

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

January 30, 2018

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, Sig Pugrud, Nathan Descheemaeker, Diane Ahlgren and Sarah Stevens. Also present were guests Laura Nowlin (MWC), Loni Blackman (MRP), Rachel Frost (MRCDC), Reba Ahlgren, Mark McClendon (NRCS) Andrew Horvath, Colin McClure (BSWC) and Carie Hess. The chair noted Ralph Corbett and Craig Iverson were absent from the meeting. The December 19th minutes were read; Sig Pugrud moved to approve as corrected and Laura Kiehl seconded, motion carried.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: It was reported that Laura Nowlin had sent members of the MMWG a grant opportunity and the group met on Friday January 26th and they would like to pursue the opportunity. It was noted that Andrew Horvath and Colin McClure could write the application and that the opportunity is \$750,000 with a 50/50 match that includes in-kind as well as cash match. The members of the MMWG would like to know if the district is willing to sponsor the grant application which is due February 13, 2018. James Brady moved to sponsor the WaterSmart grant application and Sarah Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MRCDC Report: Rachel Frost reported that the council had just had their quarterly meeting on the 24th and 25th in Great Falls. She noted that the tributary partners were there and did presentations on what they are working on. She reported that there was a mussel response meeting in Lewistown on January 29th and this was to provide stakeholder input on the Missouri River rapid response, early detection and quarantine and containment plan. She reported that the next CMR meeting is February 27th in Fort Peck and that RSA and Julia Haggerty will be presenting. The next MST meeting is February 28th in Fort Peck and the group is looking at the next project area. She reported that the 2018 River Rendezvous will be held July 11 & 12th in Great Falls and will have an Urban river corridor focus. Rachel reported that the sub group is looking to go back to Denver to speak with Noreen Walsh. They have had a meeting with Martha Williams to conclude their trips speaking to the state regional managers for FWP. Lastly she reported at their quarterly meeting Representative Rob Cook spoke to the group about the Montana budget and that with the new tax reform at the federal level things are looking a bit better and that there is an unwinding plan for those departments that were cut. The unwinding plan is set to begin sometime in February and will start with the fire funding and move its way through to lower priority departments. Karl Christians said that DNRC's budget would still be under the base and would not be back up this year.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported that the coalition has a new brochure out now, that they are taking part in the CEMMR and that the BSWC members will be doing AIS outreach to the schools. She

reported that the canal seepage study was completed and that there had been 34 miles above and below Roundup that has had CMZ mapping done, although the coalition would like to have the entire river done. She updated the board on the Gauging Station program that it is its 4th year with the district. She stated that even though the 18 partners only pay in about two percent of the total operation costs on the station it has shown the local interest and that it helped this year with budget cuts that most of the stations in the Musselshell were still being funded. With that she asked the board if they would continue being the fiscal agent for the program and if they are willing to give \$125 a year for the next two years for the stations. James Brady moved to continue to serve as fiscal agent and to put \$125 each year for the next two years towards the Gauging Station program. Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the team had just had a meeting earlier in the afternoon and that they did not vote on anything of significance. The team reviewed the habitat documents there is one more stakeholder meeting and then the leads are tasked with getting all those comments out to the team before the May meeting. She noted that the team as done some examples using the draft quantification tool to figure out credits on projects as they have built the tool. She noted that if the team votes to approve the tool at the May meeting then it will go out for public comment.

NRCS: Mark noted to the board that the current funding is only guaranteed until February 8, 2018. He reported that there will be a field office review in Great Falls on January 31, 2018. He reported that the ECP drought contracts were funded and that they are working on ranking the general EQIP projects which the rankings are to be completed by February 16th. He noted that special initiative ranking for things such as SGI, Seeding back to native vegetation and high tunnels are to be completed by March 23rd. The new CSP sign-up deadline is March 2nd. Mark reported that the Montana Salinity Control Association was awarded an RCPP and will be starting work in 2019. On the staffing end he reported no good news at this time that the state is down to 219 from 260 employees and that they will be capped at 230 for the state. Seven of the openings will be filled with seven pathways students that will graduate in May and one of those positions is the State Conservationist which does not leave many additional positions to be filled.

MRP Report: Loni Blackman reported that she has been doing a six week tour meeting the landowners that Emily had worked with in the program. She noted that there is a cover crop grazing and range monitoring workshop scheduled in Vaughn Montana for June 26th and that she is working with North 40 Ag on the details of that workshop.

BSWC Report: Andrew Horvath and Colin McClure introduced themselves to the board and gave a little history on themselves. They updated the board on what they would be working on this year.

Winnett ACES: Laura Nowlin reported the feasibility study is wrapping up and should be out next month. She noted that Julia Haggerty's class will be out April 3rd and that a 6pm potluck would be in order.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Nothing at this time.

Laura – Reported that she is one of a six member project steering team working with Julia Haggerty and the CMR Community Working Group. The committee is tasked with getting information and she asked the board if they would be willing to do an interview prior to the board meeting which will take about 2 hours to complete and it is a facilitated interview.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Absent

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – The District Court has appointed a water commissioner for Flatwillow Creek from the NBar to the mouth of Petrolia Lake for 2018. The Flatwillow Creek Preliminary Decree will be the ruling standard even though it is still being legally challenged. That Decree will be the used until such time that the legal challenges do or don't cause it to be changed. Sig reported learning that commercial solar or wind development is hampered if the mineral rights on the proposed site are held by someone else because any potential oil exploration would take priority over the surface rights. Developers are not going to risk building big solar or wind farms on lands that don't also have clean title to the mineral rights.

James – Reported that he had attended the APR meeting in Lewistown and that it was pretty interesting and had a good presentation. He noted that they want to have 3.5 million acres total to be able to run bison. They are basically looking at having their own ecosystem in place.

Nathan – Read a summary of a 54 page report for Okanogan County and the how it relates to the land ownership and the economic effects private ownership verses public ownership has on an area.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Nothing new at this time.

310 Complaint – Carie reported that the violator had been served with an order of violation and the steps needed to comply to restore the creek back to its natural state. The date for the violator to turn in a 310 application is February 26, 2018. It also stated that the board reserves the right to determine the assessment of a penalty.

New Business:

Permits – Nothing new at this time.

NRCS MOU & Civil Rights – These items were postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the person from NRCS who was to do these was unable to make it to the meeting.

Officer Elections – After a brief overview of what each officer position included; James Brady moved to have the same officers as the previous year. Rodney Rowton as chairman, Ralph Corbett as vice-chairman, and Laura Kiehl as treasurer. Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Sig Pugrud 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 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. Carie noted that she had two grant reports that needed signed and those were passed around to those who wanted to review.

Open Range Consulting: Carie noted that she had talked with Matt Comer with the BLM and we are working on having the field day this spring once the weather is good. Matt had mentioned that he feels there is not the need to have the data recollected.

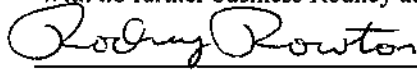
Supervisor Elections: Carie noted which supervisor's terms were to expire on December 31, 2018 and handed the oath of candidacy to those that would need to file. It was noted that they have until March 12th to file their oath.

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

Announcements:

Next board meeting February 26, 2018 @ 3 pm.

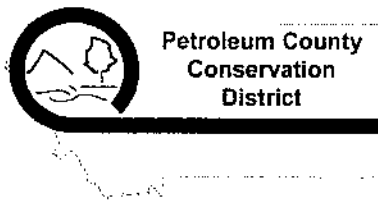
With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



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February 26th, 2018

Vice -Chairman Ralph Corbett called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:08 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Diane Ahlgren and Sarah Stevens. Also present were guests Rachel Frost (MRCDC), Reba Ahlgren, Andrew Horvath, Colin McClure (BSWC) and Carrie Hess. Attending by phone were Sig Pugrud, Loni Blackman (MRP), Michael Lucas, Lorna Philp (NRCS) and Karl Christians (DNRC). The vice - chair noted Rodney Rowton, Nathan Descheemaeker and Craig Iverson were absent from the meeting. The January 30th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as corrected and Sarah Stevens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: It was reported that the group has submitted a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Grant application for the off stream water storage project. The grant application was written by Andrew Horvath and Colin McClure and the district is the sponsor for the application.

MRCDC Report: Rachel Frost reported there is a CMR working group meeting February 27th in Fort Peck starting at 10 am and that Ranchers Steward Alliance will be the main presenter for the meeting. Rachel also reported that there will be a Montana Saltcedar Team meeting in Fort Peck February 28th starting at 11 am and the team will be looking for their next project area. There has been some talk about doing work on access sites in the CMR.

MWC Report: It was reported that at the February 13th meeting the “board” met and clarified their bylaws and adopted them and elected officers. It was also reported that the Fish Wildlife and Parks has some concerns with the storage project and that there would be some discussions with FWP staff to address those concerns in the upcoming months.

MSGOT Report: It was reported that there is nothing new at this point.

NRCS: Lorna Philp mentioned that Mark McClendon’s acting DC term was up and that Michael Lucas is the new acting DC for the Winnett Field Office. Mike introduced himself and updated the board that the CSP sign up deadline is March 2nd. He reported that the general EQIP and SGI have been pre-approved and there no general EQIP contracts for the office but there is one general SGI contract. The Special Initiatives for SGI – Cropland back to Grass are through ranking and should be pre-approved on March 23rd. It was reported that some of the vacant positions in the state have been released including the State Conservationist position. Lastly it was reported that the field office appraisal went well there were a few little changes that will be made.

MRP Report: Loni Blackman reported that due to the weather she had not been able to attend the Winter Grazing Seminar in Helena and was able to attend only half of the transboundary workshop. She also noted that due to the weather she has had to reschedule some visits with landowners but hopefully will get those done this week.

BSWC Report: Andrew Horvath and Colin McClure updated the board on the individual projects that they are working on. It was noted that Colin had met with John Ritten and that the next step is to set up an interest meeting with well owners. Andrew mentioned that he has the CMR Conservation Calendar up and running on the CMR website and that if the district has any events please send the event information to him.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the group had a meeting with Brain Martin and his boss with The Nature Conservancy. It was noted that it was a very positive meeting and the group is moving on to a conference call with Ranchers Stewardship Alliance to talk about affiliation of the two groups.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Reported that the white tail deer seem to be dying off due to the harsh weather and not being able to find food.

Laura – Reported that she has had a lot of wildlife in her hay yard and that the winter has been hard on the wildlife in the area. On the brighter side she noted that she had seen a few robins in her yard.

Rodney – Absent

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Asked Carie if she had gotten the Ag Safety information yet and if not she will send it to Carie.

Sig – Reported that as anticipated the Wilk's Brothers have filed a lawsuit against the water court for hiring a water commissioner for Flatwillow Creek. The Wilks are claiming the court cannot put a commissioner on a creek without having full adjudication of the creek. It was noted that the court will have to defend itself and that the water users will not have to pay for the defense of the court's decision.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Karl Christians joined us via phone and presented on how the district could use the permissive mill levy. He went through the forms and process that the district would have to complete to enact the levy. He answered the board's questions in regards to the different employee statuses and how the funding for a medical group benefit for all employees could be done. It was noted that the board would have to have a public hearing before the county sets their budget and that once they enact the permissive levy they would have to have a public hearing every year they call for the levy.

310 Complaint – Carie reported that she had received a 310 application for the removal of the dam on Mc Donald Creek and that she had passed it along to the FWP biologist and that they would be working on a site inspection visit sometime in March hopefully when there is less snow so that the site can be reached. She noted that she will continue to keep all involved updated.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new at this time.

NRCS MOU & Civil Rights – These items were postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the person from NRCS who was to do these was unable to make it to the meeting.

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 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: The board reviewed the written administrative report and the grant status update on their own. Carie noted that the board had not convened their Local Work Group since prior to Nikki leaving so it has been almost two years. She noted that the board should convene their Local Work Group in March just prior to the board meeting to gather local resource concerns and prioritize them.

Open Range Consulting: Carie noted that she had talked with Matt Comer with the BLM and we are working on having the field day this spring once the weather is good. Matt had mentioned that he feels there is not the need to have the data recollected.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie reported that Area One district are hosting the 2018 Convention in Billings this fall. She discussed with the board the time commitment and travel commitment that the board would have for her/ there participation in the planning. She reported that the next planning call was scheduled for March 6th at 10 am.

Exempt Water Rights Presentation Fee: Carie reported that funding for having Jim Beck come and do the Exempt water rights presentation fell through and it was thought that the district that had him speak could split the bill for his travel. The fee would be about \$125 for the district. James Brady moved to approve to pay the \$125 fee for Jim Beck. Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

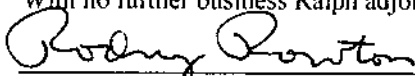
Augmented Sandbox: Carie reported that SWCDM is looking to apply for a 319 grant to build 6 to 8 Augmented Sandbox units to be housed across the state in CD offices. There would be training for administrators and supervisors on how to assemble and use the units and then those districts that house the boxes would be in charge of the scheduling of use of the boxes over a certain area. Carie asked if the board would be willing to be a host site for a box. The board was in consensus that the district could be a host site for a unit. Carie said that she would follow up with Jessica Makus with SWCDM.

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

Announcements:

Next board meeting March 26, 2018 @ 3 pm.

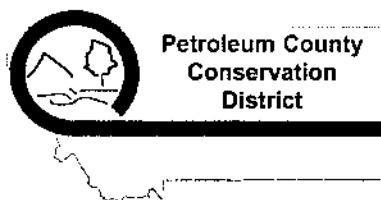
With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



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March 26th, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:05 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Laura Kiehl, Ralph Corbett, Sig Pugrud, and Nathan Descheemaeker. Also present were guests Reba Ahlgren, Michael Lucas, Lorna Philp (NRCS), Loni Blackman (MRP), Andrew Horvath (BSWC) Laura Nowlin and Carie Hess. The chair noted Sarah Stevens and Diane Ahlgren were excused from the meeting. The February 26th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: Laura Nowlin came in and spoke about the BLM scoping meetings that are scheduled in the area in regards to the American Prairie Reserves request to change their allotments from livestock to bison, continuous yearlong grazing and removal of fences. It was asked if the district is interested in putting together an informational letter and some sort of notice out to county residents. Sig Pugrud mentioned that she thought that the Petroleum County Stockgrowers would be sending some comments. James Brady felt that the CD should put together a comment letter as he feels that the BLM and local producers have been working hard to manage the land for the betterment of the landscape and that the suggested changes could undo a lot of the management that has been done. James Brady moved to do and outreach of information on the meetings to Petroleum County residents, Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: It was noted that the group would be working on writing and RRGL application to work with the BOR application on the off-site storage project.

MRCDC Report: Nothing at this time as Laura Kiehl was unable to make the Executive Committee Call.

MWC Report: Nothing new at this time other than next meeting is April 10th in Roundup starting at noon.

MSGOT Report: Nothing new at this time other than the next meeting is May 4th.

NRCS: Michael Lucas reported that there are three EQIP applications in the county, two SGI Cropland back to Grass applications and one general SGI application that have been pre-approved. He also reported that there is one CSP application in the county. It was noted that they hope weather permitting to be able to get in to the field soon and start field work. Lastly he reported that Lori Ziehr is the new acting State Conservationist and that there should be a new permanent State Conservationist in June and then they will be looking at the District Conservationists positions. They have hired a new civil engineer in the Lewistown field office, Nicholas Schalitz starts in April.

PCCD Board Minutes

March 26, 2018

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MRP Report: Loni reported that she is doing catch up work with her kitchen table visits with producers that have been doing the monitoring with the partnership. She reported that her position was extended through October of 2019 which should give them two more field seasons to finish up. She noted that the MRP has a Facebook page and does a newsletter. She noted that there will more than just monitoring information included in both of those and asked if board members wanted to sign up for. She passed around a sign-up sheet for those who were interested to put down their information.

BSWC Report: Andrew Horvath reported that he has been working on the CMR Community Calendar and it is up on the CMR website. He noted that if anyone knew of an event please contact him and he would add it to the calendar. He reported that the salinity monitoring on the Musselshell will start in April and that they have gotten most all of the volunteers their equipment. It was noted that Colin is working on the well project and has had a meeting with John Ritten and that the next steps would be a public meeting to go over history, updates and to gauge new interest. Andrew reported that he is working with the Living on the Bank project for the MRCDC and that the website is being developed by Kate Aprin with SWCM and that Andrew will be working with the committee in developing the trainings and information put on the site about living near the water's edge. Lastly he reported that there is an ACES meeting on April 3rd at 6pm and there will be a potluck, Julia Haggerity will be there with her students, and Kate French will present the feasibility study.

Winnett ACES:

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Reported that Petrolia Lake is full and running over the spillway.

Rodney – Nothing at this time

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Absent

Sig – Nothing at this time

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Ask if the district could qualify for coordinating status? He asked if there a land use plan and resource management plan in place for Petroleum County. Sig Pugrud noted that she thought that a lot of that has been done as part of the County's plan for growth and zoning. She noted that the plan is available at the courthouse and the county library to viewing.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Sig Pugrud brought up that she had felt the board had voted a few months back to not go forward with the permissive mill levy. Laura Kiehl went back to the August 2017 minutes and it was noted that it was general consensus to not go forward this year with the levy but there was no vote. Carie noted that after that meeting some new detail came into light about setting the base year and that is why it was still on the agenda and why Karl Christians did the informational portion at the last meeting. It was noted that the board could move forward and vote a few ways on this. They could vote no and withdraw the \$10 a month they are currently giving, they could vote no and continue with the \$10 they currently give, or they could move forward and vote yes. Sig Pugrud asked if the district budgets for benefits.

Carie reported that currently we do not more than the retirement and the \$10 but that if the board wanted to look at that for the next fiscal year they could and that she would have the administrative grant ready for the board at the next meeting and would need to have the full budget into the county by July 1st but they usually hold their budget meeting in May.

310 Complaint – Laura Kiehl reported that they had gone out and completed the site inspection and that currently the creek is out of its banks at the location. It was noted that everyone was pretty sure the creek had removed the dam. It was noted that everyone was in agreeance that when the water receded that pictures should be taken to show that there is nothing left of the dam and those need to be submitted to the district and that the district needs to be notified if there is part of the dam that still needs to be removed. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the application with the modification specified that when the water receded that pictures should be taken to show that there is nothing left of the dam and those need to be submitted to the district and that the district needs to be notified if there is part of the dam that still needs to be removed. Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed with a 5 to 1 vote. Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, Rodney Rowton, and Nathan Descheemaeker for and James Brady opposed. The CD's decision was then signed by board members.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new at this time.

NRCS MOU & Civil Rights – Lorna Philp reviewed sections of the MOU with the board and staff. She also went through the Civil Rights portion in more depth. The district chairman signed the MOU and Lorna then handed the board an informational fact sheet about Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and what would be expected on the federal side if a request was made.

Sponsorship of Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sage and Columbian Sharp tailed Grouse workshop– It was noted that Donna Pedrazzi from the Lower Musselshell CD asked if the Petroleum CD would be willing to share a feather sponsorship of \$250 with LMCD and MWC. Ralph Corbett moved to approve sponsorship of one third of the \$250 with the two other entities; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Local Work Group – Carie read the minutes from the local work group meeting that was held just prior to the board meeting. The local concerns that came up through the group discussion were:
Grasslands—addressing the resource concern to improve plant productivity, health, vigor and sustainability.

Soil Health

Noxious & Invasive Species

Irrigation efficiency - Water quality and quantity

Artesian Wells—winterizing and capping

These were given to the board for consideration. Ralph Corbett moved to approve these concerns in the order that they were given; Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Sig Pugrud moved to approve the report as submitted, Ralph Corbett 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 Laura Kiehl 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.

Payroll Policy Manual review: Carie gave the board the log boll with the payroll policy manual section open for their review. It was noted that there were no changes to the manual at this time. Carie noted that either Rodney Rowton or Ralph Corbett needed to sign the manual.

MACD Strategic Planning Feedback: Carie noted that she had sent out the email from Ann McCauley asking for feedback and it was noted within that email who they should respond to with their feedback.

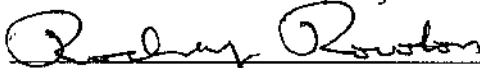
2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie handed the board a packet with keynote speakers for the 2018 MACD convention for them to review and rank and get back to Carie by April 2nd. There was also a sheet on breakout session ideas that is due by April 2nd as well.

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

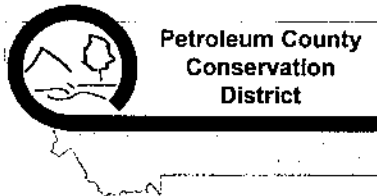
Announcements:

Next board meeting April 30th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 5:43 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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April 30, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:05 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Ralph Corbett, Sig Pugrud, and Nathan Descheemaeker. Also present were guests Michael Lucas (NRCS), Loni Blackman (MRP), Emily Standley, (MSU-Extension) and Carrie Hess. The chair noted Sarah Stevens, James Brady, and Laura Kiehl were excused from the meeting. The March 26th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and Nathan Descheemaeker seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: Emily Standley with MSU Extension Fergus/ Petroleum County reported that she had held the state FFA agronomy competition in Billings. She had also attended a beginning farmer/ rancher training course which was geared to small farms/ ranches near urban settings and they also had a portion on how to transition to the next generation. She noted that there is a pesticide training at the Gateway Simmental Ranch coming up on May 16th that is from 1-4 pm and worth 3 private applicator credits. She noted that much of this area's private applicators licenses expired in December of 2017 and several people did not get enough credits to re-apply. On May 30th there will be an initial training for re-license in Ryegate. Lastly she reported that they will be doing the "Montana's Longest Table" again this June and that they are working on the education component and would like producers stories and pictures for table tents.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing new at this time.

MRCDC Report: Nothing new at this time.

MWC Report: Nothing new at this time.

MSGOT Report: Nothing new at this time.

NRCS: Michael Lucas reported that there are three EQIP applications in the county, two SGI Cropland back to Grass applications and one general SGI application that have been pre-approved. He also reported that there is one CSP application in the county. He noted that they will be working on the field work and planning for the next round of funding applications. He noted that they are waiting to hear about the state conservationist position and that there's an all employees meeting in Great Falls May 1-3rd.

MRP Report: Loni Blackman reported that she has been attending meetings and trainings so not much field work. She also reported that she will be at the Range Forum May 9-10th in Billings, Judith Basin CD's Range School on May 24th, Montana Range Days as well as a couple soil health workshops in June.

BSWC Report: Nothing new at this time.

Winnett ACES: Lindsay Clairmont is the new ACES coordinator working on the land subcommittee. She started April 15th and will be working 3-5 hours a week through September.

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Absent

Rodney – Had an MCC crew of crew leaders out to his house working on the burn area.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Absent

Sig – Mentioned that the CD should apply for cooperating status with the BLM.

James – Absent

Nathan – Read his comments and noted the citations from the Environmental Quality Policy and noted that the comments are in line with the implementation policy and statutes on NEPA that the BLM has to follow. It was noted that Carie would forward the email from Nathan to the board and give them a 2 day turn around to submit comments back to her then they would work on the final comments and get them out to the board for a final approval before submitting them.

Old Business:

Permissive Levy – Sig Pugrud asked if there could be an increase in the amount the district is giving to each employee now in the current budget without implementing a permissive levy. Carie noted that there should be depending on the amount and depending on the state's budget restrictions to DNRC. Ralph moved to continue with the \$10 given, the motion dies for a lack of a second. Sig Pugrud moved to increase the \$10 given to \$15 and not implement the permissive levy; Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new at this time.

Fuels Mitigation Crew Employer – Carie updated the board on the information about workman's compensation and unemployment she had obtained. Sig asked if all expenses related to the crew would be taken from the grant funding in place. It was noted that yes it would be covered by the grant funding. Sig Pugrud moved to be the employer and post the job announcement for the positions. Nathan Descheemaeker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FY 2019 Administrative Grant– The board reviewed the current grant application and after discussion about the possible deficit listed in the application Ralph Corbett moved to approve the application, Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Sig Pugrud moved to approve the report as submitted, Ralph Corbett 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 Nathan Descheemaeker 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. Carie updated the board on her time in the office over the next few weeks so that they were aware that she would be out of the office.

Open Range Consulting: Nothing new at this time.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie updated the board on where the convention planning committee was with the convention and what they would be talking and discussing on the May 1st call.

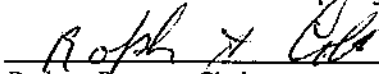
NACD Poster Contest: No poster entries this year.

Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members. Carie asked the board if they would want to order pens from the national pen company to hand out at workshops and events. Ralph Corbett moved to order 50 assorted colored/ black ink pens from the company. Nathan Descheemaeker seconded the motion which passed 3-1, Ralph Corbett, Rodney Rowton and Nathan Descheemaeker for and Sig Pugrud against.

Announcements:

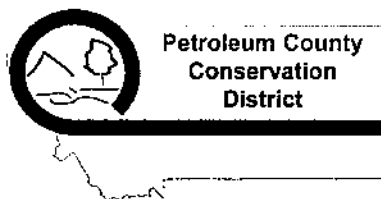
Next board meeting May 29, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 4:51 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman

Ralph T. Corbett, vice-chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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

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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

May 29, 2018

Vice Chairman Ralph Corbett called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:04 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Sig Pugrud, and Nathan Descheemaeker, Laura Kiehl, Sarah Stevens, Diane Ahlgren. Also present were guests Michael Lucas (NRCS), Loni Blackman (MRP), Laura Nowlin and Carrie Hess. The vice chair noted Rodney Rowton was excused from the meeting. The April 30th minutes were read; Laura Kiehl moved to approve as corrected and Nathan Descheemaeker seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment:

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that Andrew and Colin had written and submitted an RRGL application for the storage project. They had also submitted a WaterSmart grant through the Bureau of Reclamation but that they have not heard on that application. Diane reported that Laura Nowlin and a few members of the MMRG had a meeting in Melstone with several NRCS staff and Delphia-Melstone Water Users members to discuss the project further. Steve Becker mentioned that there is a national funding opportunity for next fiscal year which may work to fund the water investigation and 75% of the design.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the council had held their quarterly meeting by phone on May 22nd as they are trying to save money due to budget constraints for this fiscal year. They will be putting in again for \$95,400 for fiscal year 2019 with the hope that no additional cuts will be taken. Their next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 11th in Great Falls and it will coincide with the River Rendezvous. She noted that during the call it was reported that the flooding along the Milk River has receded, also that there is cottonwood seeding going on in parts of the Missouri River and stream restoration projects in Lewis & Clark county. Dean Rogge mentioned on the call that there was a meeting in Fort Peck with Zinke who stated that there is a lot of reorganization going on right now and that they want to work with landowners and permittees for a ground up style in management. Laura noted that the DNRC working through Sweet Grass CD for water related grant applications for up to \$21,000, it was noted that these grants due have a 50/50 match as part of the application. She reported that there was a lot of encouragement to attend the Supervisor Summit in Helena in August. She noted that there is to be a June 26th CMR meeting at Flatwillow Hall with a sponsored lunch. It was noted that there is funding in place through Garfield CD and the MRP to do some monitoring of weeds in hay and feed sites within the fire area. Lastly she reported that the CMR has had two meetings to discuss the starting of the habitat management plans under the CCP without public input.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported that there will be no June meeting so the next meeting will be in August. She noted that with having some water quality testing equipment that Andrew and Colin are doing a pilot project for testing water quality, focused on salinity for reservoirs and other water supplies

within Petroleum County. She noted that Andrew is working on a long range plan for the Musselshell River Basin in response to mussels and if they were to be detected. She noted that they have been doing a lot with mussels. Lastly she reported that there has been some flooding in the Roundup area including the #4 Road.

MSGOT Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that they had held a meeting on May 4th but that they did not vote on the HQT at that time. She noted that they did hold another stakeholder meeting and are putting those comments together and then will do a phone call vote after that. She noted that there is approximately \$1.4 million available for projects and that there should be a call coming out soon. Diane noted that she has talked a lot about termed easements and leases instead of in perpetuity easements and leases and that there has been some new interest in that theory. She has been talking about the term being 15 years but noted that there are some programs out there with 30 year terms and that she is looking at those for some guidance and criteria to put together a proposal for the term version. Sig mentioned that she had heard that there are several western states that are working on rewriting their plans. It was asked if that was the full state plan or the BLM plans for those states. Sig mentioned that she would check into that and let the board know.

NRCS: Michael Lucas reported field office staff is working on new applications and starting field visits. He has just received word that NRCS is able to hire 15 positions in the state and one of those is the DC position for Winnett.

MRP Report: Loni Blackman reported that she had attended the Range Forum in Billings in May 8&9th and that there was a good turnout. She also reported that Emily Standley and she had a workshop on how to manage weeds on the rangelands with 23 people in attendance. She had attended the Judith Basin Range School on May 24th and there were approximately 40 attendees there too. Loni reported that field season has started and she is scheduling her clients for monitoring. Looking towards June she has planned to attend the state Stockgrowers meeting June 6th, Harlowton Range workshop June 12th, Matador Ranch workshop June 12th, Montana Range Days June 18-20th and Montana Youth Range Camp July 9-12th.

BSWC Report: Colin McClure reported that he has been working with Bill Milton, Tony Hartshorn with MSU, and the range monitoring group to do some soil carbon monitoring in the area. He has also been working with the community center committee and that he is currently writing a grant through Northwest Farm Credit for matching funds which is due June 1st. He reported that Andrew and he had a booth at the Craig Caddis Festival and that they both had presented the rolling rivers trailer at the Roundup and Winnett kid's days. Colin reported that he is working on revamping the flowing wells information. Lastly Colin reported that he is working on a NFWF grant to do a weed control project in the riparian area throughout the Musselshell River Basin. Andrew reported that he has been working with Rachel Frost with the Missouri River CD Council on the Living on the Bank which will produce a website with different modules for current and future landowners on various issues related to living and building near the river. Lewis & Clark CD sponsored a 319 mini education grant that will pay for the creating of the website and modules. Andrew also reported that he has been working with Laura Nowlin on an Irrigator tour coming in October that is focused on mussels and what effects they could have on irrigation systems and agriculture.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that the ACES and RSA are working on a meeting sometime in June to discuss if there is the option to have a Winnett chapter of the RSA and if so what would that structure look like. At their last meeting on May 22nd the group created a board of directors; Craig Iverson (Chairman), Paul McKenna (Vice-Chairman), Diane Ahlgren (Secretary), Laura Nowlin (Treasurer), and Chris King (Member-at-Large).

Supervisors Reports:

Craig- Absent

Diane- Reported that she had attended the Range Forum in Billings and that Dr. Vermeer from Fort Keogh talked about grazing after the fire. She also reported the Range Committee has a pilot project for interns this year where two interns spend two weeks with each committee member on their place learning about what they do and how they operate. The interns are supposed to be in the Winnett area the end of July or early August.

Laura – Reported that at the ACES meeting Levi Morgan mentioned that there would be grant funding to seeding back to grass in and out of the burn areas. He also noted that there could be funding available to help fund the ACES Coordinator position and lastly that he might be able to help with a no-till drill as well for small projects. Laura in reading last month's minutes also agrees that the district should pursue getting coordination/ cooperating status with the BLM as well as other agencies within Petroleum County. She noted that the Prairie Dogs on their place are starting to die out due to the plague. Lastly she reported that there will be some funding for flooding through DNRC coming up and the district should look at gathering the damage and putting together some projects.

Rodney – Absent.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sarah – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time.

James – Asked if it was known if the county has hired a weed sprayer.

Nathan – Mentioned that he would suggest that the district goes for coordination status with the agencies instead of the cooperating status. He did state that coordination status does require a land use plan but it was noted that the county's plan is done so that it is in place. Nate also mentioned that the district needs read through the process and procedures and get a better understanding of the statutes. He suggests that we make the agencies follow their procedural requirements that are statutes in the law.

Old Business:

FY 2019 Draft Budget– Carie gave the board the draft budget for them to review and bring changes back to next month's meeting.

Fuels Mitigation Crew Employer – It was discussed that there was only one applicant for the crew lead and member positions that the district had. The board addressed safety concerns about having just one employee out there doing this kind of work alone. Ralph Corbett noted that a letter should be written to the one applicant stating that the district was going to reopen the crew member positions only to see about getting at least one more applicant for that position.

New Business:

Permits –Nothing new at this time.

Supervisor Recruitment – Carie noted that we will have two elected positions open one is a two year term and one is a four year term. We will also have an urban vacancy as Sarah Stevens is resigning her position. Names were brought up and a list was formed and it was noted that individual supervisors should reach out to those on the list.

BLM/APR Comments – Sig noted that at the last county commissioners meeting that they want to comment as well but would like to see what the district is putting in for comments. The board reviewed both Nathan's comments as well as the merged comments that Laura Nowlin wrote. There were a few board members that brought up the concern that if they did not submit comments within the structure that the BLM proposes that they would be thrown out. After vast discussion it was thought that the board could write a cover letter that addressed both the scientific and procedural comments. Laura Kiehl moved to send in a cover letter with an explanation of both the scientific analysis comments and the procedural comments which should be sent in electronically and by mail to ensure that they are received. Then the procedural comments should be sent again by themselves to the BLM Field Office, Legislative & Congressional representatives as well as Zinke. Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. James Brady moved to approve the report as submitted, Ralph Corbett 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 Pugrud 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: Carie reported that she needs to get back with Matt Comer to set a date to do the field class on the data.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie updated the board on where the convention planning committee was with the convention.

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

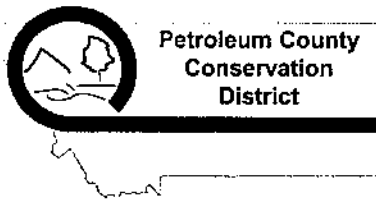
Announcements:

Next board meeting June 25, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 6:09 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

June 25th, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:05 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were Sig Pugrud, James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, and Diane Ahlgren. Also present were guests Lorna Philp (NRCS), Levi Morgan (Partners FWS) and Carie Hess. Nathan Descheemaeker joined the meeting a little bit later. The May 29th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as corrected and James Brady seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: Levi Morgan, Partners for Fish & Wildlife Service Program, gave an overview of what the program covers and how they work with private landowners. He noted that he was out in the area currently doing prairie song bird counts. Levi noted that if there is interest in the partners program has the use of a small twelve to fifteen foot no-till drill to use for seeding in the area. He is currently working on getting a trailer found and modified to better transport it over long distances. He noted that there would be no agreement or rental fee's associated with the use of the drill just that it is brought back in as good as condition as it was taken in.

Levi also reported on a funding opportunity for the ACES group through National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. They are accepting proposals for sage grouse eco-system projects which could be anything from seeding, fencing, tanks and water projects. The Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (RSA) has been successful in receiving funds to do projects in the Hi-Line area and it was thought that if the Winnett ACES group would apply that they could be the board to put projects out in this region. Levi went in to further discussion on how RSA uses a simple 3 page agreement and that the terms are usually for about 10 years but that it does vary some by project and landowner, and they are usually a 75/25 % cost share with the match being in-kind. There was also discussion on making a cooperative agreement with NRCS to do technical support for the projects. Lorna Philp noted that she would check with the Glasgow Office as well as Jerry Shows to see how they are working with RSA now and let the board know.

It was noted that this call for proposals would open up on July 10th and that the estimated amount to be applied for would be \$500,000. It was asked if the board would be a fiscal sponsor and apply for the funding for the Winnett ACES unless the group decided to work with RSA. Sig Pugrud moved that the district be the fiscal sponsor on the application if the ACES group decided to move forward. Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane reported that Laura Nowlin and a few members of the MMRG had a meeting in Melstone with several NRCS staff and Delphia-Melstone Water Users members to discuss the project further. She also noted that this year there is a lot of water going by in the river and that there has been some bank issues in places.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported the council met via conference call on June 18th and that they have their annual River Rendezvous planned for July 11-12th in Great Falls with a public event on the

evening of the 11th. She noted that on the call Karl Christians mentioned that Administrative Grants should be at the same level as last year or may have a slight increase. It was noted that MACD has hired Dan Magowen as their new executive director and that he starts in July sometime. Laura mentioned that Steve Wanderaas and the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) are pushing to have the Central and Eastern Montana Mussel Response group (CEMMR) to educate the legislators in the state on the importance of AIS and the long term affects they could have if the state does not keep focus on prevention and education. She reported that there has been talk of adjusting follows on the Missouri River using the dams to augment sturgeon larval flows. She noted that there has been increase efforts to have as many supervisors as possible attend the supervisor summit in August in Helena, it's even noted that there are scholarships available to attend. Lastly she noted that the deadline for resolutions is September 1st.

MWC Report: It was reported that there was no June meeting so the next meeting is scheduled for August.

MSGOT Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that the group has not met since the district's last meeting but that she has attended the WAFWA tour and a Farm Bureau meeting and that the group's next meeting is scheduled for September 15th.

NRCS: Lorna reported that there were two SGI cropland back to grass applications and one CSP application funded. She reported on the Garden workshop on June 11th with the tour of the Neegard's facility and then a presentation on canning and preserving. It was noted that there was talk of doing an insta-pot class this fall in the area if interest is there. She reported that there is a soil health workshop with the Fergus and Judith Basin CD's which will be July 19th starting in Denton about 2 or 3 then heading to Stanford.

Lastly she reported that the DC position here in Winnett had been opened and closed but that she has not received any word on the panel at this time. Tom Watson is the new state conservationist, it was noted that this is the first time in a long while that the State Conservationist has a range degree background. There will be 15 more positions opened up in the fall and that as part of a pilot project there will be continuous applications for soil conservations, soil conservationist techs and engineering positions. She noted that there are a lot of trainings going on across the state for staff.

MRP Report: It was reported that Loni Blackman is no longer with the partnership and that this position will be opened up in the next few days so that a person could be hired in July.

BSWC Report: Andrew reported that Colin and he have worked on getting grocery bags and cards printed up for the next round of mussel outreach in the Musselshell. He reported that he is currently finishing up a draft long range plan for the Musselshell. Colin is out completing some monitoring of the Lower Missouri Saltcedar project and has a trip planned to monitoring the Cooked Creek area the end of next week or the first of the following week. Andrew reported that there is a CMR meeting at Flatwillow Hall June 26th starting at 10 am. Lastly he noted that the Salinity Monitoring is going well but the high flows have made sampling a little more difficult.

Winnett ACES: It was noted that the next meeting will be July 16th at the Matador Ranch to talk with RSA. It was also noted that to date the community center has been given \$12,000 in donations towards the project.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- reported that she saw a gentlemen measuring flows at the Mosby Bridge and that they visited and it was noted that the river is flowing a lot faster overall since the 2011 flood. The gentleman also noted that the flows are faster than the gauge is reading.

Laura – Mentioned that recruiting is hard.

Rodney – Reported that he has been pulling knapweed and right now it has been coming out roots and all. It was mentioned that he needs to wear gloves to pull the weeds.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Nothing at this time.

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

Fuels Mitigation Crew Employer – Carie updated the board on where the hiring was at. She also reported back from the June 6th meeting with SMDC and the other counties. Lorna was going to check to see if she could find the list of approved forester contractors in the area and would get that information to us.

FY 2019 Budget– After reviewing the FY 18 budget to date of the meeting and the draft FY 19 budget James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Supervisor Recruitment – Carie showed the board Sarah Stevens resignation letter and also a flyer she had created to try to help with recruitment.

New Business:

Permits – Nothing new at this time.

Coordination/ Cooperation Status – It was reported that the APR comments were submitted as sent out and were hard copied mailed to all those listed in the letter. Nathan mentioned that he was still working on follow up to the procedural processes and has been talking with other counties on their land use plans.

Employee Evaluation Timeline/ Process – Carie handed out the current process for employee evaluations and also asked the board to put deadlines for the tasks to make sure that things stayed on target to have the evaluations back to the district for approval for the August meeting. The board agreed to keep the same process as it works to spark communication with employees. They decided the following timeline for the steps. Step one the deadline is to have this out to your respective boards by July 15th, Step two and three which are usually done at a face to face meeting should be completed by the end of the first week of August. Step four should be to the Petroleum CD board by the third week of August so that we can approve them at the August 27th meeting.

2019 Annual Work Plan – Carie noted that the board needs to set a date to work through their work plan for 2019. The board after some discussion settled on having the work plan be on the August meeting agenda to go over.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the report as amended to give the Grass Range Ambulance Hall \$25 and to give the Neegards a \$25 gift card. James Brady seconded, the motion passed and checks and claims were signed.

Carie then briefly overviewed the MRCDC financial report, Ralph Corbett moved to approve as amended to include River Rendezvous registration and Steve Wanderaas' travel claim. Laura Kiehl 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: Carie reported that she needs to get back with Matt Comer to set a date to do the field class on the data.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie updated the board on where the convention planning committee was with the convention.

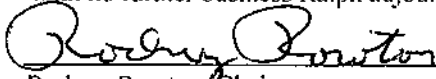
Ladies Day on the Range 2018 –This event was discussed and it was thought to cover soil health practices and to have a pasture walk. It was thought that this could be done on Sig's land out south of town and that it could be in conjunction with North 40 AG's field day the end of August.

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

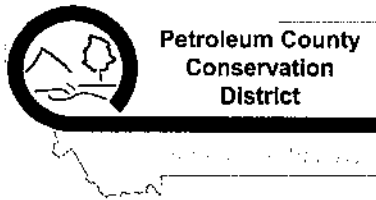
Announcements:

Next board meeting July 30th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



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

July 30th, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:54 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, and Diane Ahlgren. Also present were guests Mike Lucas, Reba Ahlgren (NRCS), Dan Casey, Alisa Bartos (Northern Great Plains Joint Venture) Laura Nowlin (MWC), Veronica Grigaltchik (Partner Position), Abby Northrup (RREC Intern), Kevin Ellison (WWF), Tayla Snapp (Gianforte Office) and Carie Hess. Chairman Rodney Rowton noted that Sig Pugrud and Nathan Descheemaeker were absent but had called to excuse themselves. The June 25th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as submitted and James Brady seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: Dan Casey with Northern Great Plains Joint Venture presented who the group was and their mission. He noted that the group covers southwest of the Missouri River in Montana and the Dakotas. He reported that they have a management board which consists of eight agency representatives, six NGO representatives, and two private industry representatives. They also have a technical committee which is comprised of thirteen people. He reported that the group focuses on working lands by keeping ranching on the landscape as sustainable ranching equals sustainable communities. He showed the board the plow print maps of the area and noted that they maps have been being worked on since 2009 by WWF with data obtained from the USDA's national statistics. These plow print maps show the rate of conversion from rangeland to cropland. He noted that they do show the different types of cropland, perennial and planted. It was noted that there are 30 million acres of intact rangeland which is at low risk for conversion and there are 2.5 million acres of intact rangeland that is at risk for conversion in the state of Montana. It was noted that the plow print does not take into effect anything before 2009 and that crested wheatgrass is considered intact. It was noted that in 2009 they took satellite imagery of crop and intact lands then have added the annual USDA data from then until now noting that there is a one year lag on the data.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing new at this time.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported the council met July 11th in Great Falls with the River Rendezvous the 12th. The tour covered bank stabilization areas as well as encompassed the water treatment plant and Ryan Dam. It was noted that they met the new Great Falls field office DC at the tour.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported the coalition's next meeting is August 14th and that gauging station funding will be discussed. She noted that the 2018 flooding along the river has caused some damage and they will be looking at that in the future. She noted that there will be a board meeting on the 14th as well just prior to the meeting. Lastly she noted that there are weed mapping crews out on the upper and lower end mapping for saltcedar, knapweed, and leafy spurge.

MSGOT Report: Diane Ahlgren reported the group had a conference call last week which was a quick call to vote to move forward with the Hanson contract. She noted that their next meeting will be on September 14th. She also noted that currently there are 3 or 4 places that the stakeholder group can't agree on in the HQT. Currently the HQT manual and policy guidance are out for comment.

NRCS: Mike Lucas reported that they were unable to get a panel for the Winnett DC position so they are currently waiting to see what the new state conservationist wants to do. Reba and Mike noted that there are a lot of inventories for new applications and monitoring to be done.

MRP Report: There is nothing new at this time.

BSWC Report: Andrew reported that Colin was out with the weed crew in the lower Musselshell River area but that last week he had the flowing wells public informational meeting to see what the next steps of the project could be. Andrew noted that the helped with AIS outreach at the Fergus/ Petroleum County Fair and that they will be finishing up the promo with the bags for the MWC. Those bags are to go to local stores to give out to customers. Lastly he reported that the Living on the Bank project has a bare bones website that they are putting all the information in with an expected launch date of sometime in September.

Winnett ACES: It was noted that the next meeting will be in September and that the education committee will be doing a follow up workshop to the Dave Pratt that will cover financial help. It was noted that when the group met with RSA on July 16th that the ACES will officially become an affiliate with RSA and make a local chapter. It was reported that the group will have an elk meeting in August sometime.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- reported that Abby Northrup is the second intern through the RREC program to be out here in the area. These interns have toured through all six board members places across the state. Diane reported that she had went along with Colin and Andrew on their tour with Patricia Gilbert (ACOE) to do a survey along crooked creek area for Saltcedar and that the Musselshell has a terrible silt bar near the mouth at the marina.

Laura – reported that she had saved a tattered monarch butterfly from her cats earlier that day. She also reported that the hand planted sage brush on the old Petia place has had about a thirty percent survival rate over the last 25 years.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent

James – Mentioned that he had saved a hummingbird and that he attended the well informational meeting and would like to see the district continue with this project.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Fuels Mitigation Crew Employer – There has been no new updates but Carie will let the board know if we get anything new.

Supervisor Recruitment – Carie mentioned that she had a list of possible candidates from the board meeting with their phone numbers that she will email out.

Employee Evaluation –Carie reminded the board of the deadlines that they set forth and that she had sent out her own information on July 16th.

Coordination/ Cooperation Status – It was noted that there may be a training coming up through the CMR community working group.

2019 Annual Work Plan –Carie noted that the board has set the August meeting to go through the work plan. She reminded the board to be working on what they would like to see for projects and programs.

New Business:

Permits –Kiehl Ranch has filed an Emergency application EA18-01. Laura Kiehl gave a brief overview of what they had done. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the emergency application and to have them follow up with a full 310 application for the work. James Brady seconded the motion which passed three votes for and Laura Kiehl abstained.

District Operations Audit & Financial Review –Carie noted that the board needs to set a date to complete the annual review and audit. Carie suggested the September meeting due to the work plan being done in the August meeting. Ralph Corbett moved to complete the District Operations Audit & Financial Review at the September 24, 2018 meeting. Carie noted that she will need at least two supervisors in about two hours before the meeting to go through all the paperwork.

Financial report: Carie 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.

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

Open Range Consulting: Nothing to report at this time.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie updated the board on where the convention planning committee was with the convention.

Ladies Day on the Range 2018 –This event was discussed and it was thought to cover soil health practices and to have a pasture walk. It was thought that this could be done on Sig's land out south of town and that it could be in conjunction with North 40 AG's field day the end of August.

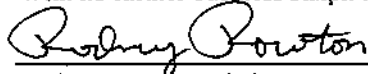
Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Announcements:

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Next board meeting August 27th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

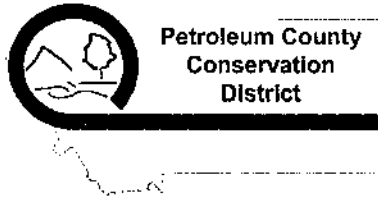
With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Local Common Sense Conservation

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

August 27th, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:06 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, and Nathan Descheemaeker. Also present were guests Mike Lucas, Lorna Philp (by phone), Reba Ahlgren (NRCS), and Carie Hess. Chairman Rodney Rowton noted that Sig Pugrud and Diane Ahlgren were absent but had called to excuse themselves. The July 30th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Nothing new at this time.

MRCDC Report: Carie reported that they had held their executive committee call on August 21st.

MWC Report: Carie reported that they held their meeting August 14th in Roundup and the focus was gauging stations.

MSGOT Report: Nothing new at this time.

NRCS: Mike Lucas reported there is an all employees meeting September 11-13 in Billings. He reported that he has heard that they will be re-flying the DC position in Winnett in another month. He reported that they are working on fiscal year end housekeeping. They are also working on inventories and monitoring as well as the cottonwood monitoring since the 2011 flood.

MRP Report: Carie reported that they have hired Casey Gallagher and she will be working one day a week until mid-November when her BSWC term is completed.

BSWC Report: Andrew reported that they finished up distributing the AIS bags in the Musselshell basin and that the Musselshell Long Range Plan will be out for comments shortly. He reported that the Living on the Bank project is coming along nicely and that it is hoped that the website will go live sometime in late September or early October. He reported that there were some technical issues this year with the salinity monitoring but that they are getting those worked out. It was reported that they will be having school visits in Ryegate, Lavina, Grass Range, and Winnett this fall. It was mentioned that Colin is working on the ACES website and it should be ready to go live in the next couple of weeks. Lastly it was reported that the MWC and MRCDC are working together to purchase a drone that will be here in the Winnett field office and can be rented out.

Winnett ACES: It was reported that there will be a land subcommittee meeting on Friday August 31st at 12:30 pm at the Methodist Church and that there is a general ACES meeting scheduled for September 12th.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Absent

Laura – Reported that the Beartooth Management area had record elk for several years but in the last few years due to no grazing the elk have moved to private lands around the management area.

Rodney – Reported that Diane Ahlgren and He have set up a monitoring site in the burn area. They have 100 feet in either direction of the post which is set right at the edge of the fire path. They will be monitoring over the next few years to see how the area responds.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

Fuels Mitigation Crew Employer – In the last week we have had contractors interested in the project out north. Through communication with Diane Pennell with SMDC she has asked if the board would serve as the employer for the forester for the agreement. At this time this is not a guarantee that this would need to happen as currently Judith Basin CD serves as the employer. Ralph Corbett moved to have the district serve as the employer if it is needed; Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed. The vote was recorded as: Rodney Rowton, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl and James Brady for and Nathan Descheemaeker against.

Supervisor Recruitment – Carie mentioned that she had a list of possible candidates from the board meeting with their phone numbers that she will email out.

Employee Evaluation –It is to be recorded as follows: James Brady moved to approve Rachel Frost's evaluation as submitted including a two percent raise starting September 1st. Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ralph Corbett moved to approve Laura Nowlin's evaluation as submitted; Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed. The vote was recorded as: Rodney Rowton, Ralph Corbett, and Laura Kiehl Nathan Descheemaeker for, James Brady abstained. Ralph Corbett moved to approve Carie Hess' evaluation as submitted; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. James Brady then motioned to give Carie a fifty cent an hour raise starting September 1st; Nathan Descheemaeker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Coordination/ Cooperation Status – The board discussed a report that Nathan Descheemaeker shared from the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC) submitted to the federal registry. He noted that there is an executive order (EO-13781) that calls for the re-evaluation of the executive branch. He also notes within the report where it is noted that government to government coordination is required.

2019 Annual Work Plan –After reviewing the most current work plan James Brady moved to approve the plan as submitted; Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

District Operations Audit & Financial Review –Carie noted that the board will complete at the September meeting and that she will need at least two supervisors to come in at least two hours prior to the meeting to review the reports and documents.

New Business:

Permits –Kiehl Ranch has filed a 310 application 2018-01 with the district, she asked questions in regards on how to submit a maintenance and operation plan for the site. After some discussion the board marked the application as received and they asked that Kiehl Ranch submit the maintenance and operation plan as soon as possible. Carie noted that she would let Clint Smith know the application was received and share it with him to try and get a site inspection set up. The full application would be able to be approved at the next meeting.

BSWC Host Site – The district has discussed that having BSWC members and was on board to apply for the upcoming year as a host site for two more members. Since we did not have an official vote it was brought to the board's attention that they need to make it official. Ralph Corbett moved that the district serve as a host site for the 2019 year for 2 BSWC members; James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fuels Mitigation Project – The board reviewed two bid proposals for the fuels mitigation project on the 79 Trail. The board agreed that until the forester was hired and the treatment specification and acreages are confirmed that they would write a letter to each contractor with these details in it. Nathan Descheemaeker moved to send a letter to the contractors; Laura Kiehl 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. James Brady 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 Laura Kiehl 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 to report at this time.

2018 MACD Convention Hosting: Carie updated the board on where the convention planning committee was with the convention.

Ladies Day on the Range 2018 –This event was discussed and it was thought to cover soil health practices, monitoring, salinity, have a pasture walk and a brown bag lunch. The dates of September 25th and October 3rd were brought up.

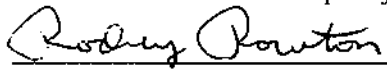
Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Announcements:

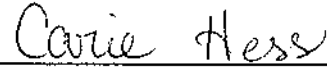
Next board meeting September 24th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

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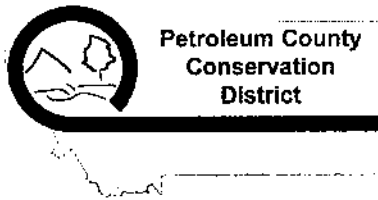
With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 5:37 pm



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

October 29th, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:00 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, Diane Ahlgren and Nathan Descheemaeker joined a little late. Also present were guests Mike Lucas, Reba Ahlgren (NRCS), and Carie Hess. The August 27th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as amended and Laura Kiehl seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that the RAT Team has come out to the area and visited sites affected by the flooding.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that they had their monthly Executive Committee call and that Karl reported that DNRC had received \$50,000 in 310 funding back. She reported that the Living on the Banks project has expanded into the Yellowstone River Corridor as well. It was noted that FWP met with Lower Missouri River landowners to discuss the flows that the ACOE is recommending to have for fish recovery efforts in the area. It was also noted that Bill Milton received an award from the WLA and was able to give \$10,000 to a nonprofit of his choice; he chose the Winnett ACES and RSA. Lastly the irrigator meetings were being held in Huntley and Great Falls to discuss mussels and what that would mean if they entered your irrigation system.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported that the Irrigation Development Grant the district sponsored has been awarded for \$ 20,000 for the RAT Team, DEQ has sponsored \$4,500 and that a private landowner has given \$1,000. It was noted that as of the board meeting date there is one confirmed BSWC member for the 2019 term and that we are working on interviews for the other position. Laura reported that she has obtained a new housing situation for the members starting this year.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that they met on October 4th and approved the rule making process which includes the HQT tool and the mitigation guidelines. She noted that it is on the website for those who would like to see it. Now she is looking at a possible "term" project to see as another alternative. It was noted that the disturbance caps have not been modified but that they are exemptions for items such as pipelines and that they will be reviewed on a case by case basis. She noted that a public hearing is the next steps for the group.

NRCS: Mike Lucas reported that they are working on new applications for the seeding cropland back to grass. It was reported that Tom Watson the new State Conservationist came out to the field office and did a tour of projects in the county.

MRP Report: It was reported that the program is looking to become a permanent position within the Rangeland Resources program within DNRC and that a NFWF pre-proposal was submitted through Garfield CD.

BSWC Report: It was reported that currently there is one new member for the 2019 term and that interviews are continuing until the other position is filled.

Winnett ACES: Laura Nowlin mentioned that the district (on behalf of ACES) submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$280,000 for their on the ground conservation program. It was noted that they will be notified if they are asked to submit a full proposal in the next week and that those are due the first part of December. Sig Pugrud moved to continue to support the application and submit a full proposal if asked to. James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Lastly it was reported that there would be a land committee meeting on November 8th and a tour on November 12th. The education committee has a series of Ranch Profitability workshops going on through November.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane- Nothing at this time.

Laura – Nothing at this time.

Rodney – Reported that the RAT Team had been out to look at his place as well.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Reported there would be a planning and zoning board meeting on November 2nd at 6pm. They will be approving the flood plain plan. She noted that this could be a CD newsletter article.

James – Reported that Tom Watson came out to his place and toured the pipeline and reseeding projects.

Nathan – Reported that he went to Phillips County and that they are going to submit a pre-referral notice to the BLM about the concerns via certified letter. He noted that he will be talking with our county commissioners soon as well. He noted that the referral process will probably go through the six county process that was done for the original concern. He notes that this is a good opportunity to do education on the process and the abilities that local governments have.

Old Business:

Supervisor Recruitment – It was noted that it appears that the two elected positions that were left open, those of Sig Pugrud and James Brady have interested parties to be appointed. So we need to work on the urban position that was Sarah Stevens. Carie noted that she had talked with Joel Odermann and Ralph should give him a call to further that discussion on roles and responsibilities.

Coordination/ Cooperation Status – Previously reported in Supervisor reports for Nathan Descheemaeker.

District Operations Audit & Financial Review – It was noted that Laura Kiehl and Rodney Rowton went through the financial review process before the meeting started. The board then went through the operations review as a board for both the Petroleum CD and the Missouri River CD Council. James

Brady moved to approve the reviews for the Petroleum CD and Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Laura Kiehl moved to approve the reviews for the Missouri River CD Council and Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fuels Mitigation Update -- Carie reported that both contractors are in place and all documents are in place for the contracts. There is work being completed and other than a miscommunication in specifications things are moving forward.

New Business:

Permits --Kiehl Ranch application -- Ralph Corbett moved to approve the application as submitted, Sig Pugrud seconded the motion. The motion passed with all board members in approval and Laura Kiehl abstained.

Cochell application -- Ralph Corbett moved to approve the application as submitted; Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MACD Convention Raffle and Auction Items -- James Brady moved to approve the \$30 -- 40 dollars towards the Area Live Auction and that he would donate a Diana Brady print towards the silent auction. Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MACDEO Auction Item -- Laura Kiehl moved to approve the \$30-35 dollars towards the MACDEO silent auction item, Sig Pugrud 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. Sig Pugrud 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 Sig Pugrud 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. New and upcoming grant applications and contracts were also reviewed to keep the communication open.

Open Range Consulting: Nothing to report at this time.

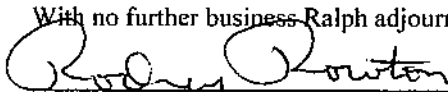
Open house/ Christmas Party/ Annual Banquet: Carie brought up that the board has mentioned about doing an annual banquet or open house to promote the district within the county. They have also talked about doing an annual Christmas party for the board and staff. It was noted to hold the Christmas Party after the next board meeting at the Winnett Bar. Carie will speak with Lisa and set things up.

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

Announcements:

Next board meeting November 26th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Ralph adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm


Rodney Rowton, Chairman


Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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November 26, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 2:53 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, Sig Pugrud, and Diane Ahlgren who came in a little late, it was noted that Nathan Descheemaeker had called in and noted he would be absent. Also present were guests Mike Lucas, Reba Ahlgren (NRCS), Laura Nowlin (MWC) and Carie Hess. The October 29th minutes were read; James Brady moved to approve as submitted and Ralph Corbett seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports:

Partner Reports:

MMWG Report: Diane Ahlgren reported that members had met with the Delphia-Melstone Canal Users and Scott Irvin with DNRC about the storage project. Diane noted that Scott mentioned that the hazard classification had not been done yet and needs to be completed. The two groups talked about building two smaller dams instead of one large one as well as if the water right could be sold or transferred to another entity. Lastly she noted that she is no longer going to try to get meetings scheduled for the MMWG producers as not many have showed up. It was noted that the districts RRG application for the storage project ranked 44th and that there would need to be someone to testify on that application in late January.

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that Dick Iversen mentioned that oil development sites and equipment in the Bakken are producing more radioactive materials. It was noted that the materials that are too hot for the local disposal sites are trucked to a location near Lewistown. It was also mentioned that there are feral hogs located just north of the Canadian border about five miles from the Big Muddy. Laura reported that they are looking at river rendezvous sites for 2019 and there is a possibility of having it in Glasgow or Culbertson. Stacey Barta presented on the internships and Cheryl Schultz and Dean Rogge presented on the weed monitoring being done in Garfield County from the hay brought into the county due to the fire. She reported that Karl Christians with DNRC stated that districts need to be taking the lead on the conservation conversation. Tom Watson was in attendance and reported that he is working on the new "focus" based projects for the NRCS.

MWC Report: Laura Nowlin reported that the next Coalition meeting is December 11th in Roundup from noon until 2pm. Laura also asked the board about sponsoring an EPA grant that would be about 225,000 and include 125,00 for CMZ mapping of the Musselshell River, coordinator time and travel for a year and a half to two years, possible restoration projects and administrative fees. Sig Pugrud moved to approve the sponsorship and application; Laura Kiehl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MSGOT Report: Diane reported that the next meeting is scheduled for December 18th and they are supposed to vote to finalize the rules on the mitigation and HQT.

NRCS: Mike Lucas reported that they are working on ranking the special EQIP applications and CSP & regular EQIP payments. Reba shared an email that Veronica in Jordan had shared about an easement workshop in Jordan in December. It was reported that there is nothing really new with the field office DC position but they did have a panel for the Super DC position over the Stanford, Lewistown and Winnett offices and that panel is being reviewed currently.

MRP Report: It was reported that the NFWF pre-proposal was submitted and Garfield CD has been asked to put in a full proposal.

BSWC Report: It was reported that there is one member and that on November 28th there will be a third round of interviews for a potential second member. The computers are here and set up ready to roll when the new members show up in January.

Winnett ACES: Laura Nowlin mentioned that the district (on behalf of ACES) submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$280,000 for their on the ground conservation program and have been asked to submit a full proposal which is due December 7th. It was reported that members of the land subcommittee and board toured a couple of ranches in Northern Musselshell County and there was one that was about 12,000 acres that looked like a good possibility to do a working lease with the owner. The letter that was sent out from the wildlife committee was shared with the board. Laura Kiehl mentioned that she had been in and spoken to Mr. Gibbs with the school about the possibility of FFA and that right now funding will be an issue, it was noted that they were going to look into a video class option as well as a coop option with Grass Range. Sig mentioned that they are on the third of four sessions of the Ranch Profitability class and there has been good attendance with about 40 people at each session.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane-Nothing at this time.

Laura –Mentioned that they would house the drill on the ranch and noted that the prairie dog plague is moving west of the lake. She also showed the board her folder from the MACD convention so that they could look at the materials she had picked up. She mentioned that she had a friend that had asked about our old signs and that she was given \$50 each for them. Lastly she volunteered to sit in on a commissioner meeting or two and report the districts events to the commissioners and vice versa. She noted that she was also heading to Helena to be part of the DNRC and MACD legislative funding strategic planning session and will report back.

Rodney – Reported that there is drilling going on right in the middle of Diane's road. .

Ralph – Mentioned that there is a producer in the county with family in the Midwest that would have good knowledge of the feral hog issue.

Sig – Reported that Carrie should contact Jay King to see if there is anything on the floodplain zoning to be put in the newsletter.

James – Reported that he went and picked up the No-Till drill that Levi Morgan and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife have. He noted that it is a Truax and it's in good shape and about 10' wide single disc. .

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Supervisor Recruitment – It was noted that the district needs to fill in the Urban position left by Sarah Stevens by January. It was noted that the existing members and new members that have been appointed will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Coordination/ Cooperation Status – Sig Pugrud moved to remove this item from the agenda and Ralph Corbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fuels Mitigation Update – Carie reported that both contractors have completed their work and that a final inspections is set for tomorrow. It was asked if the board would like to continue with the program or bow out. It was talked about changes that the district would make in the next round of work done and what the district's role would be. Ralph Corbett moved to continue the program for another year; Sig Pugrud seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Permits –It was noted that there was no new permits but that concerns for some of the work being done in the Musselshell River area have arose.

December meeting date – It was noted that due to the holiday season and how our December meeting would fall that Carie suggested the meeting date be moved to December 19th. Sig Pugrud asked if that would be enough time to have the bills in and it was noted that it should be that there are a couple of bills that the district approves at an average rate and that those would be the same. Ralph Corbett asked about basketball games and it was noted that it did not interfere with those at this time. Ralph Corbett then moved to change the date to December 19th, James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Financial report: Carie briefly overviewed the Petroleum CD's financial report and answered any questions. Sig Pugrud 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, Sig Pugrud 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. New and upcoming grant applications and contracts were also reviewed to keep the communication open. Carie noted that she would like to look into do an Urban forestry project with the Town of Winnett and asked the board for permission to speak to the DNRC Urban forester after the first of the year to work on what kind of project would work for the town. Sig Pugrud moved to approve Carie moving forward with the project and James Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.


Open house/Annual Banquet: Carie mentioned that this is one way to get our story out and to inform the county residents of what we do and how we work. Sig Pugrud asked if there was that big of a disconnect with residents. She noted that a district such as Yellowstone may have that problem but did not think in a place such as Petroleum County that this would be a problem. It was noted by supervisors and the administrator that there is a disconnect as well as confusion as to what this office does and how the partner organizations work together.

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

Announcements:

Next board meeting December 19th, 2018 @ 3 pm.

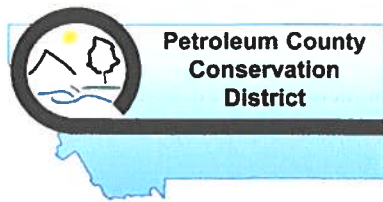
With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator



Petroleum County Conservation District

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December 19, 2018

Chairman Rodney Rowton called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 3:06 pm in the Conservation Office. Members present were James Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl, and new appointed member Jay King, it was noted that Diane Ahlgren had called in and noted she would be absent. Also present were guests Mike Lucas via phone and Reba Ahlgren (NRCS), and Carie Hess. The November 26th minutes were read; Ralph Corbett moved to approve as amended and Laura Kiehl seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Guest/ Public Comment: None at this time.

Partner Reports:

MRCDC Report: Laura Kiehl reported that the council is working with YRCDC to old a pre-public comment stakeholders group meeting with the irrigators on the flows proposed for the pallid sturgeon sometime in early February. She noted that director Tubbs with DNRC gave the river councils a compliment and feel that they are mature and is expecting them to do conservation. Laura also reported that there is work being done for a joint Saltcedar project in Fergus County. Lastly she reported that the next CMR meeting is January 17th in Winifred and that there will be a council meeting in conjunction with that meeting.

MWC/ MMWG Report: It was reported that the RRGL application that Andrew Horvath wrote for the MMWG ranked 44th which is currently eight spots below the funding line in the draft budget. It was also noted that the next MWC meeting would be in February.

MSGOT Report: Nothing at this time.

NRCS: Mike Lucas reported that there is no news on a panel for the Winnett DC position yet. He also reported that they are working on getting the Cropland back to Grass contracts obligated as well as following up on year end payments.

MRP Report: Casey Gallagher the new Lewistown Area Technician introduced herself and mentioned that the program wrapped up its third season and that the current funding will allow one more season. She noted that it was reported that the program has more than doubled the amount of acres then was originally thought would be able to monitored. Lastly she reported that there is a new NFWF application through Garfield CD to continue funding for these positions for an additional 3 years.

BSWC Report: It was reported that we will have two new members whose first day is January 7th. It was noted that the CD projects that they will be working on is the well project as well as some of the Fuels mitigation project and education both for AIS and district education activities.

Winnett ACES: Janes Brady reported that there is a Land sub-committee meeting tomorrow. Reba reported that the Ranch profitability workshops were a success and that there were 40 to 45 people at each session.

Supervisors Reports:
Craig- Absent

Diane-Absent

Laura –Reported that she had attended a funding planning session in Helena just after the board meeting last month. She noted that there were a lot of ideas being thrown around but that one of the biggest funding obstacles will be the depletion of the coal tax revenue that funds a major portion of the districts.

Rodney – Nothing at this time.

Ralph – Nothing at this time.

Sig – Absent

James – Nothing at this time.

Nathan – Absent

Old Business:

Supervisor Recruitment – Jess Hoge came in and sworn in Jay King and Laura Kiehl, it was noted that board members Brenda Brady and Nathan Descheemaeker still need to complete their oaths. It was noted that we still have an opening for the urban position. Starting January 2019 Petroleum County Conservation District board is comprised of Ralph Corbett, Rodney Rowton, Laura Kiehl, Nathan Descheemaeker, J.C. King, and Brenda Brady. Diane Ahlgren will continue in the associate position as an advisory to the board. James Brady mentioned that he had spoken to Joel and Jacyi Odermann and that they are interested in the urban position.

New Business:

Permits –None at this time.

Financial Review from Bantz & Company – Carie reported that she had gotten a price quote from Brandon Bantz of Bantz & Company to complete a financial review of the districts books. She noted that she had sent him the information that the district has on file and that the board does as a review. He felt that if everything was organized that it would cost \$750 - \$1000 to complete. James Brady moved to enter into an agreement with Bantz & Company to have the review completed; Ralph Corbett 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. 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: The board reviewed the written administrative report and the grant status update on their own. It was noted that the board is supportive of working on an urban forestry project for Winnett and that Carie can continue to speak to Josh Stoychoff.

Open house/Annual Banquet: The board discussed this idea and it was noted that they will wait until spring of 2019 and do an event.

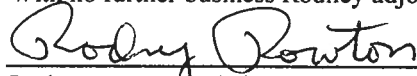
Correspondence: Was on the table in the folder and was read by the board members.

Announcements:

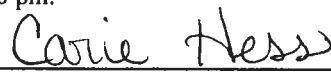
James Brady mentioned that the district should look at changing their meeting dates to help with board recruitment.

Next board meeting January 31st, 2018 @ 3 pm.

With no further business Rodney adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.



Rodney Rowton, Chairman



Carie Hess, District Administrator

