

Petroleum County Conservation District

P.O. Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087-0118

406-429-6646 ext. 104

petroleumcd@midrivers.com

Local Common Sense Conservation

www.petroleumcd.com

Rodney Rowton, Chairman, Ralph Corbett - Vice Chair, Laura Kiehl - Treasurer & MRCDC, James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugnud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

January 30, 2017

Treasurer Laura Kiehl called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:20 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Rodney Rowton, Diane Ahlgren, James Brady, Sigrid Pugnud and Nathan Descheemaeker. Also present were Carie Hess, Marni Thompson with NRCS, and guests Emily Standley with the Montana Rangelands Partnership (MRP), Rachel Frost with the Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC), William Friedman and John Lange with the Big Sky Watershed Corp.

Laura Kiehl opened up the appointment of Urban Supervisors where Rodney Rowton moved to appoint Ralph Corbett to a two year term and Sarah Stevens to a three year term which the Town of Winnett had sent forth in their minutes to the Conservation District. Sigrid Pugnud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Laura Kiehl then turned the meeting over to Ralph Corbett who is acting Chairman.

The December 29th minutes were read; Laura Kiehl moved to approve as corrected and Rodney Rowton seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Emily Standley (MRP) – Emily reported that the past month has been a lot of office time due to weather. This time has given her chance to get all the education materials finalized and the website is up and running. She has attended the Winter Grazing Seminar and the meet and greet event in Helena. The partnership was awarded a \$500 mini education grant to put together monitoring books for the producers that they are working with.

William Friedman & John Lange (BSWC) – John reported that they have hit the ground running so far and that they have a work plan meeting scheduled for tomorrow with Laura Nowlin, Rachel Frost and Carie Hess to get the work plan laid out and any questions answered in the process of how things work.

Reports:

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Rodney Rowton moved to approve the report as submitted, Sig Pugnud seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Laura Kiehl moved to approve as submitted and Sig Pugnud seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. She noted that the district has several smaller grants that are coming to an end and where she had transferred the money from their sub-accounts to the districts main checking account on the financial side of the reporting.

Open Range Consulting: Carie reported that there is nothing new to report on this item but that she would like to keep it on the agenda and will update the board as more information comes in. Diane reported that Gregg Simonds had mentioned that Kestrel Air may be able to take the pictures if they are in the area doing work.

New Working Group – It was mentioned that the community working group may take over this group so maybe it should be tabled until the community working group is up and going. Board members that were at the earlier working group meeting gave updates on what was discussed which included the group's name, a land purchase subcommittee and that their next meeting is scheduled for February 15 @ 5 pm at the Methodist Church.

District Outreach Materials – Sig Pugrud suggested that the 1,665 square miles be amended to acres so it would read 1,071,000 acres. Rodney Rowton moved to approve the mission/ purpose statement and brochure with that correction. Sig Pugrud seconded, the motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Carie had not had time to get the Artesian well information printed for the board to review so that was tabled until the next meeting.

Neighboring County Landownership Map Books – Carie mentioned that it may be of interest to the board to see if neighboring counties would be interested in trading landownership map books to have for reference here at the office. It was also thought that one additional one could be purchased for sale here in the office and that those could be replenished upon sale. Ralph Corbett moved to see if neighboring counties would be interested in trading landownership map books to have for reference here at the office. Rodney Rowton second, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll Policy – Carie mentioned that the only change that needs to be made is to update the month payroll information that had been done in August to accommodate retirement reporting. It was noted that Carie did not have a chance to get this printed before the meeting started and that this would be tabled until next meeting.

Bank Account Information – Carie had handed the board the new signer cards and bank information for the newly appointed supervisors to sign to be able to sign checks.

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing new to report for this meeting.

MRCDC Report: Rachel Frost reported that the next CMR Community Working Group meeting will be February 23rd in Malta and the Malta Business Center. It was reported that the bison sub-committee would be meeting on January 31st in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn and that Lorrie Huska Brown would be presenting on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has done and where FWP is at in the process. It was reported that the Montana Saltcedar Team (MS) was awarded a 223 grant through McCone CD to treat Saltcedar

below Fort Peck Dam to the state line. Lastly she reported that the Ranching for Rivers program had received more funding and that there will be a call for applications soon.

MWC Report: It was reported that the next Coalition meeting is scheduled for February 14th at the Methodist Church in Roundup starting at noon. Peter Marchi, Ada Montague, and Stephanie Hester will be in attendance and will give reports on the distribution project, drought planning and invasive species.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that there have been no meetings lately but that they group did have a webinar on the Habitat Quantification tool (HQT) and that it is moving along. She noted that there would be a peer review after the tool was complete. She noted that the team had held a public hearing on the new rules and that there were not a lot of comments from those meetings. Lastly she reported that the governor has proposed a budget of \$2 million per year for the next 4 years but that the budget has to go through the legislative process and no money would then be available until 2018.

NRCS: Marni Thompson reported that Loyd Bantz is back to work after a contracting mess up. She reported that Amanda Gillett did an awesome job speaking at the cover crop workshop in Great Falls. She also reported that there is a sage grouse training with the NRCS Lewistown staff and Marni to try to work through the process and how it works as there are some concerns with BLM's disturbance percentage calculation on projects in Fergus and Petroleum counties. She reported that the DC position for both offices had been opened but that they did not received enough response for a panel so it was rejected. Lastly she asked the board to think about what topics they would like to cover with Joshua Dukart at the May workshop. Ideas that were brought up at the meeting included "what is a good indicator on when to move your cows", economics, and soil health / cover crops/ grazing cocktails.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Reported that she had attended a Rangeland Resource Executive Committee (RREC) meeting at the Winter Grazing Seminar and that the loan program still needs to be advertised and used as there have been no new loans in a few years. The RREC will have a day at the capitol and that they committee will be working on doing a Leopold Award which the winner receives a \$10,000 cash award.

Laura – Reported that she had attended the January 5th Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) and the MRCDC meeting in Havre. She noted that she had prepared a summary of the meetings for the newsletter. She also reported that the 2017 MACD State Convention will be in Glasgow the first week of November and that Michael Martin Murphy has been secured as the entertainment.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Absent.

Sig – Reported that she had attended a United Property Rights meeting and that there were some great speakers there. She noted that FWP is always stating that they need more access when in the state of Montana there is only three percent of their land not publicly accessible. She also reported that in 2009 legislation was passed on wildlife number caps per species and that currently FWP is out of compliance with that legislation and are legally obligated to keep those numbers in check. She reported that the County Planning Board will be having a Tow Hall style meeting or public meeting where everyone can read and comment on the plan before it becomes final. The plan will then be legally reviewed and revised every 5 years.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Supervisor Terms & Elections – It was noted that Sigrid Pugrud volunteered to be the representative to the Montana Salinity Control Association Board.

Black-footed Ferret reintroduction/Prairie Dog Management – It was noted that Sig would take a look at the latest draft of the statement and would get in contact with some people and bring the information to the next meeting.

Permissive Mill Levy – It was noted that the board would like to have a call with Laurie Zeller and Karl Christians at the next board meeting.

Employee Policy Handbook Changes – Carie mentioned that the changes had not been completed and that the appendices had not been received. She will inform the board as soon as they have been and then the policy can be reviewed and approved.

CO Engine – It was noted that a note would be put in the newsletter and the website on gathering interest.

New Business:

Permits – None at this time.

**223 Grant for Workshop Series –
Board Reorganization –**

Chairman - Rodney Rowton volunteered for Chairman Position and Ralph Corbett moved to appoint Rodney Rowton as Chairman, Laura Kiehl seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

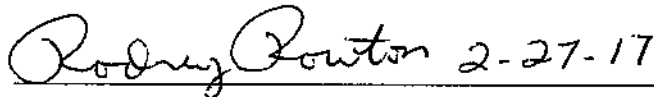
Vice-Chair- Ralph Corbett volunteered for the Vice Chair Position and Rodney Rowton moved to appoint Ralph Corbett as Vice-Chair, Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Treasurer – Laura Kiehl volunteered to for the Treasurer Position and Sigrid Pugrud moved to appoint Laura Kiehl as Treasurer Rodney Rowton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Next board meeting February 27, 2017 @ 5 pm.

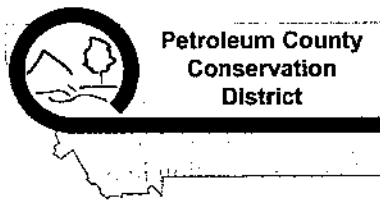
With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

 2-27-17

Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



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Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

February 27, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:04 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Diane Ahlgren, James Brady, Sigrid Pugrud, Laura Kiehl, and Sarah Stevens. Also present were Carie Hess, Marni Thompson with NRCS, and guests Laura Nowlin, Musselshell Watershed Coalition, and William Friedman and John Lange with the Big Sky Watershed Corp. By phone were Laurie Zeller and Karl Christians with DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau.

Permissive Mill Levy -

Laurie Zeller and Karl Christians were available to field questions from the board in regards calling for a permissive mill levy. During the question and answer session it was noted that

- All employees need to receive the group benefit but that the levy could be pulled for one, two or all employees.
- A public hearing would need to be done at the start and then every year but that the rates do not have to be increased every year.
- A base rate has to be in place for a year before you call for the levy. The minimum amount the base can be is \$10.
- That the forms need to be filled out and submitted to the county in August.

The January 30th minutes were read; Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

John Lange & Willie Friedman - reported that they are working on getting the salinity volunteer program up and running for the first monitoring date in April. They are working with DNRC to get the canal seepage study details worked out and dates lined up. It was noted that Willie is working on the Saltcedar project below Fort Peck Dam to the state line and that he will be working on the district's well project as well. Lastly it was noted that they both will be running a station at the district's kid's day.

Reports:

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve as submitted and Laura Kiehl seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. She mentioned to the board that she had been asked if the board would be willing to sponsor an AML contract with DEQ for approximately \$1,200 to 1,500 to help with the tailings reclamation in the Roundup Reach projects. Ralph Corbett moved to approve to sponsor the contract; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Carie also mentioned that she would like the board to approve to have the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be able to sign grant invoices and contracts as at this time it is only the chairman and it is hard to come to town just to sign. James Brady moved to allow both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to sign contracts and invoices; Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Open Range Consulting: Carie reported that there is nothing new to report on this.

New Working Group – Laura Nolin reported that the working group should hear sometime in the next month if they were awarded funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). She reported that currently she has secured \$4,000 of the \$7,500 match funding that is needed for the project. It was noted that the Endowment Fund awarded the project \$1000 and that they may be able to do more after their grant and scholarships are awarded. Laura reported that the Petroleum County Growth Policy is in draft form and that the commissioners and town council will be reviewing for any changes then it will go out for public comment and public meetings will be held in May.

District Outreach Materials – The board reviewed the Artesian well Project informational packet. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the materials in the packet and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Payroll Policy – After reviewing the couple of changes that were made Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve the payroll policy and Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Weather Station – After several members of the board looked over what Levi Johnson had brought down to the office it was noted that the station appears to be missing a few parts. James Brady took interest in seeing if he could find parts for it as he has a station at his house. Sigrid Pugrud moved to give the station to James Brady and Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fence Markers – Carie mentioned to the board that the last of the fence markers had been sold. She wanted to know if the board would continue with the project or wanted to give it up. IT was noted that the board would like to get a cost estimate on the project before moving forward one way or another.

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane reported that she had attended a Delphia- Melstone Water Users Association (DMWUA) meeting in regards to the Off Stream Storage project. The members of the DMWUA stated that at this time they are still trying to recoup from the flooding and the money they had to personally put out. It was thought that maybe they could put in a small reservoir of their own that might go towards movement on the water rights. She also noted that both Llyod Rowton and she had attended the Musselshell Watershed Coalition meeting.

MRCDC Report: Laura reported that Rachel Frost was working a drafting a letter to Zinke and that she had asked for topics. It was also noted that on the Executive Committee call that Fish Wildlife and parks is looking to create an AIS Bureau and is looking to hire 14 people to staff the bureau. It was reported that the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) was creating a website that would work as a tool kit for monitoring the AIS efforts. Laura and Diane reported that they had met Levi Morgan with the USFWS Partner's program for this area and he is interested in coming to a meeting to introduce himself and inform the board on the program. Diane mentioned that the bison sub-committee meeting was very intense and that most of the committee feels that they should not meet again.

MWC Report: Laura reported that the coalition is submitting an AIS grant through the Lower Musselshell CD for signage and education along with some long range planning.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that she had attended a couple of webinars with the original stakeholder group which is working on the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT). There have been no meetings of the full team just the stakeholder's calls and webinars. Diane mentioned that she feels that the stakeholders are going in the right direction with the tool.

NRCS: Marni Thompson reported that they are working on getting the EQIP applications wrapped up and completing field work and cost estimates for those applications so that they can be ranked. She noted that there are 3 in SGI, 1 High Tunnel, and 4 in Crop conversion for Petroleum County. She noted that they will know March 10th if they are funded. She reported that she had attended a sage grouse meeting last week and that some issues with where to mark fences as the data that they have been given has confirmed and non-confirmed LEK's as well as historical sites. They are working on getting fences in the confirmed and non-confirmed LEK's marked. The states disturbance cap for projects has caused some problems for projects in Petroleum County. In Petroleum County the current cap of five percent disturbance is making it hard for any project to be approved even if it is temporary disturbance. The projects will not be completed without having to do a public comment period.

MRP Report: Nothing at this time.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Mentioned that she had attended the Rangeland Rotunda day and that there was a fairly good crowd. She reported that the new local working group land subcommittee would like to have Brian Martin with The Nature Conservancy come and speak about what they do at the Matador Ranch. The full group would not be meeting until after they know about the grant. She mentioned that they talked Elk numbers and that Laura Nowlin had sent a website with an Elk Management Plan on it but that it seems the plan has not been updated since 2002.

Laura – Mentioned that at the CMR working group meeting the Matador Ranch manager had talked a little about their work with young producers. She reported that of the 19 current leases seven of them were young producers. She also noted that there had been a lot of interest in what we were doing with our group.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan - Absent

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Black-footed Ferret reintroduction/Prairie Dog Management – It was noted that Sig would take a look at the latest draft of the statement and would bring the final version to the next meeting.

Employee Policy Handbook Changes – Carie mentioned that the changes had not been completed and that the appendices had not been received. She will inform the board as soon as they have been and then the policy can be reviewed and approved.

CO Engine – Nothing at this time

New Business:

Permits – None at this time.

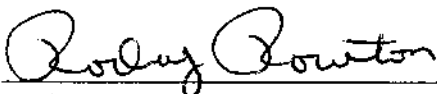
Aquatic Invasive Species - Carie mentioned that there is a lot of work going on across the state on Aquatic Invasive and that it was thought that the district is a perfect partner for activities going on in our area. Carie then asked the board if they would be willing to sponsor an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant for the Missouri River CD Council. Laura Kiehl moved to sponsor; Sarah Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Announcements:

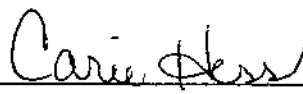
The board discussed and came up with a new order for the agendas for future meetings starting with the March meeting.

Next board meeting March 27, 2017 @ 5 pm.

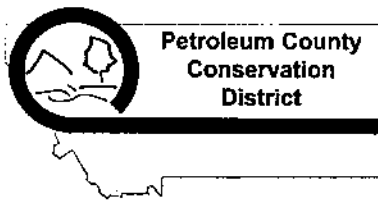
With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



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March 27, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:06 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, Diane Ahlgren, James Brady, Sigrid Pugrud, Laura Kiehl, Nate Descheemaeker and Sarah Stevens. Also present were Carie Hess, Reba Ahlgren with NRCS, and guest Emily Standley with the Montana Rangelands Partnership. The February 27th minutes were read; Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing at this time.

MRCDC Report: Laura reported that the council is working on their quarterly meeting and the River Rendezvous which are tentatively scheduled for June 26 & 27th in Shelby. The council is still up in the air with whether or not they will see a full twenty percent budget reduction or not which is making things hard.

MWC Report: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for April 11th and that the coalition will be working on some AIS education and outreach.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that she had been sitting in on webinars with the original stakeholders and that there is a model site up right now for producer projects to be worked through to see any issues before the site is final. Diane reported that there are still a few things they are working on with the HQT and that there has been talk about the disturbance cap.

NRCS: Reba reported that there are three sage grouse EQIP applications with two being pre-approved and there are working on getting the third funded. The high tunnel application withdrew and the sage grouse special initiative for seeding back to grass deadline is Friday and that the office should know in a week how many contracts there will be. Reba reported that Marni Thompson will no longer be the acting DC for the office as of Friday she will move to her new job as an Area Planner. Mark Mc Lendon will be the new acting DC for the office. She noted that the hiring freeze put a freeze on hiring the DC position for the office as well and that realistically it is figured that the position will not be filled until late fall at the earliest. It was discussed to send a letter to Cari Ostberg about getting the DC position for this office filled. James Brady moved to send a letter and Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion passed unanimously.

MRP Report: Emily reported that she has been busy going to meetings and conferences doing presentations. She reported that she will be working with those producers she monitored with last year to

do grazing plans. She also mentioned that she would like to have a monitoring field day in the county sometime this summer to fall.

BSWC Report: Nothing at this time.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- reported that Wilderness Study Areas that congress designated in the 1970's are well over there study deadline. She noted that the areas were only supposed to be studied and a decision made within five years of the designation. She mentioned that HJ 9 proposes taking seven areas off the study list in the forest service. It was noted that there are two in the area and that they have been recommended as not designated but are still on the lists and have not been removed.

Laura – Nothing at this time.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Mentioned that there was a Billings Gazette article stating that they believe cattle are good for the sage grouse.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan - Nothing at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, Laura Kiehl seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Laura Kiehl moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. She handed the board a copy of the fiscal year 2018 Administrative grant application. Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve the application; Sarah Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Open Range Consulting: Carie reported that there is nothing new to report on this.

New Working Group – It was reported that the World Wildlife Fund has offered some funding to send producers to workshops. The group had asked if they could instead have someone come in and do a workshop here. It had been agreed to have Dave Pratt with his Ranching for Profit program come in for a workshop to producers. It was asked if the district would be willing to sponsor the workshop by holding the contract with World Wildlife Fund for the funding and with Dave Pratt for the workshop. James Brady moved to sponsor for the group and Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Reba reported that there is a committee working on the details such as one day or two and who should be invited.

Fence Markers – Carie reported that she had not had the time to get estimates but would have them by the next board meeting.

MACD Dues Conflict – Carie had shared with the board the emails that have been going around where districts are not paying dues to MACD due to a combination of issues. It was noted that Carie would keep the board apprised of the way things are going with this issue.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Black-footed Ferret reintroduction/Prairie Dog Management – The board reviewed the final draft that Sig had prepared and Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted, Rodney Rowton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Permissive Levy – It was suggested to have all employees at the next meeting to further discuss the levy and budgets and how things could look in regard to the levy.

Employee Policy Handbook Changes – Carie mentioned DNRC had decided to scrap the model they had been working on and start over. Carie mentioned that she would like to make some district specific changes to the model and have the board approve at the next meeting as the current policy does not address some of the changes coming.

New Business:

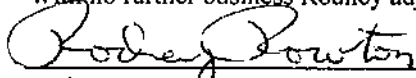
Permits – None at this time.

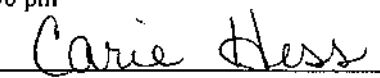
QuickBooks - Carie reported that she had a few conversations with Laura and Sig and that they had found a better price and workable situation for the software and subscription. It was noted it had been found that the software could be purchased through SWCDM at \$50 and that the payroll subscription would be \$189 this year and \$250 next year so the cost savings for payroll alone was \$315. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the software and subscription purchases and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

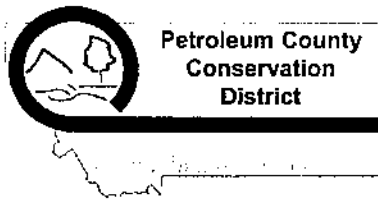
Announcements:

Next board meeting April 26, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

April 26, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:04 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Sigrid Pugrud, Laura Kiehl, and Nate Descheemaeker. Also present were Carie Hess, Reba Ahlgren, Mark Mc Lendon, and Nikki Rife with NRCS. The March 27th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing at this time.

MRCDC Report: Laura reported that on the council's executive committee call it was noted that the Coalbed Methane Program funding is sitting on the governor's desk waiting signature. She reported that the council will hold their next quarterly meeting in conjunction with their annual river rendezvous in Shelby June 26 & 27th. The tour will look at an AIS check station, diversion structure, and will be co-hosted with the Milk River Watershed Alliance. She reported that they are going to have an AIS meeting week May 15-18 and the CMR meeting on May 19th. The Ranching for Rivers videos are completed and being delivered to the districts. Laura noted that the CMR meeting the group will be discussing setting a goal planning session at the next meeting. Lastly she reported that there is an Ag Summit May 31 and June 1st.

MWC Report: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 13th in Roundup.

MSGOT Report: Nothing at this time.

NRCS: Reba Ahlgren introduced Mark Mc Lendon the acting DC for the office to the board. Mark informed the board that there are the following EQIP applications: one SGI application that is pre-approved, two applications that were deferred until next year, one that has requested additional funding and is waiting to hear, and two special initiative applications for cropland back to grassland that are pre-approved. It was also reported that there was one CSP application has been submitted. Mark and Reba also reported that there is an exemption being worked on amongst the agencies for the density disturbance calculator. This exemption would be for temporary disturbances such as pipelines and tanks but will not be retroactive. Reba reported that the Grass Class this year will be featuring Joshua Dukart and is scheduled for May 24 at the Methodist Church. There was discussion over how to do the meal and Carie will work with the local establishments to come up with a meal for the event for the \$10 fee. Lastly Mark informed the board that there is a bus tour heading to South Dakota on June 20th and that the Judith Basin, Fergus and Cascade CD's are working on it together. He handed out an agenda and more information to the board about the tour.

MRP Report: Emily has sent an email as an update which mentioned that the program has completed its first year and did a recap and evaluation April 18th. She thanked the board for sending in comments for the evaluation. She noted that she will be attending meetings quarterly from now on and that she is willing to help out with any workshops in the future.

BSWC Report: Willie reported currently John and he are working on a lot of coalition stuff but hope that as the summer comes to work on the well project more and to possibly help with the fuels mitigation project as well.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Asked the district that if the Fergus CD can't sponsor the Grass Range FFA students to attend Range Camp if they would be willing to sponsor. She also asked if the district wants to publish their position statement on the Black-footed Ferret and Prairie Dog management. Ralph Corbett moved to publish the position statement on the district's website and Facebook page as well as looking at other county organizations pages. Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time

James – Mentioned that he has spoken with Katie Decker with BLM and that they are working on an exemption amongst the agencies for the density disturbance calculator. This exemption would be for temporary disturbances such as pipelines and tanks but will not be retroactive

Nathan - Nothing at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Laura Kiehl moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. It was noted that there were no contracts or reporting that needed signatures this month.

Open Range Consulting: Nikki was in attendance to talk about the particulars of this project. She started with a brief history about who the information came to be. It was noted that BLM has paid for the work to be done and the data but that it had been shared with the district. She informed the board that there are several ways in which the data can be used. She mentioned that the quote the district had received was for them to come back on a more normal precipitation year and take pictures so that the data was not skewed and to make a priority map for the district to use for projects. It was noted that currently the BLM is using the data for their allotment monitoring. Nikki mentioned that the information has a 90

percent accuracy rate. It was noted that Matt Comer with the BLM would be willing to come to the July board meeting and share how he is using the information and it was noted that Eric Sant with ORC is willing to come out too.

New Working Group – It was reported that Julia Haggerty's project had been funded and that the group was looking to have Dave Pratt's Ranching for Profit workshop August 1 & 2nd at the courthouse. More information will be out soon on the workshop. Sigrid Pugrud mentioned that the group had discussed that Laura Nowlin would be the feasibility coordinator supervisor.

Fence Markers – Carie reported that she had not had the time to get estimates but would have them by the next board meeting.

MACD Dues Conflict – It was noted that Carie would keep the board apprised of the way things are going with this issue.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – With the MRCDC and MWC reporting that they would be able to work in the \$100 a year into their budgets for their coordinator the board went into further discussion. James Brady moved to not request a permissive levy but to find the finding through the districts grants to provide for the district employee group benefit for the administrator. Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed with a vote of Laura Kiehl, Rodney Rowton, James Brady, Nathan Descheemaeker, and Sigrid Pugrud for the motion and Ralph Corbett opposed.

Employee Policy Handbook Changes – The board reviewed the final district personnel policy and Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve as submitted, James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits – Application numbers 2017-01 and 2017-02 were reviewed and the board decided that they were not projects. Ralph Corbett moved to approve as not a project for both applications and Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Section 218 Agreement– Carie handed the board the paperwork that has been being worked on for a year now in regards to the Section 218 Agreement with the state's social security administration. Included was a letter explain why the agreement was needed and how covering employees works. Ralph Corbett moved to sign the agreement and Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

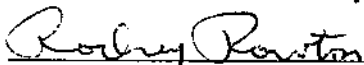
Announcements:

Sig mentioned that she would like to see the board work with the Fergus Petroleum Extension Agent on working pesticide applicator credits into our future workshops.

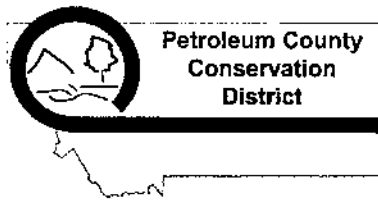
Laura Kiehl mentioned that Lewistown Rental now has a Verminator for rent.

Next board meeting May 30th, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugrud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban
Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

May 30th, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:05 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, and Sarah Stevens. Also present were Reba Ahlgren, and Mark Mc Clendon, with NRCS and Carie Hess. The chair noted that Craig Iverson, Diane Ahlgren, Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, and Nathan Descheemaeker had excused absences. The April 26th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing at this time.

MRCDC Report: Carie noted that the next quarterly meeting and the 2017 River Rendezvous would be held June 26 and 27th in Shelby.

MWC Report: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 13th in Roundup.

MSGOT Report: Nothing at this time.

NRCS: Mark Mc Clendon reported that they are working on all of the field office plans which include two special Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) plans one of which is approved and the other should be approved on May 31st. There is one regular SGI and one had to be sent through the national process for more money. There is one Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application that is getting ready to be ranked. Mark noted that they are still under a hiring freeze but will keep the district updated. He also noted that they are working on a new management plan for personnel. Reba Ahlgren updated the board on the Grass Class 4.0 workshop in which there were 12 participants but that the information presented was good.

MRP Report: Emily reported that she will be attending the Ag Summit in Great Falls, Montana Youth Range Camp and Range Days in the next couple of months. She has summer workshops scheduled in Phillips, Fergus and Blaine Counties. She reported that both Cheryl and she have some grazing districts and associations that are interested in their services. She also noted that they may start monitoring as soon as next week. Lastly she reported that at the steering committee annual review that they would like to do some more education and outreach with local youth such as 4-H, FFA, and elementary students.

BSWC Report: Nothing at this time.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Absent

Rodney – Rodney reported that the area is very dry and that it seems to be worse the further East you head.

Ralph – Ralph reported that there is an increase the fishing license fee that is to help with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) work going on through the state. The fee is \$2 for a resident and \$15 for a non-resident. He mentioned that there is a lot of clover out this year and that there are already reports of grasshoppers. Lastly he reported that there has been a noticeable increase in Prairie Dogs this year.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent

James – James reported that he had attended the Grass Class 4.0 and that the information was good. He also said that he had noticed the sweet clover blooming.

Nathan - Absent.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Sarah Stevens moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. Carie had the AIS grant application for signature, the USGS Contract for signature and the World Wildlife Fund grant for the Ranching for Profit workshop to sign. For the record Ralph Corbett moved to approve the application for the AIS grant and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Open Range Consulting: Reba mentioned that Diane Ahlgren had mentioned to have Matt Comer come to the July meeting to talk about the Open Range Consulting (ORC) information and how the BLM has been using it. It was also thought that this could be a in the office meeting then out in the field. James Brady mentioned a state section by the bridge that could be used

Winnett ACES – The group has hired Kate French whose first day will be June 5th. They also have a subcommittee working on the Ranching for profit workshop which is tentatively scheduled for August 1 and 2nd in Winnett.

Fence Markers – Carie reported that Lewistown Lumber can order 12 foot sticks in for about \$7 each and that each stick makes about 36 markers. Those members thought that it would be okay to order a few sticks to make markers with.

MACD Dues Conflict – It was noted that Carie would keep the board apprised of the way things are going with this issue. Carie mentioned that she would be attending the Spring Board Meeting to get a better idea of this situation and would report back at the next meeting.

2017 Ladies Day – Reba noted that the Ladies day on the Range is scheduled for June 22nd and that they are looking for a place to have it and Marni Thompson will be here June 1st to look at some possible sites. It was noted that for the talk they would need a spot with dryland hay and native range side by side and James Brady mentioned that we should speak with Laura Nowlin as there might be a place on the ranch.

Montana Range Tour – Carie updated the board that the dates of the Montana Range Tour are scheduled for September 6th and 7th. We will spend one day in Fergus County and one day in Northern Petroleum County. The Fergus locations and logistics were run and reviewed on May 22nd and the Petroleum locations will be done in early June.

Annual Evaluation Timeframes – Carie reported that it is annual evaluation time and that she would like to send out the process to employees the first week of June with a final date to have everything done for Petroleum CD board approval at the August board meeting.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Carie mentioned the emails that she had received from Karl Christians in regards to the permissive levy and how the base amount works as well as if employees can opt out of taking the benefit. Carie suggested that the district keep with the current base of \$10 and not increase to the \$100 for this fiscal year. This would give the board a chance to review the requirements and see how they would like to proceed with the new information.

New Business:

Permits – None at this time.

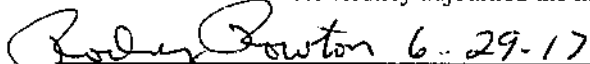
FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Carie handed the board the FY 2017 Annual Work Plan and mentioned that it is that time to review and plan for FY 2018. She asked those members in attendance to review and see if they wanted any changes. She noted that she would send out to all board members electronically with that note as well. This work plan should be approved at the June meeting could be held out until the July meeting to make sure funding is in place for projects.

MRCDC MOU Review – Carie handed out the Missouri River CD Council biennium MOU's for review of any updates or corrections. Carie mentioned that the MRCDC Executive Committee had seen them and that the full council will see them on their June 26th meeting. Carie noted that the district will need to get the new contract number before signing. This should be signed fully at the July 2017 meeting.

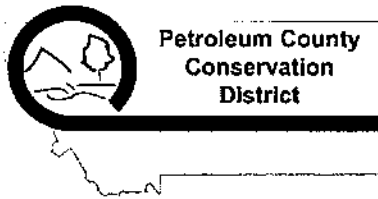
Announcements:

Next board meeting June 29th, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugrud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban
Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

June 29, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:00 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Nathan Descheemaeker, Craig Iverson and Diane Ahlgren. Also present were Reba Ahlgren, and Mark McClendon, with NRCS and Carie Hess. The chair noted that Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, and Sarah Stevens had excused absences. The May 30th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and Nathan Descheemaeker seconded, motion carried. It is noted that about half way through the meeting Rodney Rowton turned the chairman duties over to Ralph Corbett as Rodney had to leave the meeting all action items had been approved at that point and the rest of the meeting was just updates.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing at this time.

MRCDC Report: Carie reported that the Council had their quarterly meeting on June 26th which included a presentation on Acid Mine Reclamation. They also conducted their 2017 River Rendezvous featuring the Milk River and the Saint Mary's Project in both Canada and Montana. They are planning to have their next meeting in Winnett on July 31st prior to the district's regular board meeting.

MWC Report: It was reported that at the June 13th meeting One Montana was there and the Coalition previewed the video that is being produced. Diane reported that the Coalition board passed their by-laws as well at their meeting prior to the Coalition meeting.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the team funded the last two easements and that the original stakeholders have been hard at work getting the Habitat Quantitative Tool (HQT) and the mitigation tool into draft and ready for comments, which should be ready to be sent out to the July 7th and that the group will meet again July 24th. She passed around a spare information packet for the board to look at. Lastly she responded to the disturbance cap issue. She mentioned that the MSGOT has worked through adjusting mitigating the cap making allowances for temporary projects such as pipelines. She noted that the BLM's language is a lot harder to adjust and mitigate for temporary projects.

NRCS: Mark McClendon reported that Lorna Philp is back to work as the DC in Lewistown and that he would be acting DC for the Winnett Office coming down two days one week and three the next. He reported that there is one CSP application going forward to the pre-approval pool. The three SGI applications are approved and signed now. He noted that Petroleum County is now listed as a D2 county and that CRP can be grazed. He mentioned that the emergency haying has not been opened yet thought. The board members brought up the fact that there are not many CRP acres in Petroleum County anymore.

MRP Report: Nothing at this time.

BSWC Report: Nothing at this time.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Craig reported that the county is still working through budgets but since the levy increase last June they are doing better. He said that he would bring up the Fuels Mitigation at the next meeting.

Diane- Diane reported that she had attended the Ag Summit the end of May and that it was pretty upbeat. She reported that she had attended the Ladies Day with Ann Fischer and that it seemed to go well.

Laura – Absent

Rodney – Rodney reported that there are really bad areas of knapweed infestations along the Musselshell River.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Absent

Sig – Absent

James – James reported that he had attended the Elk Management meeting just prior to the board meeting and that it was a good meeting. He noted that there were people from the Devil's Kitchen working group there as well as Fish Wildlife and Parks personnel.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. Carie mentioned that with payroll not being due until June 30th that she had not prepared any of the quarterly grant billings but that she would have those done in the next week or so. She noted that there is about \$10,000 in reimbursable grant funds that will be coming in. Carie reported that she had received word from DNRC that the district had been funded at \$28,250 for fiscal year 2018 in the administrator grant.

Open Range Consulting: Reba mentioned that Carie and she had been discussing possible dates to bring to the board to hold the informational visit with Matt Comer. They brought up the following dates; August 7, 11, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25. It was noted that board members would check their calendars and get back to her.

Winnett ACE: Diane reported that the Winnett ACES has hired Kate French as the coordinator and that she started June 5th and that there will be a July 11th land sub-committee meeting and a full meeting August 9th. Diane mentioned that they had a little impromptu tour of the county with Brian Martin.

Fence Markers: Carie reported that she had not ordered yet due to need to find someone to pick up the sticks. Ralph Corbett mentioned that he could pick them up and cut them as well.

MACD Dues Conflict: Carie had attended the Spring Board meeting and shared with the board what she had learned and the overview that she had made up and presented to the MACD board as well as the administrators at the training.

2017 Ladies Day: The board was updated that the day has went well other than some wind. There were about 14 women in attendance.

Montana Range Tour: Carie updated the board on the progress that has been made. It was noted that after the Petroleum dry run that we decided to switch days and do Petroleum on the 6th of September. Carie is currently working on making the registration forms and the agenda to be sent to DNRC for printing. She is also working on finalizing the grant application and contract.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy -- Nothing new this month.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Carie handed the board the FY 2017 Annual Work Plan and mentioned that it is that time to review and plan for FY 2018. She asked those members in attendance to review and see if they wanted any changes. This work plan should be approved at the July meeting to make sure funding is in place for projects.

MRCDC MOU Review – Carie handed out the Missouri River CD Council biennium MOU's for review of any updates or corrections. Carie mentioned that at the MRCDC quarterly meeting on June 26th the council moved to strike the "or \$10,600" and just go with the 10%. The board members after some discussion and scenarios thought that was an appropriate change. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the amendment to the MOU with the MRCDC and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

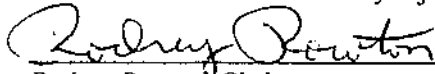
Permits – None at this time.

2018 Big Sky Watershed Corp Application: It was brought to the board that it is time to approve if the district would like to apply for the 2018 BSWC program for members. Laura Nowlin would like to apply for two members again. Rachel Frost said that she would help with funding again. After some discussion of what the work load would be Ralph Corbett moved to apply for two members for the 2018 program year, James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

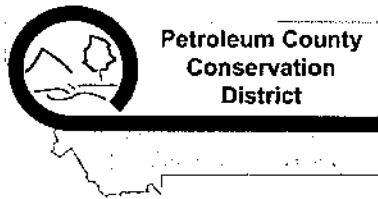
Announcements:

Next board meeting July 31st, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

July 31, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:07 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Nathan Descheemaeker, Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, Sarah Stevens, and Diane Ahlgren. Also present were Lorna Philp, Reba Ahlgren and Mark Mc Clendon, with NRCS, BSWC Members John Lange and Willie Friedman and Carie Hess. The chair noted that Craig Iverson was absent from the meeting. The June 29th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as corrected and Sarah Stevens seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane reported that a couple of producers had knapweed bugs released on their property as the start of a four year study with two different bugs.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that contracts are working slowly through DNRC but that they should be coming soon. She reported that Garfield CD was awarded a \$75,000 emergency grant to start work on fire recovery. She reported that Karl stated that the second round of budget cuts had been triggered. Laura reported that Elena had mentioned that MACD was working through things from the Spring Board Meeting and that they are working on Mesonet monitoring. Lastly she reported that Dean gave a report on the fire and mentioned that working with Paul Santavy with the CMR that there is emergency grazing on the CMR for those that lost their grazing. Dick Iversen mentioned that in Richland County the BLM is not going to do their traditional 2 to 3 year grazing deferral and will be looking at the deferrals on a case by case basis.

MWC Report: Laura reported that the next meeting is scheduled for August 8th in Roundup starting at noon and that the DEQ will present their watershed assessment project to date. She noted that there is an MCC crew currently out helping with fencing needs that will be here through Friday and that there is a possibility of getting three to four more additional crews this fall. Lastly she reported that there is an application in for 2 BSWC members for the 2018 year and that currently she had \$13,000 of the \$20,000 needed.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the July meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for August 31st. She noted that they are all doing their homework on the HQT Tool information.

NRCS: Mark Mcclendon reported he had received a bulletin dated July 20th from the national office that states NRCS staff is no longer required to attend CD meetings that are outside of office hours. He reported that they are working on a special initiative for fire recovery with the EQIP program. It was mentioned that they would send a press release soon and the sign up period would be August 1 -15th with

contracts being written by September 15th. He noted that producers need to contact the office before purchasing any supplies. Lorna mentioned that the FSA's ECP is approved and will be out the 7th of August. Carie Hess shared a letter to Lisa Coverdale and Kevin Taylor that she had written and wanted to send to them. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the letter and send it, James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MRP Report: Emily Standley sent an email note to the board stating that she has done a bit of monitoring both visiting new sites and the old sites. Has been doing education with Montana Range Days and the Montana Youth Range Camp as well as presenting workshops in Fergus and Phillips counties.

BSWC Report: John reported that he has been working on the idea of a recycling program for the Winnett area and wondered if the board would approve an interest survey go out to the area. He asked the board to review the survey and give him feedback. James Brady moved to approve the survey to be sent, Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Willie reported that he has been in contact with Julie Goss about the Richland County project and has been talking with the Bureau of Mines & Geology to more background information.

Winnett ACES: Kate French, coordinator for the group reported that she is working on community assessments of grazing needs and cross case analysis of similar projects and funding needs. She noted that the first community event was done on July 20th but that it was not well attended due to the fire. She noted that there is an event August 29th that will be a workshop with a panel discussion and will run from 10am to 3 pm. at the Methodist Church. She also reported that she has Amy Sullivan scheduled to do a meeting and one on one meetings September 7-8th.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Nothing at this time.

Laura – Asked if the district should reach out to the CD's in Kansas and Texas and see what role they played with the fires.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Ralph reported that it was amazing to see both local people and those not from here donate to the fire whether it be food, time, money or supplies. He was very pleased with the locals who stepped in and coordinated.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Sig mentioned that Dave Pratt had offered to do a "After the Disaster" workshop for those affected by the fire pro bono except for a plane ticket. She also mentioned that she had brought up the fall pesticide applicator credits with workshops this fall. Carie mentioned that Darren Crawford had left the Extension in Lewistown but have given the name to the extension agent in Musselshell County.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, Sig Pugrud seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Sig Pugrud moved to approve as submitted and Laura Kiehl seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. She noted that there is about \$10,000 in reimbursable grant funds that will be coming in. Carie reported that she had received word from DNRC that the district had been funded at \$28,250 for fiscal year 2018 in the administrator grant.

Open Range Consulting: Carie asked the board to come up with a date. After some discussion the general consensus was to try for August 21st at 9am starting at the Winnett Field Office. Carie said that she would get ahold of Matt Comer and confirm. She would let the board know what she finds out.

Winnett ACE: Diane reported that the Winnett ACES has hired Kate French as the coordinator and that she started June 5th and that there will be a July 11th land sub-committee meeting and a full meeting August 9th. Diane mentioned that they had a little impromptu tour of the county with Brian Martin.

Fence Markers: Nothing new on this at this time.

MACD Dues Conflict: Nothing new to report other than the reporting that MACD had sent to the district for their review. An area One Director should be coming out to explain more in detail to the districts about what they are working on.

Montana Range Tour: Carie updated the board on the progress that has been made. She is also working on finalizing the grant application and contract.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Nothing new this month.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – After some discussion Ralph Corbett moved to move the Work Plan review to January, Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits – None at this time.

Fire Relief: The fire relief efforts were discussed all through the meeting via various reports. It is the consensus that Carie will contact other districts in Kansas and Texas and see what role they played. The district will put information for producers on their Facebook and website as a place to get the information out.

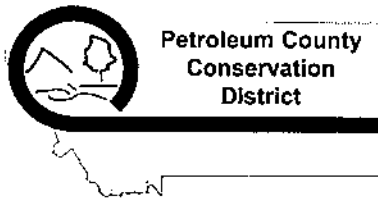
Announcements:

Next board meeting July 31st, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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Rodney Rowton, Chairman, Ralph Corbett - Vice Chair, Laura Kiehl - Treasurer & MRCDC, James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugrud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

August 28, 2017

Vice Chairman Ralph Corbett called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:01 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Sig Pugrud, Sarah Stevens, and Diane Ahlgren. Also present were Reba Ahlgren, Cari Ostberg and Mark McClendon, with NRCS, Emily Standley, Montana Rangelands Partnership and Carie Hess. The vice chair noted that Laura Kiehl, Nate Descheemaeker, and Craig Iverson was absent from the meeting and that Rodney Rowton was coming in a bit late. The July 31st minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as corrected and Sig Pugrud seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane reported that a couple of producers had a second release of knapweed bugs on their property. In July the first release was done with a different bug species so now there are two releases of two different kinds of knapweed bugs. These releases will be monitored for the next four years.

MRCDC Report: It was reported that the council would be holding their strategic planning meeting September 5th at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown starting at 3pm.

MWC Report: Diane reported that at the August 8th meeting the DEQ presented their preliminary findings of their watershed assessment. It was noted that there were a couple of streams that will be removed from the TMDL list and that the Musselshell River only had some areas where there is problems. Diane mentioned that Leon Hammond with Deadman's Basin said that they were at 70% full as of the meeting date which is amazing. She also reported that they had let water downstream during the fire so that it could be used for firefighting efforts. It was reported that Delphia- Melstone Canal has used all of their water and will be shutting down for the season around August 15th.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the next meeting is August 31st in Helena. She reported that there has been discussion on making water improvements exempt. She also noted that at this meeting the Rangeland Resource Executive Committee would be there as well as members of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The question was asked if BLM would follow the state on this and it was thought that they would follow the state's lead.

NRCS: Cari Ostberg, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations introduced herself to the board and gave a little history of her time with the NRCS. She noted that it is hoped that they will be looking for new guidance to come out on the staff situation after October 1st. Mark McClendon reported that field office staff is working away on contracting. The only CSP application should be a signed contracted this week sometime. He reported that there were two fire EQIP applications but that both had withdrawn their

applications. Mark mentioned that they are looking to get funding for more fire recovery work in the next fiscal year's budget. Lastly it was noted that there were 10 signups for ECP between Fergus and Petroleum with the majority of them being in Fergus.

MRP Report: Emily Standley reported that she has had a busy summer. She noted that Cheryl Schuldt and her had produced their annual report which mentions that they had more than a quarter of a million acres being monitored and an additional 180,000 improved acres being monitored over seven counties and that they will be setting up more in September. She reported that the partnership sent out its first newsletter in July and that they are hoping to start to do so quarterly. Emily reported that she held a monitoring workshop in Moore in July and has one scheduled for September 21st in Malta. She reported that she has been helping at youth events over the summer. She reported that she will be at several events in the next month.

BSWC Report: It was reported John and Willie's terms end the middle of November and that we have been awarded as a host site for 2018 for two members. John and Willie are out this week completing the Montana Saltcedar Team Saltcedar float trip on the Lower Missouri River. Computer access was discussed as the requirements that come with having access to the USDA system make it hard to have the members on the system as they spend a bit of their term getting access. It was suggested to just have the new members use the district's internet and printer and to work with the NRCS office staff for bigger or complicated printing jobs.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the last meeting there were updates on the land committee, community center committee, and that there would be a Conservation Collaborative workshop and a Montana Community Foundation workshop coming up. Gari King and she had attended the Garfield County Fire Foundation meeting and that it was very well organized and that the group has done a great job of getting through the rotations of those in need with supplies and hay. Sig went on to say that there will be an anonymous committee that will go through the relief applications and get the money distributed. It was noted that at the time of that meeting there had been \$760,000 donated and that there are still a few fundraising efforts going on.

At this time Sig Pugrud left the meeting.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- reported that at the CMR Meeting in Jordan on August 24th there was a good diverse panel to speak and take questions about fire relief efforts in the county.

Laura – Absent.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – reported that the Two Crow Ranch had been sold to the American Prairie Reserve.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. James Brady moved to approve the report as submitted, Sarah Stevens seconded, the motion passed. It was noted that with the power outage that checks were not printed but would be in the morning that Ralph Corbett and Sarah Stevens would come in and sign them.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

At this time James Brady left the meeting.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Carie reported that while she was on the phone with Local Government Services that they had asked if the district had levied for the permissive. She explained to the person from Local Government Services where the district was in the process. The person from Local Government Services urged the district to levy the permissive and set their base year. The board discussed what this would mean and it was consensus to not levy the permissive this year.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Carie urged the board to be working through the work plan at home between now and January.

Fire Relief: Carie reported that she has not had time to call Kansas or Texas conservation districts to see how they helped with relief efforts. She reported that she had attended a brief fire meeting in Jordan with Eric Miller, Stacey Barta, Jerry Collins, Rachel Frost, Dusty Olson, and Dean Rogge. She was just there to listen to what efforts that they were working on and what information she could pass along as producers came into her office.

New Business:

Permits – None at this time.

District Operations Self-Audit – This has been postponed until the next board meeting due to a power outage.

District Financial Review – This has been postponed until the next board meeting due to a power outage. It was noted that two or three members of the board with a mix of new members and experienced members get together between now and the next board meeting and go through the review.

Employee Evaluations – This has been postponed until the next board meeting due to no quorum.

Administrative report: Carie went through her grant status page with the board. She informed the board about the budget constraints that are being handed down through the state. She reported that the district administrative grant and the AIS grant that were applied for and awarded are currently stuck at DNRC. The state has to withhold contracts as they work through the immediate need for fire suppression funds. It was noted that DNRC is working hard to keep districts intact with the administrative grants but that the other programs such as 223 will be cut back and that watershed groups will also see cuts. Carie also reported that to keep the district's savings account active on the internet website that it needs to have a transaction every six months. She asked the board to approve to move \$2,000 from the checking account with \$1,000 being done now and the additional \$1,000 in six months. Ralph Corbett moved to transfer \$1,000 now and to have Carie come back to the board to move then additional \$1,000 in six months; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Open Range Consulting: Carie mentioned that she will have to get back with Matt Comer as the original date did not work out for the meeting. She noted that she will inform the board when she gets more information from Matt.

Fence Markers: Carie reported that she had ordered about 150 sticks of the trim and that Ralph had picked it up and will be working on cutting them. It was noted that there was already a producer wanting 2-3 miles worth and James Brady mentioned that he also needs a mile worth. The original order will make about 4 miles worth of markers.

MACD Dues Conflict: Nothing new to report other than Carie had spoken to Dean Rogge and that he thought he could make the September or October meeting.

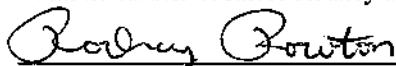
Montana Range Tour: She noted that they had just received the grant application and that Ralph has signed it and she is sending it back first thing in the morning. Everything is coming along but with the fires the attendance looks like it will be down this year. Shonny Nordlund in Fergus and she are working together to finish things up.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

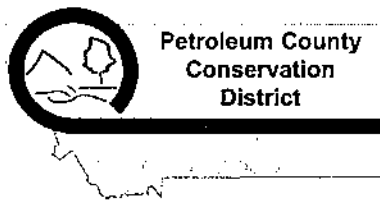
Announcements:

Next board meeting September 25th, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

P.O. Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087-0118

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James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugrud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban
Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

September 25, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:01 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Sig Pugrud, Laura Kiehl, and Nathan Descheemaeker. Also present were Reba Ahlgren and Lorna Philp with NRCS, Laura Nowlin with the Musselshell Watershed Coalition and Carie Hess. The chair noted that Diane Ahlgren, Sarah Stevens, and Craig Iverson was absent from the meeting. The August 28th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Laura Kiehl seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing to report at this time.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the executive Committee had met and that it was the quickest conference call she had been on. It lasted just 15 minutes.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported that the Musselshell Basin was selected by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council as their water projects tour site this year. On September 18th 30 participants met in Winnett and headed to the Lodgepole Complex fire area to discuss the fire and efforts that are being done for rehabilitation. On Tuesday September 19th 60 participants traveled from Harlowton to Musselshell and there were 50 participants for the dam tour on September 20th. Laura reported that the next coalition meeting is scheduled for October 10th at the Roundup extension office from noon to 3pm. At that meeting there will be presentations and updates on the salinity monitoring program, the seepage study, and fish passage on the Pedrazzi Dam. She noted that there would be two new Big Sky Watershed Corp Members (BSWC) for the 2018 year and that the coalition tasks would be the volunteer salinity monitoring and that almost all the funding has been secured. She also reported to the board that one of the tasks for the members would be the Winnett ACES coordination once Kate French's term is up. She noted that the district would then be the supervisor over them instead of her. James Brady moved to have one member serve as the ACES Coordinator and Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MSGOT Report: Nothing at this time to report.

NRCS: Lorna Philp reported that she had attended the Area meeting for NRCS in Great Falls and that the goal for staff that was reported to them is to downsize government but increase customer service. She stated that there is currently 257 staff in Montana which leaves about 70 positions to fill. She mentioned that Lisa Coverdale is retiring and that her position will be refilled swiftly but that others may take time. She mentioned to the board that they should not hesitate to call her with questions. She also mentioned

that the NRCS is working under a continuing resolution until December 8th. Lorna reported that there are 50 ECP applications between Fergus and Petroleum Counties most of which are drought related. She noted that Rick Caquelin and Josh Schrecengost are willing to come do a three phase workshops similar to the first Grass Classes were done. It was thought to co-host between the two counties and have them in Grass Range with the possibility of the districts sponsoring a lunch or dinner. It was thought that the focus could be on grazing after a drought. Reba Ahlgren mentioned that there is the Dave Pratt workshop "The Other side of Disaster" is scheduled for October 16 & 17th in Jordan Montana and that there is no charge for this workshop and its open to anyone who has been affected by the fire or drought. Reba also mentioned that the Dave Pratt Ranching for Profit workshop has been rescheduled for November 28 & 29th in Winnett.

MRP Report: Nothing at this time.

BSWC Report: Willie reported that they had done 53 miles of the Missouri River treated for Saltcedar and that they have about 70 more to treat hopefully in the next couple of weeks. They noted that they have finished the canal sampling and are working on the report. John reported that there was about a ten percent return on the recycling surveys and that most all were favorable, he gave the board a handout with the results and what's next.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for November 7th starting at 6pm at the church. It was noted that Leslie Robinson has been asked to present on dealing with the American Prairie Reserve and also about Gianforte. It was noted that Julia Haggerty will also give a presentation on her resiliency project.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Reported that she had attended the Area One meeting in Culbertson and that there was talk about supervisors looking through the draft by-laws and that changes that have been made. MACD would like to approve the changes to the by-laws at the State Convention in Bozeman in November. She also mentioned the Supervisor Summit being held in Great Falls October 31 and November 1st.

Rodney – Mentioned that there had been a little fire after the rain from the Mobsy Bridge to the Mosby Hill on the north side of the highway. He noted that the District's sign had made it through and was not burned.

Ralph – Nothing at this time

Sarah – Absent

Sig – Nothing at this time.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy -- Carie reported that through conversation with Karl at DNRC that he is willing to come to Winnett and sit down with the board and discuss the permissive mill levy, answer any questions

and help with filling out the forms. He wants to the board to feel comfortable with the process of how things work so that they can make a well informed decision.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Carie urged the board to be working through the work plan at home between now and January.

Fire Relief: Carie reported that the National Association Conservation Districts (NACD) has a fire relief help guidance tool on their website for conservation districts. Carie mentioned that she had not had the time to print it off but that it was there. She noted that she has been doing whatever is needed to help out in the office and with the Garfield CD.

District Operations Self-Audit – The board went through the audit questions and answered them. Sigrid Pugnud moved to approve the audit for the Petroleum County CD; Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The board noted where the council differs from the district and Ralph moved to approve the review for the Missouri River CD Council, Sigrid Pugnud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

District Financial Review – Ralph gave an overview of what Sarah and he had been doing in regards to the financial reviews. Each of them has been going through the financial records and completing the review process. Ralph will need to finish the Missouri River CD Council reports and will have a full report at the next meeting.

Employee Evaluations – The board reviewed each of the employee's evaluations as well as the comments from the Musselshell Watershed Coalition Board and the Missouri River CD Council Board. Ralph Corbett moved to approve Laura Nowlin's evaluation as submitted; Sigrid Pugnud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ralph Corbett moved to approve Rachel Frost's evaluation as submitted including the three percent raise; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Lastly Sig moved to approve Carie Hess' evaluation as submitted; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The discussion of a raise was brought up and Sigrid Pugnud moved to give Carie Hess a fifty cent an hour raise which is just slightly higher than three percent. Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits – It was noted that there is possible 310 violation complaint coming into the office in the next few days. When the written complaint is received Carie will notify Laurie Zeller at DNRC as well as start the process for a site inspection and a letter to the potential violator.

Transition to Fiber Optic Internet – Carie mentioned that the entire town has been routed with Fiber Optic Lines for internet. She informed the board that there is a large likelihood that the district could save money and obtain faster internet through the transition to fiber optics. She reported that currently the districts pays about \$60 per month for their internet line. Carie asked the board for permission to go ahead and sign the district up for the fiber optic internet if it would save the district money. Sigrid Pugnud moved to allow Carie to sign the district up if it would save the district money and is less than the current \$ 60 per month; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Supervisor Summit– Both Laura Kiehl and Carie Hess mentioned that there was to be a Supervisor Summit in Great Falls on October 31st and November 1st. There will be some breakout sessions on writing land use ordinances, leadership and much more. The information was passed around for supervisors to look at to see if they wanted to attend.

MACD Convention – Carie brought up that this year's convention would be held in Bozeman November 14—16th at the Holiday Inn. She noted that the early bird registration went up to \$260 a person for the all-

inclusive registration. She mentioned that the registration maybe due before the next board meeting so please let her know if you want to go. She also noted that currently she has two double rooms blocked at the Holiday Inn. She noted that the Area district's always put in for a live auction item which is usually under \$25 per district. James Brady moved to put up to the \$25 towards the Live auction item; Laura Kiehl seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Carie then mentioned that the EO is asking for a silent auction item. Carie had the thought to make two quilted bags one would be Bobcats and the other Grizzlies that could be auctioned off. Ralph Corbett moved to have Carie make the bags and Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Lastly both Laura Kiehl and Carie mentioned that MACD is asking each district to sell raffle tickets.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, Sigrid Pugrud seconded, the motion passed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Laura Kiehl moved to approve as submitted and Sigrid Pugrud seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie mentioned that she was trying a written report to the board to help with time and that she would submit that and the grant status update as her report and just answer questions.

Open Range Consulting: Nothing new has changed on this.

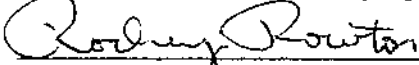
MACD Dues Conflict: Nothing new to report other than Carie had spoken to Dean Rogge and that he thought he could make the October meeting.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

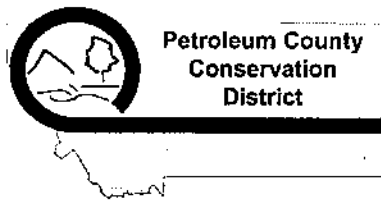
Announcements:

Next board meeting October 30th, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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October 30, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:21 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Diane Ahlgren, and Sarah Stevens. Also present were Carie Hess, Willie Friedman, and John Lange. Mark McClendon participated by phone. The chair noted that Sigrid Pugnud had noted that she would be absent but Craig Iverson and Nathan Descheemaeker were also absent from the meeting. The September 25th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that the Delphia-Melstone Water Users Group will have their annual meeting November 15th and that Lloyd Rowton and she will attend to discuss further the storage project.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the executive Committee had met and that it was another quick conference call. She noted that Elena Evans noted in the call that both the acting chief of NRCS and the head of NACD will be in attendance at the State Convention.

MWC Report: It was reported that at the October 10th meeting that John Lange and Willie Friedman presented their initial canal seepage report with the notation that the written draft report will be out by the first part of November. It was also noted that a Pioneer Technical Engineer presented on the Pedrazzi Dam removal project and that there was a tipple remains project update.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the October meeting had been postponed but that the group would have a conference call on November 3rd. She noted that the HQT is still not ready but that they are still gaining on it. She noted that the conference call would be more informational and that there is a full meeting scheduled for December. Diane mentioned that she thought that some of the resent slow down might be to see the outcome of Zinke's request for a review of the sage grouse program in the BLM's RMP's and the possible removal of the sage grouse focal areas.

NRCS: Mark mentioned that they are working on the current CSP payments and that Reba and Loyd have been completing a bunch of engineering and surveying work. He mentioned that the acting state conservationist is due to start in the next week or so. Lastly he mentioned that Kate Vogel with North 40 Ag will be doing a roundtable discussion on December 5th at the Lewistown Field Office.

MRP Report: It was reported that Emily Standley has taken another job and that the partners in the program are working on getting interviews done in the next week. Hopefully someone will be on soon.

BSWC Report: Carie reported that there are two new members that have accepted the positions for the upcoming term starting January 8th. Willie Friedman reported that he had worked on the Montana Saltcedar project for the Lower Missouri and that it had been completed. He noted that they treated 114 river miles and that they treated over 1,244 individual Saltcedar plants. He also noted that it treated 15% of the Montana section of the Missouri River, which equates to about 5% of the entire Missouri River. He mentioned that the ACOE will do the yearly monitoring. John Lange noted that the canal seepage study is wrapping up and they are working on the draft written report now with it due out the first part of November. He said that he is also finishing up on the volunteer salinity program data and reporting and that should be done in the next week or so.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for November 7th starting at 6pm at the church. It was noted that Leslie Robinson has been asked to present on dealing with the American Prairie Reserve and also about Gianforte. It was noted that Julia Haggerty will also give a presentation on her resiliency project. It was also reported that at the last land subcommittee meeting which was October 26th that the group talked about what type of structure the group should be to be successful.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- She reported that she had attended the United Cattleman's meeting in Billings and that landowner views of the sage grouse plan were discussed. She also noted that at a meeting at the Brown Ranch with Senator Ken Calvert who is the chair of the House Appropriations Committee on Interior Environmental & Related Agencies there was a lot of input from local's on the fires. She noted that there was a rancher from the Hardin area that talked about the prairie dogs.

Laura – Mentioned that at the Area One meeting Diane Ahlgren had received a 25 year service award and would like to acknowledge her for her service to the district.

Rodney – Mentioned that he had an MCC Crew out helping tear out a burned fence.

Ralph – Mentioned that he had heard that there have been several loads of wood taken from the Dovetail school.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Carie updated that Karl is still willing to talk with the board about the levy and process but that with the current budget constraints for DNRC he would have to do it by phone.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Carie urged the board to be working through the work plan at home between now and January.

Transition to Fiber Optic Internet – Carie informed the board that after talking with the representative from Midrivers Communication that she signed the district up for the new plan. It should save about twenty-five dollars a month on internet expenses and we should have wide open internet as well.

MACD Convention – Carie mentioned that she only has Laura Kiehl down as attending along with herself. She asked the board on their thoughts on purchasing a small bag of native grass seed as part of the live auction item. Ralph Corbett moved to purchase seed and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Lastly she reminded the board that MACD was going to vote on the proposed by-law changes and that the board should review them and send their views to Laura Kiehl as the voting representative for Petroleum CD before November 13th.

New Business:

Permits – Carie updated the board on all of the information that has been received in the matter of the McDonald Creek complaint. The next steps were noted from the guidance that the district received from DNRC.

Computer Purchase – Carie gave the board a computer purchase document that included process and reasons for a new laptop. After some discussion on where things would be purchased from Ralph Corbett moved to approve the purchase from Best Buy for 769.99 for the laptop and the software through TechSoup for an additional 122.00. Sarah Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as submitted, Laura Kiehl seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: Carie mentioned that she was trying a written report to the board to help with time and that she would submit that and the grant status update as her report and just answer questions.

Open Range Consulting: Nothing new has changed on this.


MACD Dues Conflict: Dean Rogge was unable to make it to this meeting due to the Supervisors Summit in Great Falls.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

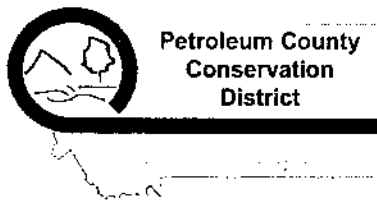
Announcements:

Next board meeting November 27th, 2017 @ 5 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

November 27, 2017

Vice-Chairman Ralph Corbett called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:03 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Diane Ahlgren, Sigrid Pugrud, and Sarah Stevens. Also present were Lorna Philp, NRCS and Carie Hess. The vice-chair noted Nathan Descheemaeker and Craig Iverson were absent from the meeting and that Rodney Rowton was on his way and would be a few minutes late. The October 30th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Sigrid Pugrud seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that Rodney Rowton, Lloyd Rowton, Skip Ahlgren, and Jay Woodford had attended the Delphia-Melstone Canal users meeting to discuss the storage project. The canal users mentioned that they have been working on the canals since the 2011 flood but that they are still interested in the project. It was noted by some of the agency folks at the meeting that progress does not always mean "moving dirt" and it was thought that if the group would like to apply for funding to finish the feasibility and geological studies that it may be considered progress on the water right which is due to expire in 2020.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the council had met at the MACD Convention and that there were updates on Aquatic Invasive Species work that was going on especially with the Central and Eastern Montana Mussel Response taskforce (CEMMR). She noted that the council approved their work plan and that Jim Beck was going to be putting a water rights presentation together on exempt rights.

MWC Report: It was reported that the next meeting is scheduled for December 12th in Roundup at noon. It was also noted that Laura Nowlin had put together a nice article for the Prairie Populist and that it was published.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the group needs to meet one more time face to face this year to meet the state statutes on the group. She noted that it looks like they will be meeting on December 15th and that they may have the rules for the HQT at that time to review.

NRCS: Lorna Philp reported that CSP is wrapping up and that Reba and Loyd are finishing up some surveying and construction checks. She noted that the acting state conservationist Tom Hedt has started his detail which ends in February 2018. She noted that Tom has experience in everything from the field office level up in several states. She also mentioned that acting chief Leonard Jordan is on his detail and that he was at the MACD Convention and mentioned to all those that the full-time employee (FTE) cap has been lifted and that they will be starting the hiring process to fill approximately 1200 field positions across the nation, and that they are working on the field office level first and then working into

higher levels. She noted that they are working with the HR department to streamline the process. It was noted that the HR is understaffed as well and that there are a few problems with the supervisory DC positions so those may not be hired right away. Lorna also reported that Mr. Jordan wants field staff to convey the problems with programs such as CSP to those in DC that are heading those programs to help fix some of the frustrations of the staff trying to implement the programs. Lorna reminded the board that the Fergus CD is having a soil health roundtable at the office on December 5th at 1pm with Kate Vogel of North 40 Ag. Lastly she mentioned the grazing workshops with Rick Caquelin and Josh Schrecengost. It was noted that the Fergus CD was thinking that if the district's charge \$5 that it could cover snacks, coffee and lunch. They were thinking of at the Eagles Club in Lewistown since they have done a bunch in Grass Range. She also reminded everyone that the Soil Health workshops are scheduled for January across the state.

MRP Report: It was reported that Loni Blackman has been hired and is due to start December 4th. Both Emily and Stacey Barta will be helping her get settled and up to speed on where things are at.

BSWC Report: Carie reported that there are two new members who are very excited to start and that their first day is January 8th. She noted that it will be a whirlwind week for them with meetings in Great Falls and Helena that week.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the land committee met and that things are progressing nicely. It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for January 9th for the full ACES meeting and that the land committee will have meetings with Brian Martin with the TNC on December 11th and 18th.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- She reported that the BLM comments for the sage grouse amendments are due December 1st. She shared with the board her personal comments that she will be submitting and asked if the board would like to comment. She also noted that the district was named as a cooperator in the amendment and that when the final documents came back from DC that there had been changes that were done after comments had been given.

Laura – Reported that she had attended the MACD convention and that the by-laws were passed and that the only resolution was also passed. She passed along copies of the by-laws and the resolution.

Rodney – Mentioned a little about the trip to the Delphia-Melstone meeting and that there is going to be some more BLM fuels mitigation in Jackson creek coulee in Garfield County.

Ralph – Mentioned that the prairie dog population along the Petrolia Bench has tripled and covers at least six different landowners currently.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – It was thought to have Karl come to the February meeting as first choice and a March meeting as second choice.

FY 2018 Work Plan Planning – Laura Kiehl shared with the board the changes that she had thought of and the board worked through those changes and a few others. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the 2018 work plan as written and Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Computer Purchase – Carrie gave the board an update that the computer had been purchased and it was cheaper than originally approved. She also noted that she did not have to purchase software as the district still had a license on existing software applications that was used.

It was discussed that the district has an old laptop from around 2005 that needs to be gotten rid of as it needs a battery and only had about a 250 MB hard drive which is way too small for the district's needs. Ralph Corbett expressed interest in the laptop and Sigrid Pugrud moved to give the laptop to Mr. Corbett, James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Carrie then noted that the new computer does not fit in the carrying case the district currently has and that she would like to explore getting a new one which she figures the cost would be less than \$60 for. Sigrid Pugrud moved to allow the purchase of a new carrying case for the computer and Sarah Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

310 Complaint - Carrie updated the board that she had put a call into Mr. Boettger, the county attorney on November 13th but had not received any word back yet. Sigrid Pugrud moved to get legal counsel from Don McIntyre and Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new.

MWCA Annual Conference – It was discussed that with the district picking up working on several different invasive species that it would be good to go to this conference. The board discussed sending both BSWC members as well as possibly Rodney Rowton. Ralph Corbett moved to send three people to the conference; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carrie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Laura Kiehl moved to approve the report as submitted, Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carrie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: The board reviewed the written administrative report and the grant status update on their own.

Open Range Consulting: The board discussed having a meeting with Matt Comer and it was thought that this meeting would need to probably happen this spring and that it should just be the board, NRCS staff, local producers and Matt.

MACD Dues Conflict: Laura Kiehl mentioned that she felt that as the MACD By-laws were passed that some of the conflict will be resolved. James Brady asked which district's had paid their dues and Laura Kiehl sent around a report with who had paid on it. It was noted that there was about \$60,000 in dues not paid this year.

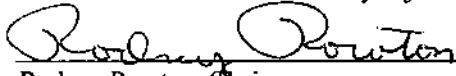
Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

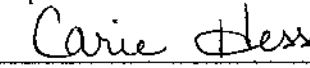
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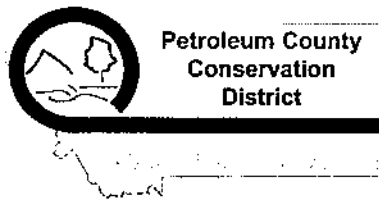
PCCD Board Minutes
November 27th, 2017
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Next board meeting December 19th, 2017 @ 4 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Local Common Sense Conservation

www.petroleumcd.com

Rodney Rowton, Chairman, Ralph Corbett - Vice Chair, Laura Kiehl - Treasurer & MRCDC,
James Brady - Supervisor, Sig Pugrud - Supervisor & MSCA, Nathan Descheemaeker- Supervisor, Sarah Stevens - Urban
Supervisor, Diane Ahlgren - Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT, & Craig Iverson - Associate Supervisor

December 19, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:02 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Sigrid Pugrud, Ralph Corbett and Sarah Stevens. Also present were guests Emily Standley, Laura Nowlin, Loni Blackman (by phone) and NRCS Reba Ahlgren, Katelynn Hess, Mark McClendon (by phone) and Carie Hess. The chair noted Nathan Descheemaeker, Craig Iverson and Diane Ahlgren were absent from the meeting. The November 27th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and Sigrid Pugrud seconded, motion carried. The December 6th special meeting conference call minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as corrected and Sigrid Pugrud seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment: Emily Standley, MSU Extension Agent for Fergus & Petroleum Counties came to introduce herself and to let the board know that there is a Farm Management workshop planned for January 4 & 5th in Lewistown. She also asked the board for ideas for some future workshops and gave her card out so that everyone has her contact information.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing at this time.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the Karl noted that there were some 223 grant funds available and that the due date for applications was January 16th. She reported that NRCS had given NACD \$10 million which broke down into \$1 million for administration of the program and \$9 million to have CD's hire employees to help out in the field offices with EQIP. For Montana that meant that the state received 2 FTE's one in Lake CD and one in Meagher CD. We also received a 2/10th's FTE in Broadwater CD. It was noted that these are one year positions and one time positions but that there is a slight possibility for another round but it is not guaranteed and that CD's should let Karl and Elena know if there is a need. He also noted that NRCS should start their hiring process in mid-January. It was reported that due to the fires across the state DNRC has received \$200,000 in Emergency Contingency Funds to work on erosion, weed control, and reseeding in the burn areas. People are supposed to contact Karl before March. Lastly she noted that the Montana Saltcedar Team has gained interest due to the projects that they have completed.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin asked the board if they would be willing to sponsor a Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant application to be used for matching funds for a Musselshell River weed plan. She noted that the applications are due January 16th and that it would be for \$15,000. Ralph Corbett moved to sponsor the application and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MSGOT Report: Nothing new at this time.

NRCS: Mark was in attendance by phone and updated the board that Reba has been working on finishing up payments for items completed in 2017. He reported that they will begin working on new EQIP plans which there are one new one, three deferred and one special initiative applications in the field office. It was also reported that there will probably be another CSP signup in the New Year and that the deadline for 2019 EQIP would be June 1st. Reba reported that Lorna would like to put together a business plan and to please let her know of possible workshops that the district would like to do this year. It was noted that we have the annual ladies day, kid's day and garden workshop.

MRP Report: Loni Blackman was in attendance by phone and introduced herself to the board and updated the board on what she has been working on since she started.

BSWC Report: Nothing new at this time.

Winnett ACES: Laura Nowlin reported that the next full meeting is January 9th. She noted that the feasibility study is on track to be done the end of February. She also informed the board that one of the new BSWC members will be taking over coordination of the group. Lastly she informed the board that the Community Center subcommittee had received funding to work with the county planner on the community center.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Nothing at this time

Rodney – mentioned that the fuel mitigation on Jackson Coulee has been going on for the last few weeks.

Ralph – mentioned that the fencing crews have made progress on both sides of the river

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Nothing new at this time.

310 Complaint – This was moved to the last part of the board meeting to give Mr. Zimmerman the time to show. At 4:20 pm the board noted that Mr. Zimmerman had not came in to show cause. After reviewing the file and Carie reading an email from Don McIntyre the board moved forward with this complaint. Laura Kiehl moved to find Mr. Zimmerman in violation of the 310 law for the dam on Mc Donald Creek. Sigrid Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The board then instructed Carie to contact Don McIntyre and ask about getting the paperwork written up to send to Mr. Zimmerman and to find the answers to the questions of whether his wife Jennifer can be added to the letters and orders and can the sheriff's office serve him with the order of violation.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new at this time.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Laura Kiehl moved to approve the report as submitted, Sigrid Pugrud seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed. It was also discussed to send flowers to the Harris Family and a condolence card in the loss of their son. Sigrid Pugrud moved to send flowers and a card and put a \$40 budget on them. Rodney Rowton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Sigrid Pugrud moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Administrative report: The board reviewed the written administrative report and the grant status update on their own.

Open Range Consulting: Nothing new at this time.

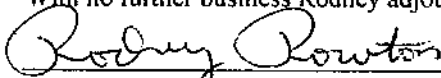
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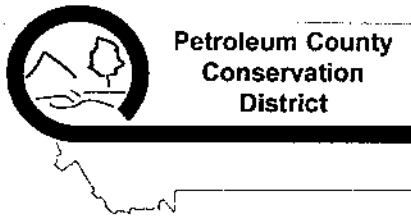
Carie noted that there is a Missouri River Pilot Project meeting in Lewistown on January 29th from 9-4 pm and that she would like to attend as it is part of the CEEMR. If she were to attend then the board could either move the meeting or have the meeting without her.

Next board meeting January 30th, 2018 @ 4 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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December 6, 2017

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the special meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 10:03 am via a conference call line. Members present were James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Sarah Stevens and Ralph Corbett. Also present were Don McIntyre and Bob Flesher in Helena and Carie Hess in the District office.

The board members reviewed the "Order to Show Cause and Appear" and changes were noted. The changes were in the second paragraph an "s" was added to both "Board of Supervisor" so that they both read "Board of Supervisors". In the same paragraph the word Monday was changed to Tuesday so that it reads the true day of the meeting. In the last paragraph "after obtaining a 310 permit" was added after the word possible so that the last part of the sentence reads "the person shall restore the damaged stream to as near its prior condition as possible after obtaining a 310 permit". Lastly a signatory line was added so that the order could be signed.


Don gave a little history as to why the district should inform the potential violator in such a matter to have an order and not just a letter.

Guest/ Public Comment: There was no member of the public at the district office to give comment.

Ralph Corbett move to approve the order as amended and to send the order and letter to the alleged violator. James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The question was raised that if we get moisture enough to cause the dam to rupture would the alleged violator still be in violation of the law. Don answered yes the dam would still be considered a violation of the law but that the district could do a couple of things that could be done if that happens.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator