll have a final report on the HWCI. She is helping promote Ranching for Rivers. Naked River Banks Initiative program has a project

she and Cascade CD are working on. Will hopefully begin construction next spring. Riparian management workshop had a great turnout from community in Augusta. CEMIST Corp member Colin is planning to present to us at our November Quarterly meeting. Her position is now fully funded through NFWF and she'll present more about that at the Quarterly meeting as well.

### Reach Reports

Lower Reach – Dick Iverson mentioned the final Fort Peck Test Flow EIS has come out and there wasn't much change from the draft version. 3-D surveys were conducted by Fish and Game and they've mapped the entire river from the Dam to the State line. Don Skaar said they're planning to do 80 pump site surveys. Crop Insurance won't cover any damage caused by test flow because it's a man-made event. Would like further discussion at the quarterly meeting to figure out coverage for such event. This wouldn't help businesses like Sidney Sugar though. Invite MT RMA and Congressional delegation reps to hear the discussion.

Reservoir Reach – Petroleum County CD interviewed a candidate last Friday morning. The position is probably going to be split between bookkeeping and the other duties. If hired, the position will be part time teleworking, part time in Winnett working on the 'other' duties.

Middle Reach – Lorri Schafer did not have anything to report.

Upper Reach – Jim Beck did not have anything to report.

### Old Business

BSWS member – no update.

### New Business

Ranching for Rivers grant application letter of support – with some minor modifications for clarity in the first paragraph, Dick Iverson moved to approve submitting the letter of support. Greg Jergeson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### Coordinator Questions/Update

- Have done some basic updates to the MRCDC website. Would like some input from Council about additional updates to it. Do we want all meetings posted or just Quarterly? Updated pictures of Council members?
  - Please review and let Molly know your thoughts. May discuss further at Quarterly meeting.
- Living on the Banks grant is up in December. It still has \$2000 available, and they need a write up for it.
  - Committee who put it together included Karl Christians, Jim Beck, John Chase, Rachel, BSWC member. John is not sure how to proceed other than the website needs a lot of work.
  - Grant is hosted by Lewis and Clark CD.
- Have set up a meeting to discuss the 3-D mapping below Fort Peck Dam with McCone, Roosevelt, Richland, and Valley CD's to discuss interest in funding further mapping information from what FWP has already done. This was held October 14 via zoom. In conclusion, we would like to discuss further at the Quarterly meeting with potential, key stakeholders.
- Zoom verse GoToMeeting? Do you guys have a preference?
  - Prefer Zoom overall. We will move to using this mostly in the future. We already pay a monthly subscription for it.
- Who needs an MRCDC name tag and where to order from?
  - Myself and Karl need one.

- MACD Convention, MRCDC expenses for Executive Committee
  - Keep it the same as in the past, which is round trip mileage and one night's stay and meals if they attend the MRCDC meeting.
- Vendor Table ideas (treats/handouts/shifts???)
  - Try to order some new MRCDC swag to have available.
- Attended MT Drought Management Plan introduction webinar. They have stakeholder interest survey that is available (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPBLDGV>). More information, including the webinar recording, can be found on the DNRC Drought Management page.
  - Molly will email this information out to the Council.
- Attended area 1, 2, and 3 meetings, giving a report about MRCDC happenings at each, including an introduction of myself, CMR information, Ranching for Rivers, and Fort Peck EIS. Karl Christians gave the report at the area 6 meeting. Rebecca took hard copies of our Annual Report that I had printed in Helena.
- Ranching for Rivers – core committee is working with each other on grant information, including budget and roles of cooperators.
- BLM APR Bison comment letter – sent in and mailed to the cc'd elected officials. Also sent a copy of the final letter to Rebecca at MACD for her to review and send a letter in.
- USACE Fort Peck Shoreline Management comment letter – sent in.
- UofM CMR meetings – attended both meetings MRCDC scheduled for Conservation District stakeholders.
- CMR CWG – trying to set a date with the planning committee. We are limited due to state association meetings occurring over the next couple months on options. We are planning to do a hybrid meeting with in-person and virtual attendance.
- Attended the CEMIST meeting in Two Dot to meet with MT FWP Director Hank Worsech and Deputy Director Dustin Temple about CEMIST and the AIS program.
- Had a conference call with Melissa Downing, MACD, and Kyle Tackett, NRCS, about our SSA grant monies. I have since reviewed the contract we have for this and we will be meeting again for some clarifications about the grant and its monies. They had not seen any invoices for the 2021 River Rendezvous. We'll be in touch with Laura Nowlin about this as well.
- Working closely with Laura Kiehl, Katie Lund, and Laura Nowlin to figure out gaps, such as quarterly grant reporting and financial information.

#### Important Dates

- 9/27 Area 3 meeting, Phillips CD – Malta  
9/28 Public comment on BLM APR draft EA about bison grazing due  
9/28 Area 1 meeting, Garfield CD – Jordan  
9/29 Area 2 meeting, Powder River CD – Broadus  
9/30 USACE shoreline comment letter due  
10/5 Area 6 meeting, Broadwater CD – Townsend  
10/12 at 7:30am UofM CMR intro of Bison/Bighorn Sheep with Conservation District stakeholder  
10/13 at 2:00pm UofM CMR intro of Bison/Bighorn Sheep with Conservation District stakeholder  
**10/19 MRCDC Executive Committee Meeting**  
10/20-21 MACDEO Employee Training, Red Lodge  
10/25 USACE Fall meeting on release information for spring 2022, Fort Peck  
10/31 MACD Convention Early Bird Registration Due (\$260)  
**11/15 MRCDC Quarterly Meeting at 3:00pm, Great Falls**

**Other**

Reviewing the draft agenda for MRCDC's November Quarterly meeting, it was moved by Dick Iverson to post pone Molly's 6-month evaluation/review to the following Quarterly meeting in February. Lorri Schafer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:57am.

Approved on December 21, 2021

Submitted by:

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Molly Masters, Coordinator

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Laura Kiehl, Chairman

# Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

## Budget Overview

July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
3344121 · DNRC Grants	35,000.00	130,400.00	-95,400.00	26.8%
<b>Total INCOME</b>	35,000.00	130,400.00	-95,400.00	26.8%
<b>Total Income</b>	35,000.00	130,400.00	-95,400.00	26.8%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	35,000.00	130,400.00	-95,400.00	26.8%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
300 · Purchased Services				
310 · Communication & Transportation				
310.01 · Council Car	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
310.02 · Council Equipment	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 310 · Communication &amp; Transportation</b>	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
311 · Postage	163.76	150.00	13.76	109.2%
313 · Fuel/ Tires/ Maintenance	379.03	4,500.00	-4,120.97	8.4%
320 · Printing, Duplicating, Typing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
330 · Publicity, Subscriptions & Dues				
331 · Advertising & Marketing	642.00	500.00	142.00	128.4%
332 · Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
333 · Event Registrations	260.00	1,983.00	-1,723.00	13.1%
334 · Subscriptions	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
<b>Total 330 · Publicity, Subscriptions &amp; Dues</b>	902.00	2,833.00	-1,931.00	31.8%
350 · Professional Fees				
351 · Administrative Costs	4,600.00	13,040.00	-8,440.00	35.3%
352 · Program & Project Support	780.00	8,250.00	-7,470.00	9.5%
<b>Total 350 · Professional Fees</b>	5,380.00	21,290.00	-15,910.00	25.3%
380 · Education				
381 · Workshops	0.00	750.00	-750.00	0.0%
382 · Training	25.00	1,000.00	-975.00	2.5%
383 · Program/ Project Match Money	0.00	3,800.00	-3,800.00	0.0%
<b>Total 380 · Education</b>	25.00	5,550.00	-5,525.00	0.5%
<b>Total 300 · Purchased Services</b>	6,849.79	35,323.00	-28,473.21	19.4%
340 · Utilities				
341 · Telephone & Internet	775.28	1,250.00	-474.72	62.0%
<b>Total 340 · Utilities</b>	775.28	1,250.00	-474.72	62.0%
370 · Travel				
371 · Supervisor - Council Member	273.22	15,000.00	-14,726.78	1.8%
372 · Employee - Coordinator Travel	606.14	6,000.00	-5,393.86	10.1%
<b>Total 370 · Travel</b>	879.36	21,000.00	-20,120.64	4.2%
480000 · Conservation Expenses				
100 · Payroll Expenses				
110 · Gross Payroll	10,703.94	59,856.00	-49,152.06	17.9%
120 · Overtime/ Comp Time	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
130 · Group Benefit Stipend	60.00	180.00	-120.00	33.3%
131 · Retirement	955.19	5,309.00	-4,353.81	18.0%
140 · Employer Contributions	851.65	4,782.00	-3,930.35	17.8%
141 · Termination Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total 100 · Payroll Expenses</b>	12,570.78	70,127.00	-57,556.22	17.9%
200 · Supplies				
210 · Office Supplies	1,141.21	1,900.00	-758.79	60.1%
<b>Total 200 · Supplies</b>	1,141.21	1,900.00	-758.79	60.1%
<b>Total 480000 · Conservation Expenses</b>	13,711.99	72,027.00	-58,315.01	19.0%

Missouri River Conservation Districts Council  
**Budget Overview**  
July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
500 · Fixed Charges				
510 · Insurance	0.00	800.00	-800.00	0.0%
530 · Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 500 · Fixed Charges	0.00	800.00	-800.00	0.0%
Total EXPENSES	22,216.42	130,400.00	-108,183.58	17.0%
Total Expense	22,216.42	130,400.00	-108,183.58	17.0%
Net Income	12,783.58	0.00	12,783.58	100.0%

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12/14/21

Accrual Basis

**Missouri River Conservation Districts Council**  
**Transaction Detail by Account**  
**November 12 through December 14, 2021**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
<b>101000 · Checking</b>									
Deposit	11/17/2021			First Advance Grant 656			3344121 · DN...	35,000.00	35,000.00
Deposit	11/30/2021			River Rendezvous Reimbursement			12000 · Undep...	784.55	35,784.55
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Verizon Wireless	Conf #BV0000033823682			341 · Telepho...	-45.08	35,739.47
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Conf #2033450297			-SPLIT-	-1,807.07	33,932.40
Check	12/13/2021	2285	Molly Masters	November Travel Expense Voucher			372 · Employe...	-62.50	33,869.90
Check	12/13/2021	2286	Bruce Anderson	November Travel Expense Voucher			371 · Supervis...	-273.22	33,596.68
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	Invoice #488			-SPLIT-	-9,047.81	24,548.87
Total 101000 · Checking								24,548.87	24,548.87
<b>122000 · Accounts Receivable</b>									
Payment	11/30/2021	32	Gallatin CD				12000 · Undep...	-784.55	-784.55
Total 122000 · Accounts Receivable								-784.55	-784.55
<b>12000 · Undeposited Funds</b>									
Payment	11/30/2021	32	Gallatin CD			X	122000 · Acco...	784.55	784.55
Deposit	11/30/2021	32	Gallatin CD	River Rendezvous Reimbursement	River Rende...	X	101000 · Chec...	-784.55	0.00
Total 12000 · Undeposited Funds								0.00	0.00
<b>INCOME</b>									
<b>3344121 · DNRC Grants</b>									
Deposit	11/17/2021		DNRC	First Advance Grant 656	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	-35,000.00	-35,000.00
Total 3344121 · DNRC Grants								-35,000.00	-35,000.00
Total INCOME								-35,000.00	-35,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
<b>300 · Purchased Services</b>									
<b>311 · Postage</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	USPS	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	8.76	8.76
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	USPS CMR Reimbursable	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	144.00	152.76
Total 311 · Postage								152.76	152.76
<b>313 · Fuel/ Tires/ Maintenance</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Mint Smartwash	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	16.00	16.00
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Fuel	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	282.28	298.28
Total 313 · Fuel/ Tires/ Maintenance								298.28	298.28
<b>330 · Publicity, Subscriptions &amp; Dues</b>									
<b>331 · Advertising &amp; Marketing</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Promotique-Promotional Materials	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	607.01	607.01
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Business Cards	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	34.99	642.00
Total 331 · Advertising & Marketing								642.00	642.00
<b>333 · Event Registrations</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	MACD Conference Registration	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	260.00	260.00
Total 333 · Event Registrations								260.00	260.00

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12/14/21

Accrual Basis

# Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

## Transaction Detail by Account

### November 12 through December 14, 2021

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Total 330 · Publicity, Subscriptions & Dues								902.00	902.00
<b>350 · Professional Fees</b>									
<b>351 · Administrative Costs</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	November & December 2021 Monthl...	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	1,840.00	1,840.00
Total 351 · Administrative Costs								1,840.00	1,840.00
<b>352 · Program &amp; Project Support</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Vendor Table MACD	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	200.00	200.00
Total 352 · Program & Project Support								200.00	200.00
Total 350 · Professional Fees								2,040.00	2,040.00
Total 300 · Purchased Services								3,393.04	3,393.04
<b>340 · Utilities</b>									
<b>341 · Telephone &amp; Internet</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Verizon Wireless	Conf #BV0000033823682	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	45.08	45.08
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Grasshopper	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	119.84	164.92
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Zoom	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	15.55	180.47
Total 341 · Telephone & Internet								180.47	180.47
Total 340 · Utilities								180.47	180.47
<b>370 · Travel</b>									
<b>371 · Supervisor - Council Member</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2286	Bruce Anderson	Quarterly Meeting	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	273.22	273.22
Total 371 · Supervisor - Council Member								273.22	273.22
<b>372 · Employee - Coordination Travel</b>									
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Cottonwood Inn-USACE Meeting	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	118.64	118.64
Check	12/13/2021	2285	Molly Masters	November Travel Expense Voucher	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	62.50	181.14
Total 372 · Employee - Coordination Travel								181.14	181.14
Total 370 · Travel								454.36	454.36
<b>480000 · Conservation Expenses</b>									
<b>100 · Payroll Expenses</b>									
<b>110 · Gross Payroll</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	September-November 2021	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	9,689.94	9,689.94
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	June-August 2021 Over-billed	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	-3,562.00	6,127.94
Total 110 · Gross Payroll								6,127.94	6,127.94
<b>130 · Group Benefit Stipend</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	September-November 2021	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	45.00	45.00
Total 130 · Group Benefit Stipend								45.00	45.00
<b>131 · Retirement</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	September-November 2021	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	859.50	859.50

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12/14/21

Accrual Basis

**Missouri River Conservation Districts Council**  
**Transaction Detail by Account**  
November 12 through December 14, 2021

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	June-August 2021 Over-billed	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	-310.20	549.30
Total 131 · Retirement								549.30	549.30
<b>140 · Employer Contributions</b>									
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	September-November 2021	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	765.74	765.74
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	June-August 2021 Over-billed	DNRC-RD-P...		101000 · Chec...	-280.17	485.57
Total 140 · Employer Contributions								485.57	485.57
Total 100 · Payroll Expenses								7,207.81	7,207.81
Total 480000 · Conservation Expenses								7,207.81	7,207.81
Total EXPENSES								11,235.68	11,235.68
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Missouri River Conservation Districts Council**  
**Statement of Accounts**  
As of December 14, 2021

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>101000 · Checking</b>							7,728.62
Deposit	11/17/2021			First Advance Grant 656	35,000.00	35,000.00	42,728.62
Deposit	11/30/2021			River Rendevous Reimbursment	784.55	784.55	43,513.17
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Verizon Wireless	Conf #BV0000033823682	-45.08	-45.08	43,468.09
Check	11/30/2021	EFT	Mastercard	Conf #2033450297	-1,807.07	-1,807.07	41,661.02
Check	12/13/2021	2285	Molly Masters	November Travel Expense Voucher	-62.50	-62.50	41,598.52
Check	12/13/2021	2286	Bruce Anderson	November Travel Expense Voucher	-273.22	-273.22	41,325.30
Check	12/13/2021	2287	Petroleum County CD	Invoice #488	-9,047.81	-9,047.81	32,277.49
Total 101000 · Checking						24,548.87	32,277.49
<b>101001 · Savings</b>							25,085.24
<b>Termination Account</b>							14,516.04
Total Termination Account							14,516.04
<b>Vehicle Depreciation Account</b>							13,462.88
Total Vehicle Depreciation Account							13,462.88
<b>101001 · Savings - Other</b>							-2,893.68
Total 101001 · Savings - Other							-2,893.68
Total 101001 · Savings							25,085.24
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>24,548.87</b>	<b>57,362.73</b>

## Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

## Check Detail

November 12 through December 14, 2021

Type	Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
Check	EFT	11/30/2021	Verizon Wireless	Conf #BV0000033823682	101000 · Checking		-45.08
				Conf #BV0000033823682	341 · Telephone & Internet	-45.08	45.08
TOTAL						-45.08	45.08
Check	EFT	11/30/2021	Mastercard	Conf #2033450297	101000 · Checking		-1,807.07
				Grasshopper	341 · Telephone & Internet	-119.84	119.84
				USPS	311 · Postage	-8.76	8.76
				USPS CMR Reimbursable	311 · Postage	-144.00	144.00
				Mint Smartwash	313 · Fuel/ Tires/ Maintenance	-16.00	16.00
				Fuel	313 · Fuel/ Tires/ Maintenance	-282.28	282.28
				MACD Conference Registration	333 · Event Registrations	-260.00	260.00
				Promotique-Promotional Materials	331 · Advertising & Marketing	-607.01	607.01
				Cottonwood Inn-USACE Meeting	372 · Employee - Coordination Travel	-118.64	118.64
				Zoom	341 · Telephone & Internet	-15.55	15.55
				Business Cards	331 · Advertising & Marketing	-34.99	34.99
				Vendor Table MACD	352 · Program & Project Support	-200.00	200.00
TOTAL						-1,807.07	1,807.07
Check	2285	12/13/2021	Molly Masters	November Travel Expense Voucher	101000 · Checking		-62.50
				November Travel Expense Voucher	372 · Employee - Coordination Travel	-62.50	62.50
TOTAL						-62.50	62.50
Check	2286	12/13/2021	Bruce Anderson	November Travel Expense Voucher	101000 · Checking		-273.22
				Quarterly Meeting	371 · Supervisor - Council Member	-273.22	273.22
TOTAL						-273.22	273.22
Check	2287	12/13/2021	Petroleum County ...	Invoice #488	101000 · Checking		-9,047.81
				November & December 2021 Monthly Fee	351 · Administrative Costs	-1,840.00	1,840.00
				September-November 2021	110 · Gross Payroll	-9,689.94	9,689.94
				September-November 2021	130 · Group Benefit Stipend	-45.00	45.00
				September-November 2021	140 · Employer Contributions	-765.74	765.74
				September-November 2021	131 · Retirement	-859.50	859.50
				June-August 2021 Over-billed	110 · Gross Payroll	3,562.00	-3,562.00
				June-August 2021 Over-billed	140 · Employer Contributions	280.17	-280.17
				June-August 2021 Over-billed	131 · Retirement	310.20	-310.20
TOTAL						-9,047.81	9,047.81

December \*\*, 2021

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
National Flood Insurance Program

Address  
Address

Re: Docket ID FEMA-2021-0024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) is a collaboration of the 15 conservation districts bordering the Missouri River in Montana. We were organized to assist conservation districts and landowners with resource decisions along the Missouri River from its headwaters in Gallatin County to the North Dakota border in Richland County. Montana is the first state in the entire 10-state Missouri River basin to organize and fund a grassroots entity focused solely on the Missouri River basin. Through this council, conservation districts and their constituents are provided a unified front and collective voice when addressing natural resource issues, opportunities, and challenges associated with the Missouri River watershed.

Regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) request for information on the National Flood Insurance Program's Floodplain Management Standards, there are four points we want to make comments on.

1. *Stream restoration projects enhance aquatic and riparian habitat that are critical to many threatened and endangered species.*

Improvement of streams with stream restoration projects improve aquatic and riparian habitat critical to many threatened and endangered species. Montana is home to six federally listed threatened species and five endangered species. Many of these listed species in Montana rely on waterways and riparian habitat for survival. Being able to improve floodplains and the riparian area where needed is essential to these species' survival.

2. *Current Federal Floodplain Regulations are a one size fits all.*

Large rural areas should have additional regulatory options that complement restoration project permitting and completion. Large landowners are stewards of the land. Stream restoration projects that can be contained on one parcel of land should be considered in the regulation.

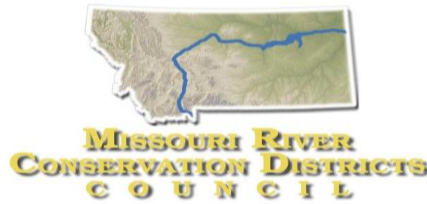
3. *Current floodplain regulation is very rigorous, and the engineering analysis can be very expensive and time consuming, for stream restoration projects/ Projects are being downscaled, delayed, or even abandoned.*

Conservation districts pride themselves in the great work they support in helping keep natural resources at their best for agriculture, wildlife, recreation, and communities of Montana. Part of this work includes stream restoration projects. A couple examples in the Helena, Montana area of recent stream restoration projects that were downscaled or delayed because of the added expense of the engineering analysis include one on Prickly Pear Creek which was delayed several months and downscaled substantially to compensate for the added \$10,000 in engineering analysis for the floodplain permit. The second project on Seven Mile Creek was delayed over a year to raise the \$50,000 required for the permit engineering fees. Both projects were designed to improve/restore aquatic and riparian habitat critical to endangered species. Numerous other smaller restoration projects have been abandoned statewide for lack of funding to pay for the rigorous engineering analysis required by the flood plain permit. More intense projects have been considered, but after trying to work through FEMA's regulations to get permitted for the work, they are dropped as projects. The regulation and current permitting process is too cumbersome and expensive for landowners.

4. *The Montana Stream Restoration Committee (consisting of numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations) was formed to try to identify viable alternatives to existing regulation but still meet statutory obligations. FEMA's participation on this Committee would enhance those efforts.*

A Stream Restoration Committee was formed to try and identify viable alternatives to conduct floodplain work while satisfying current, costly FEMA regulations. Conservation District representation, including individuals from MRCDC, are involved with this committee as the work that is done in floodplains, streambanks, and streams are critical to Montana and relates directly with part of Conservation Districts mission. Again, the complex, detailed, involved process of FEMA regulations and the costs associated with these are preventing on the ground floodplain, streambank, and stream restoration projects in Montana and legislators wanted to address this problem and to try and find a solution. Montana legislators, during the Montana 2021 Spring Legislative session, passed almost unanimously SJR6 (attached), a resolution asking FEMA to work with the Stream Restoration Committee to identify and implement ways to streamline floodplain permitting for restoration projects. In addition to changes in the process, FEMA's participation in the Montana Stream Restoration Committee would be a good first step in identifying potential changes. The changes could compliment restoration project development that improve or create habitat for threatened or endangered species in Montana, but also complement restoration project development at a national scale.

MRCDC  
PO Box 118  
Winnett, MT 59087



Phone: (406) 454-0056  
[mrcdc@macdnet.org](mailto:mrcdc@macdnet.org)  
[www.missouririvercouncil.info](http://www.missouririvercouncil.info)

In summary, FEMA's current flood plain permit **standards** for restoration projects needs to be modified to reduce the required expensive engineering analysis. This expense has caused restoration projects that are of benefit to streams and floodplains be downscaled, delayed, or even abandoned. This results in reduction or elimination of habitat features that are critical to threatened and endangered species.

Sincerely,

Laura Kiehl, Chairman  
Missouri River Conservation Districts Council