



"Local Common Sense Conservation"
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**BROADWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2020
6:30 PM
USDA Service Center Conference Room**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Rick Van Dyken, Darrell Baum, Gary Flynn
SUPERVISORS ABSENT: Greg Field, Kelly Ingalls
ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Jim Beck, Dallas Diehl, Herb Argabright
ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS ABSENT: Daniel Davis
ADVISORS TO THE BOARD PRESENT: Ron Spoon (FWP)
GUESTS: none

- I. **Chairman Rick Van Dyken called to order the regular meeting of the Broadwater Conservation District at 6:31 p.m.**
- II. **AGENCY REPORTS**
- a) **Planning Board (Herb Argabright)** – Herb received an email that the board is planning on scheduling a public hearing for the 10 acre lot split at 2:30 p.m. on May 20th. The board will follow up with their recommendation to the commissioner after that meeting.
 - b) **MRCDC (Jim Beck)** – No report.
 - c) **FW&P (Ron Spoon)** – No report
 - d) **NRCS (Justin Meissner)** – Absent. No report.
 - e) **Helena National Forest/Townsend Ranger District (Mike Welker)** – Absent. Mike provided an email to the board with a few updates. **See Attachment A.**
 - f) **MSU Extension Office (Allison Kosto)** – Absent. No report.
 - g) **Weed Coordinator (Jessica Bushnell)** – Absent. No report.
 - h) **Broadwater County Commissioner Representative (Darrel Folkvord)** – Absent. No report.
 - i) **DES Coordinator/Floodplain Coordinator (Mike Koehnke/Shawn Higley)** – Absent. No report.
 - j) **County Attorney (Cory Swanson)** – Absent. No report.
 - k) **MACD/NACD/DNRC/SWCDM/MACDEO & Other State and Federal Agencies** – No report.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT/GUESTS:** None.
- IV. **310 BUSINESS**
- a) **Open Applications**
 - BW-6-15 – Tracy Fortner, Montana Gulch – reclaiming mine tailings – **The Fortner hearing has been rescheduled to June 12 due to health issues with Fortner’s attorney. The order of time will most likely be 1:30 p.m.**
 - BW-16-18 – Tony and Shannon Woodward, Duck Creek – bridge/culvert construction and improvement – **(Expires September 11, 2020) No April Report.**
 - BW-22-18 – Chuck Hahn, Beaver Creek – irrigation – **No April Report.**
 - BW-23-18 – Chuck Hahn, Deep Creek – **No April Report.**
 - BW-25-18 – Doug Bing, Jefferson River – **Following Mr. Bing’s update from last month, the board decided to close this permit.**
 - BW-27-18 – John Baker, Cabin Gulch – recreational mining – **No April Report.**
 - BW-28-18 – Ron Schock, North Fork – irrigation structure – **No April Report.**
 - BW-1-19 – Richard Lyon, Duck Creek – bank stabilization/alteration – **The board reviewed post project photos. Since all supervisors were not present at the meeting, the board will wait until all members are able to review the photos before closing the permit.**
 - BW-2-19 – Tim Peterson, Beaver Creek – bank stabilization/alteration – **No April Report.**
 - BW-4-19 – Robert Boswell, Duck Creek – irrigation structure – **No April Report.**
 - BW-5-19 – Randy Robertson, Beaver Creek – bank stabilization/alteration – **No April Report.**
 - BW-7-19 – Dennis Hayes, Johnny’s Gulch – recreational mining – **No April Report.**
 - BW-10-19 – Steve Davis, Whites Gulch – recreational mining – **The board reviewed the post project photos. Ron was able to visit the site last Fall and was satisfied with the work completed. The board decided to close this permit.**
 - BW-11-19 – Brandon Flynn, Greyson Creek – bridge/culvert installation – **No April Report.**
 - BW-12-19 – Tyson O’Connell, Un-named – pond – **No April Report.**
 - BW-14-19 – Leisa McArthur, Deep Creek – bank stabilization/alteration – **No April Report.**
 - BW-16-19 – James & Teresa Conner, Deep Creek – irrigation structure/debris removal – **No April Report.**
 - BW-17-19 – Yellowstone Pipe Line Company (Eli Kliewer), Crow Creek – utilities – **No April Report.**
 - BW-18-19 – Yellowstone Pipe Line Company (Eli Kliewer), Warm Springs Creek – utilities – **No April Report.**
 - BW-19-19 – Sam Antonick, Deep Creek – irrigation structure – **No April Report.**
 - BW-20-19 – Herb Argabright, Missouri River – bank stabilization – **Herb agreed to the terms and is sending in his decision sheet.**

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b) 2020 Applications

- BW-1-20 – Doug Bing, Jefferson River – bank stabilization/flood protection- **The board discussed an alternative to the current rip-rap proposal. Ron Spoon spoke with Karin Boyd about construction of a relief channel through the gravel bar near the project location. Karin agreed that might work and thought about adding it to the report given to the board and Mr. Bing last month. There are concerns that the gravel bar might fill in again, but it is noted that it will create relief for the bank. The board will wait to adopt this idea until Mr. Bing is present to discuss his thoughts.**
- BW-2-20 – Leonard Lambott, Warm Springs Creek – Channel Alteration- **Katie received Leonard’s decision sheet. He agreed to the terms.**
- BW-3-20 – Howard Hensley, Crow Creek – Irrigation Structure- **Howard agreed to the terms and is sending in his decision sheet.**
- BW-4-20 – Steve Davis, White’s Gulch – recreational mining- **The board reviewed the permit. Darrell made a motion to declare BW-4-20 a project. Gary Flynn seconded. Motion passed.**

c) Other 310 Business:

- (PENDING) Graymont, Indian Creek – **No April report.**
- Katie received another application for recreational mining this morning. The board will review this permit at next month’s meeting.

d) Emergency Applications: N/A

e) Complaint Notices: N/A

V. DISTRICT BUSINESS

a) Minutes Approval: The March regular meeting minutes were approved as written, following a motion by Gary Flynn and a second by Darrell Baum. Motion Passed.

b) Financial Business

1. **Financial Report Approval:** The March financial report stand approved.
2. **Bills Pending Approval:** **The Board approved to pay the bills pending, following a motion by Darrell Baum and a second by Gary Flynn. Passed.**
3. **Payroll Approval:** March payroll stands approved.
4. **Other Financial Business:**
 - **County Mill Levy/Permissive Mill Levy** – This meeting will be held before the May Board Meeting. Katie plans to get the advertisements in the paper this week.
 - **Employees/Budget** – The board went into executive session to discuss Katie’s 3-month performance evaluation and qualification for the PERS retirement system.
 - **CD’s** – The 2 CD’s discussed from previous meetings have been successfully transferred to D.A. Davidson. It was noted that the CD’s through D.A. Davidson are now brokered rather than bank CD’s. Rates have also increased since the CD’s have been transferred.
 - **Bridger Plant materials Center Donation: 35\$-** Approved in the bills pending motion.

c) On-Going Business:

1. Misc. Projects/Grants Updates

- **NRCS Technical Assistance Grant** – The board reviewed the April Drought Resiliency Index Report. Katie plans to continue her precipitation monitoring program this year and will be installing gauges next week. Rick and Gary are both interested in participating this year.
- **RMEF Grant (Forest Service)** – No April update.
- **Crow Creek Watershed DNRC Grant** – No April update.
- **2020 River Rendezvous** – Katie asked if any board members are interested in attending this event in July. The board will wait until the time gets closer to make their decision.
- **Project Coordinator Updates:** Denise is working on grant reporting and updating to help leave a clean slate for her transition out of the office.
 - Wyse Acres Garden – Received the extension for this grant until August of 2020.

2. Deep Creek Updates

➤ **Deep Creek Watershed Restoration Project/Grant Update:**

- Monitoring: No April update.
- FEMA: No April update.
- Reach 8: No April update.
- 319 Grant: No April update.

➤ **Deep Creek General Updates:** No April update.

3. Memorandum of Agreement- No April update.

4. Personnel Policy – No April update.

5. 6th Grade Conservation Day – The event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

6. MACD Reorganization survey – No April Update.

7. Pledge and Flag Stand – No April Update.

8. **Ted Flynn Memorial Scholarship-** The board reviewed the 2 scholarship applications submitted. They were impressed with both applications and thought both were qualified to receive the scholarship. Gary moved to award both applicants the Ted Flynn Memorial Scholarship for \$1000. Darrell Baum seconded. Motion passed.

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9. **2020 Admin Grant-** The board reviewed the grant and agreed with all the figures provided. Darrell Baum made a motion to approve the 2020 Admin Grant. Gary Flynn seconded. Motion passed.
 10. **Coronavirus effects and updates on BCD operations-** Katie has decided to move back into the office and continue working there unless given other instructions by the USDA. She updated the board on her personal internet and cell tracking during teleworking over the 2-month period. Katie has used her personal cell phone approximately 30% of the time, and internet 50% of the time. Her personal cell usage for work related topics would cost the board \$16.65 and her internet would cost the board \$55.00. Together the bill would be \$102.70. Gary Flynn made a motion to reimburse Katie for her personal cell and internet use for \$102.70. Darrell Baum seconded. Motion passed.
- d) **Event Reports:** No event reports.
 - e) **New Business:**
 1. **Paycheck Protection Program** – Katie shared information on the paycheck protection program with the board. This program could help bring financial relief to ranchers and farmers who have employees during the current pandemic. Katie will follow up with an email containing more information to board members.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Miscellaneous Reading Material Folder and Correspondences:**
- b) **On-Going Business:**
- c) **Other New Business:**
 1. Tom Watson will be renting the fabric layer from the district. He will be charged the \$25.00 minimum fee and \$300 deposit per the agreement signed.
- d) **Natural Resource and Legislative News:** No update.

VII. UPCOMING EVENTS: (noted on the agenda)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m., following a motion by Darrell Baum and a second by Gary Flynn. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on May 26, 2020 at the USDA Service Center.

Minutes submitted by: Katie Munnboed Administrator

Minutes approved by: [Signature] Chairman

ATTACHMENT A

- Forest Service office is currently closed to the public, but we are staffing the office with a minimum of one person. Still conducting business, but waiting for new guidance from US Department of Agriculture to determine when we open the office to the public again.
- Plan to open campgrounds by Memorial weekend and cabins by May 29.
- Still offering free firewood through June 1. No permit is needed.
- Working to hire a Minerals Administrator (vice Carissa Silvis). The announcement went out and we had 25 applicants, which is encouraging. However, the agency has “paused” the hiring for now. Not sure when we will be able to move forward with hiring.
- Mining activity is picking up.
 - ✓ Scheduling a site visit for Hayes proposed access down Johnnies Gulch. It was scheduled for this week, but still too much snow. We have already advised Hayes that there are “extraordinary circumstances” and that the proposed access will require an Environmental Assessment. He currently has a plan of operations, but was denied access through private land via White’s Gulch Road; thus, his new proposal to come down the gulch from above (through Bill Stiles).
 - ✓ Received a NOI for Beaver Creek (Judy Placer). Determined that the operation would not require a Plan of Operations. Can provide more information if needed.
 - ✓ Canceled a meeting with Andy Johnson and hope to reschedule in May. No change on Ready Cash Gulch, we are still at an impasse on the access part of that.
 - ✓ Finally, I am so looking forward to filling our minerals position. Rangers aren’t the smartest people in the room and I could sure use the help now.
- Looking forward to the day when we can all meet again face-to-face.

Mike Welker
Townsend District Ranger

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