

## MRCDC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025 at 1:00pm via Zoom

At 1:01pm, Chair Dana Berwick called the MRCDC Executive Committee meeting to order.

Council members present were **Dana Berwick, Roosevelt CD; Karl Christians, Lewis & Clark CD; Lorri Schafer, Fergus CD; Dick Iversen, Richland CD**; Dallas Diehl, Broadwater CD; Tom Beck, Roosevelt CD; and Greg Jergeson, Blaine CD. Others present were Dona Stafford, Fergus CD; Katie Lund, MRCDC/PCCD Fiscal Manager; Brent Smith, CEMIST; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; and Trish Smith, MRCDC/PCCD. \*Executive Committee Members in **BOLD**.

### APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed from the July 29, 2025 MRCDC executive committee meeting. Dick Iversen moved to approve the minutes; Lorri Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Katie presented the financial report. Continuing to use 707 funds. Will expend those by the end of September and then submit the final report. There is currently \$8K in checking and \$47K in savings. Lorri Schafer moved to create a budget for the fiscal year and not the new DNRC timeline. Will establish the revenue at \$132K with expenditures of \$132K that reflects the actual expenses that have been incurred from July 1 through September 30th, plus the grant budget for the remainder of the year; Dick Iversen seconded. Motion passed. Lorri Schafer moved to approve the financial report and unpaid bills; Karl Christians seconded. Motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

**CARDD-CDB ARMs Stakeholder comments:** Molly discussed the draft administrative rules for CDB grants. Based on HB223 from 1981 legislative session. Currently, no administrative rules exist for implementing grant processes. Deadline for comments extended to October 10. Discussed Molly's her comments and made several changes. Greg noted the absence of the CD advisory council in the development of these rules. Karl expressed concern about allowing nonprofits to apply for grants directly, potentially bypassing CDs. Lorri discussed environmental assessment requirements for grant eligibility and suggested that DNRC train someone on staff to work with CDs to do quick and easy environmental assessments. Dick stressed the importance of having a committee to interpret potential impacts of projects. Karl discussed financial feasibility requirements, potentially not allowing demonstration projects. Lorri moved to have Molly submit MRCDC comments as presented and corrected; Dick Iversen seconded. Motion passed.

*WIWG moving forward* – Molly stated that Sara Ricklefs with ISAN has been leading efforts. Their grant for leading the Woody Invasives Working Group ends Oct 30. The core committee is considering how to proceed moving forward. Proposing a Woody Invasives river float tour event focusing next summer. Molly asked the Council about the potential for her to lead coordination efforts. The Council was in favor.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Fort Peck Test Flows* – Dick stated they will be having an on-the-ground meeting in October; no set day yet. They are shutting down the river within the next week and are unsure if they will be able to do a test flow next year. Everyone is impressed with the information gathered by Cameron in regards to the Fort Peck Test Flow surveys this summer.

*CMR Community Working Group* – Planning committee will meet soon and figure out a plan moving forward.

*Living on the Bank* – Molly attended the MWCC symposium last week and had a table with LOTB and MRCDC materials.

*Woody Invasive Species Working Group* – Covered prior.

*MRWA (Milk River Watershed Alliance)* – Greg stated that MRWA will be having a meeting on September 23. Progress continues on the St. Mary Milk River project. There was a recent issue with concrete import from Canada due to an executive order, but it should be resolved, and hopefully things will keep moving along.

*River Rendezvous* – Molly reported on the recent River Rendezvous in the Malta area August 25-26. There were approximately 30 attendees. Will submit the final report soon. It was a good tour with valuable information, getting to see infrastructure in person, particularly the dilapidated structures. Dick stated that he was impressed with the organization and local support.

#### **PARTNER REPORTS:**

*MACD* – Molly reported that Rebecca Boslough King has officially moved on from MACD. Madi has stepped up for now as the Associate Director. An applicant for Becca's position has accepted the offer. SSA grant reporting changes – quarterly reports are now required, even if there is nothing to report, and retroactive submissions are needed for past quarters.

*DNRC* – Veronica's DNRC report is in the packet.

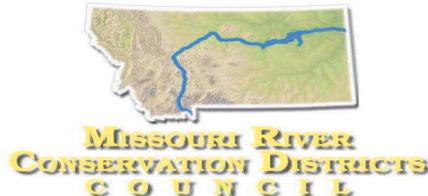
*NRCS* – No report.

*CEMIST* – Brent stated that they will be hosting the free AIS Train the Trainer Workshop on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Billings at the FWP Region 5 office. Registration has been extended to October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A couple of new EHS populations have been detected in the Great Falls city limits. One is at the Republic Services storage facility. High Plains CD Admin (Tenlee) has stopped by to visit with them and provided additional EHS information. A stakeholders meeting may be scheduled in the near future.

#### **REACH REPORTS**

*Lower Reach* – Dick stated that farmers/ranchers are struggling with crops due to weather conditions, weeds, etc.

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*Reservoir Reach* – No report

*Middle Reach* – No report

*Upper Reach* – No report.

*Individual CD Reports (voluntary/as needed)* – Dona reported that tree sales have begun. Discussed Eastern Heath Snail concerns. There is a landowner (with known EHS on their property) allowing the Amish to build expensive log cabins on the affected property. She visited with the owner to make sure EHS are not being transported from the property.

**COORDINATOR UPDATE** – No additional report. Coordinator's report in the packet.

#### September

**22: MRCDC Exec. Committee (1:00pm)**

23: MRWA Committee meeting

24: PCCD Board meeting

25: CEMIST meeting

TBD: CMR CWG planning committee

#### October

1: USACE Ft. Peck Stakeholder meeting

6-8: Molly out

8-10: MT American Water Resources Assn (AWRA) Conference

13: Columbus Day, closed.

15-16: MISC Quarterly meeting, Ft. Peck

20: MACD Board meeting

20-21: WPIC

22: CEMIST meeting

28-30: MRRIC MRRP Fall Science Meeting

**28: MRCDC Exec. Committee (1:00pm)**

TBD: PCCD Board meeting

#### November

4: Election Day

11: Veterans Day

18-20: MACD Convention

18-20: MRRIC Plenary meeting

27: Thanksgiving, closed.

TBD: CEMIST meeting

TBD: PCCD meeting

#### Other

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31pm.

Approved on: 10/27/2025

Submitted by:

Trish Smith, MRCDC Secretary

Dana Berwick, Chairman