

MRCDC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes March 28, 2023 at 1:00pm via Zoom

At 1:05pm, Laura Kiehl called the MRCDC Executive Committee meeting to order.

Council members present were Laura Kiehl, Petroleum County CD; Karl Christians, Lewis & Clark CD; Jeff Ryan, Lewis & Clark CD; Greg Jergeson, Blaine County CD; Dana Berwick, Roosevelt CD; Lorri Schafer, Fergus CD; and Dean Rogge, Garfield County CD. Others present were Dona Stafford, Fergus County CD; Veronica Grigaltchik, DNRC CDB Specialist; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; Brent Smith, CEMIST Manager and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator.

Approve Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from January 26, 2023. Greg Jergeson moved to approve the January minutes; Lorri Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Financial Report

Karl Christians moved to pay unpaid bills; Greg Jergeson seconded. Motion passed. Karl Christians moved to approve the January and March financial report; Lorri Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

MRCDC vehicle – fix hail damage – Nothing to report.

New Business

Congressional Letter Regarding Test Flow Mitigation – Changes to the letter were discussed. Karl Christians moved to approve the Congressional Letter Regarding Test Flow Mitigation as amended; Lorri Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

Fort Peck Dam Management Letter for Irrigation Flows – Changes to the letter were discussed. Lorri Schafer moved to approve the Fort Peck Dam Management Letter for Irrigation Flows as amended; Karl Christians seconded. Motion passed.

Reschedule April Exe. Committee Meeting – Due to Molly and others having conflicts for the regularly scheduled April Executive Committee Meeting on April 25th, it was agreed to change the meeting to April 24th, at 8:30am.

Committee Reports

Fort Peck Test Flows – Dana Berwick stated that they have been working on letters. There is high snowpack in the Milk River drainage that will probably help in holding some of the water back. Molly Masters mentioned that the Corps is having their spring meeting April 3rd in Poplar at 10am.

CMR Community Working Group – Molly Masters discussed the CMR CWG meeting that was March 16th in Lewistown. It was a positive meeting with good directions to go forward. The Grasslands group had a good presentation and she will get the recording posted online. The planning committee is meeting April 6th to begin planning the next meeting that will be either in Glasgow or the Fort Peck area.

Living on the Bank – Dona Stafford stated that they are working on a 310 stream permitting/Living on the Bank class for realtors and getting it accredited and recorded to share on the website. It has short and sweet info that realtors can pass along to anyone buying property along the stream.

Woody Invasive Species Task Force – Molly stated that the Custer CD, on behalf of YRCDC, received a \$65K planning grant (Noxious weed trust fund grant) for hiring a Coordinator to help those planning grant efforts and see what the next steps are. The next step is to send out an RFP.

River Rendezvous – Molly stated that she is going to be sending out registration information letters with brief information about the River Rendezvous event. Once we have agendas finalized, she will put it on the Eventbrite site, along with hotel accommodations. Molly went over Eventbrite and the 3 ticket options and mentioned that she booked an AirBnB for 4 guests and 3 cabins at the Garfield Motel for council members. She will make updates to the registration that were suggested.

Work Plan/Budget Committee – Molly Masters, Lorri Schafer and Dana Berwick made the work plan meeting. Need to have another meeting in a couple weeks and hopefully Katie will be able to join with the updated budget sheet. Lorri stated that they looked at what was budgeted last year and if we need to budget the same or more. Molly stated there is \$8,250 for project support and they used less than \$500. She asked Katie to see what expenses that has been used for before. There was discussion that maybe those funds were used for a BSWWS Corps member, and if we do apply for one in the future, the budget will need to go up to \$12-\$13K. Karl stated that the NRCS needs to be contacted first to see if they have room to house a BSWWS Corps member. There is \$14,516 in the termination savings account. The committee went through the workplan to see if the budget would cover all the workplan items. River Rendezvous door prizes and Council travel was discussed. Starting to tap into the NACD TA grant; it covers up to \$3000 for Molly's time and \$1700 for travel.

Partner Reports

MACD – Jeff Ryan stated that today is the last day that we can send in support letters for HB321. It is in jeopardy.

DNRC – Veronica stated that the administrative grant is open and due the end of April through Submittable. If additional funding comes in, they might open it back up for a 2nd cycle. The Education Grant is now up to \$5000. A lot of grants have progress reports due April 15. They received the CD funding surveys back and most have a lot of commonalities. The top 3 Priorities were: Personnel: wages, benefits, hours; Programs: soil health, drought resilience, pollinators; and Education & Outreach: youth and marketing. Supervisor trainings are going to be delayed for now. Haylie Graf is the new "Jason Garber" (310s) and Jeff Ryan stated that they will help her if she needs it.

NRCS – No report.

MRWA – Greg Jergeson reported that they were able to get a Coordinator on board for the St. Mary's Working Group. They are now getting the MRWA aligned with work with the Coordinator.

CEMIST – Brent Smith stated there is the Eastern Heath Snail presentation April 25th in Stanford, 1-3pm. They moved their quarterly meeting to April 19th and will be reviewing the future CEMIST Website and have partner reports. There is AIS monitoring June 13th in Miles City for CD Administrators to go out and learn about their monitoring kits. CEMIST sent out letters of support for HB321.

Reach Reports

*Laura stated that we will need to elect a member "At Large" at the next meeting to replace Jeff Ryan.

Lower Reach – No report.

Reservoir Reach – Trish Smith discussed the three spring workshops/classes coming up in Winnett; Gardening Workshop, May 4th, 1-3pm, Applicators Class, May 4th, 3-5pm, and Ladies Day on the Range, June 5th (all day).

Middle Reach – Dona Stafford stated that Fergus CD has 5000 trees coming in the 1st week of May. May 20th is a "Paint a Rainbow" workshop and they are having a realtor workshop sometime in June.

Upper Reach – Jeff Ryan discussed the willow project on Lake Helena. They have all the willow they need for the project; land owner gave them 4000-5000 willows. They are assisting FWP with their big Black Sandy Willow Project that will be requiring another 4-5K willows. They are assisting them by helping to cut willows this Friday; project will start April 10th.

Individual CD Reports (voluntary/as needed) – none.

Coordinator Update

Molly went over her monthly report. The CMR CWG planning meeting is April 6th. Need to schedule a budget/work plan meeting and River Rendezvous planning meeting in the next couple weeks.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

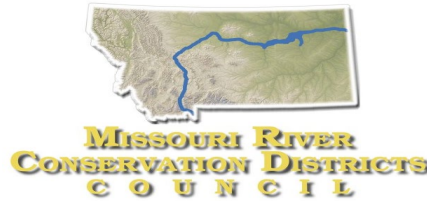
April

- 3: USACE Spring Operations Meeting
 - 5: Molly out
 - 10: Office Closed
 - ?: **MRCDC Executive Committee** (Reschedule?)
 - 25-26: MRRIC, Fort Peck Tribe Tour
 - 26: CEMIST Quarterly Meeting
 - 27: Molly out
- Every Tuesday, 7am: MACD Legislative Committee meeting

May

- 1: Molly out
- 16-18: MRRIC AM Workshops
- 18: CMR CWG, Glasgow

MRCDC
PO Box 118
Winnett, MT 59087



Phone: (406) 454-0056
mrcdc@macdnet.org
www.missouririvercouncil.info

- 23: MRCDC Executive Committee Meeting
- 24: CEMIST Meeting
- 25: PCCD Board Meeting

June

- 21: River Rendezvous, Jordan
- 21: MRCDC Quarterly Meeting, Jordan
- 22: CMR CWG, Jordan
- 29: PCCD Board Meeting

Every Tuesday, 7am: MACD Legislative Committee meeting

Other

With no further business, Greg Jergeson moved to adjourn the meeting; Karl Christians seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:54pm.

Approved on: April 24, 2023

Submitted by:

Trish Smith, MRCDC Secretary

Laura Kiehl, Chairman