

**February 23, 2023 • 310 Meeting**

**Call to Order:** The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on February 23, 2023. Chairman Sherwin Leep called the 310 meeting to order at 9:03am.

**Supervisors Present:** Sherwin Leep, Loren Blanksma (Zoom), Mike Hansen, Briana Schultz, Tammy Swinney (Zoom), and Bob Logar.

**Supervisors Absent:** Jason Camp

**Staff present:** Becky Clements, Elizabeth Emeline, Leia Miller, Bea McNamara

**Guests Present:** Mike Rotar (RESPEC), Buddy Drake (FWP), Mike Duncan (FWP), Mike Sanctuary (Confluence), Pete Stein, Peggy Lehmann (GD 09-23), Camy Fox, Kris Kruid (GD 09-23), Christie Francis, Dick Shockley (GD 09-23), Jeff Pfeil (GD 09-23), Dale Swerington, Dixie Deeter

**Zoom attendees:** Cynthia Fox, Holly Hill (GWC), Kori Navarro, Nick Banish (GLWQD), Unidentified "zoom user"

**1. Public Meeting regarding changes to model rules.**

**a. Read summary of changes-** Sherwin Leep read the resolution.

**b. Public Comments-** None

**c. Decision-** Mike Hansen motioned to adopt modifications. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carries.

**2. 310 Applications**

**a. Application Number: GD 84-22**

Inspection Date: January 10, 2023

Applicant:

Mike Tracy

Landowner:

same

Contractor/Agent:

Confluence Consulting, Inc.

Perennial Stream:

W. Gallatin River

Type of Project:

Channel/Bank Stabilization/Alteration.

Purpose:

This reach of the Gallatin River has been identified as highly prone to avulsions due to the perched elevation of the West Gallatin as compared to the adjacent E. Gallatin River immediately upstream of their confluence. Continued migration of the river northward within the Tracy Ranch threatens to steer the main stem of the river down a large swale that eventually connects to the E. Gallatin River. An avulsion through this area would severe the Tracy Ranch, creating a very challenging and potentially dangerous scenario for the applicant. The goal is to prevent continued lateral erosion of the Gallatin River northward, thereby reducing the avulsion risk of the W. Gallatin River and the potential of the river to run directly through the Tracy Ranch.

Proposed Construction Date:

Start date: 2/1/2023

Finish date: 3/18/2023

Inspection Recommendation:

Board Discussion

Inspection Comments:

Board needs to discuss the importance of private vs. public erosion costs/priorities. No problems with proposed treatment.

Discussion (Jan. 2023):

Bank reinforcement project. Mike S (Confluence) presents the channel migration study. Avulsion hazard areas shown. W. Gallatin elevation is 12' above E. Gallatin- high potential for avulsion in these areas where elevation is in question. If avulsion happens, as Mike S thinks is likely, it will go right through applicant's ranch. Project will make the avulsion less likely to happen. Project will install woody debris, willow stems, soil lift, rock. Last spring's high flows caused the migration of the north bank approximately 165' - to further reiterate the necessity of the project. Neighboring property is state lands. Buddy worries if they approve the project to save the ranch- it will have negative impacts on the state land. Maybe a question for legal team. This is fighting against what nature wants to do. Likely that the river is going to avulse into the Gallatin with that elevation which is significant. Mike R thinks this a question of where and how much stabilization - confluence point is likely to keep moving upstream. Very dynamic area. It is hard to predict what this system will do and the effects this project will have on the system. Mike S states he doesn't think the state is really losing anything if it does cut through the state land. There will still be public access. Mike D wonders if there is a structure, home, or road involved? Or just protecting the land? Still a factor, but if there's a home, that changes things. No improvements or stock on the private land. Mike S reports there currently is a maintenance facility (no utilities), fencing, roads, storage facility, small off grid cabin, and pond on the private land. They are well off the bank as it is today, but is considered highly likely to be threatened if/when the avulsion happens. Landowner states he values the land more than the structures and would like to work to prevent the northerly migration of the river channel. Mike H expresses frustration of people living in these systems who expect stability, as that is not the reality. Tammy thinks that even though the state land is undeveloped, it is still pushing the problem downstream. Mike S thinks the threat is already present downstream- these areas are all already prone to avulsion. Applicant would prefer that it not happen on his property and is the point of this application. Mike H thinks this issue is not preventable. There is a chance it might protect, but also a chance that it won't. Wonders how the board needs to be involved in this. Bob empathizes with the landowner, especially since the state land is not highly utilized. Mike S states he still needs to go through the USACE. Possibly could check with our legal team to see what the possible ramifications to the board if they knowingly approve a project that will impact the state land. Not sure it's a great idea to stabilize the bank in a high risk avulsion zone. Listed start date is going to be modified anyway, due to floodplain and USACE permitting requirements that will need to be acquired. Mike S disagrees with

needing to check with our legal team, as projects are approved all the time that affect downstream landowners without checking with legal, and thinks a legal review is not necessary.

Decision (Jan. 2023):      Mike Hansen motioned to put on hold pending discussion with Jason Garber. Tammy Swinney supported. This time- all in favor, and motion carries.

Discussion (Feb. 2023):      Becky and Buddy sat in on a consult with Jason Garber. Jason Garber advised to handle this as any other 310 issue. Landowner would be liable for damages, not the board as long as rules are followed exactly. Parcel of land that potentially could be affected belongs to FWP. Mike S states that project as proposed had no design issues to the inspection team. Important that CD knows the project does plan to incorporate many trees (200) and root balls to dissipate the energy and hopefully help to alleviate the problem being passed along downstream.

Decision (Feb. 2023):      Bob Logar motions to approve as proposed. Root balls will be at installed at the toe, mixed in the riprap. Mike H mentions that the board approved a prior project to help prevent an avulsion and it was required that if the avulsion happens, the project components must be removed. Would this be appropriate to put same condition on? No second for Bob's motion. Mike Hansen motioned to approve as proposed with modification that if avulsion occurs, significant project debris be removed from site location. No support. Buddy states the concern that if there is an over bankful event, that it's likely there'd be a head cut and would cause the design and project to fail. Buddy thinks this project might buy a little time, but is unlikely to prevent the avulsion.

Bob Logar motioned to approve as proposed. Mike Hansen supports. Mike Hansen, Sherwin Leep and Bob Logar approve. Tammy Swinney and Briana Schultz oppose. As Jason Camp is absent- his vote counts as oppose. Motion fails. Loren was running late to the meeting, so it was decided to table temporarily to get Loren's vote.

Loren joins the meeting- new motion- Bob Logar motioned to approve as proposed. Mike supported. Briana Schultz and Tammy Swinney opposed. All others support. Motion carries.

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**b. Application Number: GD 06-23**

**Applicant:**

**Inspection Date:** January 10, 2023

**Landowner:**

Casey Tippens, Bozeman Trax Partners, LLC

**Contractor/Agent:**

**Perennial Stream:**

Mandeville Creek

**Type of Project:**

Channel/Bank Project, Crossings/Roads

**Purpose:** The activities associated with this joint application is for the North Park- West project on Bozeman Trax Partners, LLC and State of MT owned property that is located on the north end and center of the project area and will involve development of areas for industrial use with rail sidings, as well as areas for commercial development. As part of the future developments for the site, two new roads (Wheat Drive and Cultivar Street) and multi-use paths along each roadway are proposed to be constructed, which will have culvert crossings over Mandeville Creek. The roads are for connecting the industrial and commercial areas in accordance with the Master Site Plan.

**Proposed Construction Date:** Start date: 6/1/2023    Finish date: 8/31/2023

**Inspection Recommendation:** Approval with modifications.

**Inspection Comments:** Wheat crossing- original crossing is unacceptable. Recommend moving it downstream to between cement headgate and approximately 100' to fence posts. Banks for channel should be built inside pipe to consolidate water flow for stream hydraulics and fisheries. Applicant will provide updated drawing with new location. Cultivar crossing- Recommend approval with pipe criteria: i.e.- banks and flow- same as Wheat crossing. 318 waiver issued.

**Discussion (Jan. 2023):** 2 separate crossing locations. ½ mile apart from each other. Upstream one is good project- Cultivar Road. Wheat Drive crossing- proposed wasn't a good location. Modifications in the field found a better location a little to the north. Existing diversion structure from years ago provides a better location for the culvert.

**Decision (Jan. 2023):** Briana motions to place on hold, pending receipt of update location plans/drawings. Tammy supported. All in favor, motion carried.

**UPDATE (Feb. 2023):** Updated plans submitted.

**Discussion:** Inspection team good with new plans.

**Decision:** Mike Hansen motioned to approve as modified. Bob Logar supported. Briana recused herself. All others in favor. Motion carries.

**c. Application Number: GD 07-23**

**Inspection Date:** February 8, 2023

**Applicant:** Highline Canal Co.

**Landowner:** Turner Corp.

**Contractor/Agent:** Van Dyken Trucking

**Perennial Stream:** Gallatin River

**Type of Project:** Agriculture and Irrigation

**Purpose:** The old Highline Canal headgate which was placed in 1997 was adjacent to the replacing headgate. In June of 2022, it was damaged by high water and will need to be replaced with either concrete or riprap to protect the river bank from erosion. This will be done as soon as weather permits.

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Proposed Construction Date:      Start date: 3/1/2023      Finish date: 3/15/2023

Inspection Recommendation:      Approval with Modifications

Inspection Comments:      Old wingwall has collapsed but has not totally failed. Team is most comfortable leaving structure in place with rock placed in front of wall. Rebar MUST be cut off if using wall face. If structure continues to fail an engineered plan will be necessary. 15 day waiver recommended. 318 waiver issued.

Discussion:      High flow caused portion of wingwall to fail. Undermined by high flows. Applicant wanted to take it completely out and replace with riprap. Inspection team thought it would be better to leave the wingwall for stability. Concern for scour to be great if they remove the wingwall. Eventually will have to be replaced, but this will buy some time to get a better plan. Requirement to remove the exposed rebar. Use rock to lock that wingwall in place. Will need to be an engineered project to replace the wingwall. Current plan to leave it and add rock is a good plan and doesn't require engineering.

Decision:      Bob Logar motioned to approve with modifications and 15 day waiver. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carries.

c. Application Number: GD 09-23

Inspection Date:

Applicant:      Jeff Pfeil

Landowner:      Pfeil Acquisitions

Contractor/Agent:      Sime Construction

Perennial Stream:      Unnamed Tributary

Type of Project:      Agriculture and Irrigation, Other- excavating existing pond to increase the depth thereby improving water quality for grazing livestock, installing flow control structure to reduce outlet water temperature, install fire hydrant to serve as emergency fill location for Gateway Fire Department, and installed pump vault for future stream circulation pump.

Purpose:      As built application. The purpose was to address: inadequate pond depth for clean water for stock watering, aquatic habitat, and recreation; replace rock dam with surface type spillway with a flow control structure that pulls the water from 6' below the surface to reduce water temperature flowing out of the pond; install draft fire hydrant for emergency water source for Gateway Fire Department and install a pump vault for future stream circulation pump.

Proposed Construction Date:      Start date: 6/1/2019      Finish date: 10/1/2019

Inspection Recommendation:

Inspection Comments:

Discussion:      As built application to address complaint #GD 06C-19. Buddy presents-clarification that Dave Mosier resigned for personal reasons. He was not "relieved of his duties," as the application states. Stream/spring has been

manipulated over time, but court has verified jurisdiction. Pond was built without proper permitting. Spoils piles are still there- haven't been moved. Jeff P. states he put a lot of time into the application. Dick Shockley presents about historical documents that were found that shows the spring on the property. Requests for board to require the area be restored to prior conditions. Protect the resource. Peggy Lehmann presents. Read submitted statement. Supports restoration of spring creek with the assistance of a professional. Peggy highlighted the algae growth with a photo from 2021. Whatever was being done to prevent algae growth clearly isn't working. Erroneous application was submitted to floodplain that has gotten us to this point. Repair the damage, restore to prior condition- restore the stream and banks. Kris Kruit- presents. Discussed the necessity to follow the rules and what happens when someone breaks the rules, repeatedly does so, and causes the CD to spend much time and recourses on this issue. Thinks the restoration will need strict observation. Christy Bushnell presents- served as cochair for Gallatin Gateway planning committee. Full support of complete reclamation. Worried about precedence being set if the rules are not enforced. Jeff P. states he is not a malicious developer. Didn't mean to skirt the CD's authority. States the algae bloom that was shown is normal and typical. They've not done anything to treat that algae. States depth of pond is 15'. Agri drain installed. States he cleaned out a stockwater pond on his own property. Doesn't understand the backlash. Did attempt to get permitting and was given bad information regarding the 310. Stockpile that's left is rock that will be used for another project on the property. Jeff states that the spring, pond, river are a good educational area now. He states that he only went to court with the issue to protect himself against the huge public backlash. Sherwin states their job is to protect the resource and this has been a huge issue for them to try to sort through. Buddy presents on the science of ponds, reservoirs, etc... Has studied up on this subject. Ponds and lakes stratify. Organisms live in the top layer. Middle layer, bottom layer- has no oxygen. 39 or so degrees. Much cooler than top layer. 8.5 feet is how far light travels and will cause algae growth. Key is depth. Application says the mean depth is 7.5 feet. So therefore, algae will continue to grow. Pond is also a heat sink. Pond attracts the sun. Higher temp because of that. By law pond should be sealed, but it's not. Lack of oxygen, sunlight- all contribute to the algae growth. This is already a system that is being watched by DEQ due to being impaired. Adding unoxxygenated and warm water is not good timing. DEQ standard is a surface acre pond evaporates approximately 2.5 surface acres of water in the summer- which is a time that is most critical for water usage. A quarter acre pond like this will

evaporate approximately 6/10 of an acre feet of water. Doesn't sound like a lot, but affects irrigation. But toxins, heated water, and evaporation are negative impacts to river as it stands now. Another impacting issue- emergency flow to fill Farmers Canal is through Pfeil's property- the pond will impact this. Biggest issue for FWP is river capture. No matter what the depth of pond- it's lower than the river. So, an over bankful event – water will be captured by the pond and impact downstream. No benefits in having pond, but a lot of negatives- both biological and physical. Also should be noted, because the waterway is jurisdictional- the pond is open to the public through stream access laws. Anybody can access that area. Will just make situation worse and likely will get Gallatin County Sheriff's Department involved. FWP stance is to fill in the pond. Mike H. reiterates that this is a tough position for the board. Friends and neighbors on both sides. Not a popularity contest. Public doesn't have to agree. Whether a pond was there before or not has little bearing. The board now needs to decide what to do with the pond as it is now. How it will impact the resource. Sometimes greater impacts will come from the removal of a violation. Briana states this is an in line pond. Board doesn't approve in line ponds. Mike R states that if this project would have come before the team prior to the work being completed, recommendation would have been to not construct pond there as it is on channel. Recommendation would have been to narrow up the wallow- this type project is permitted all the time. Mike D- thinks this is a small enough pond that reclamation could be done in the dry and minimize impacts. Sherwin wonders about rerouting the stream. FWP would prefer to see it restored to original state. Buddy states if they try to reroute the stream the bigger question is if there is enough flow. Toxins, algae, etc... would still be present even if the pond is taken off channel.

**Decision:**

Bob Logar motioned to deny the as built application and request the applicant to restore to original state/pre project conditions. Tammy Swinney supported. Emphasized the need for an additional 310 application/permit for the reclamation. Mike Hansen opposed. All others support. Deadline for restoration application is needed- Buddy states this doesn't need to be overengineered. The pond needs to be filled. Jeff states there's no way he can get application and project done before spring runoff. Mike H suggests 310 application due within 60 days. Will have a year to complete project. Jeff requests 90 days. Bob Logar motioned for 90 days to submit 310 application for restoration. Tammy Swinney supported. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is when application will be due to GCD office. Mike S asks what the CD considers original conditions. Fill in pond, reclaim/ reconnect original stream. Emphasis on reclaiming to pre-project conditions. All in favor, motion carries.

**2. Complaints: None****3. 310 Emergency Applications: None****4. Other 310 Business:**

- a. Deeter's (GD 13C-21)- March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to remove the rest of the rock to close out this complaint.

Extension requested.

- 2/21/23- Deeter's stopped in to say the rock has been removed. Photo evidence was shown.
- Deeter's want to verify that they won't get dinged for the tree falling into the river. Deeter's looking for guidance on how they should proceed.

- b. **Jurisdictional Determination- none**

**5. 310 Old Business: None****a. Application Number: GD 48-21**

Inspection Date: August 10, 2021

Applicant:

Dennis Davaz

Landowner:

Woosley Land & Livestock LLC, c/o Lyle Woosley

Contractor/Agent:

Dennis Davaz

Perennial Stream:

UN trib Middle Fork, Muddy Creek

Type of Project:

Culvert Construction

Purpose:

To install culvert to access timber.

Proposed Construction Date:

Start date: 8/23/2021 Finish date: 8/23/2031

Inspection Recommendation:

Approval with modifications.

Inspection Comments:

Upgrade pipe to 24". Otherwise, recommend approval as proposed with a 15 day waiver. 318 waiver issued.

Discussion:

Logging being done. Road crossings need to be installed. Marshy system with barely a channel. Recommended a larger culvert size due to larger culverts upstream. Inspection team notes that logging company designed the permits. Excellent job and attention to details. They're doing work that doesn't necessarily need to be done but benefits the resource. Acknowledge the good work of the applicant.

Decision (August 2021):

Sherwin Leep motioned to grant approval with inspection comments/modifications. 15 day waiver. Jason Camp seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

UPDATE (February 2023):

Drought conditions + scheduling difficulties prevented project. Extension requested.

Discussion:

Bob Logar motioned to approve 1 year extension. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.



**b. Application Number: GD 49-21**

Inspection Date: August 10, 2021

Applicant: Dennis Davaz  
 Landowner: Woosley Land & Livestock LLC, c/o Lyle Woosley  
 Contractor/Agent: Dennis Davaz  
 Perennial Stream: UN trib, Middle Fork, Muddy Creek  
 Type of Project: Improved Ford  
 Purpose: To provide stable road surface on old established ford crossing in order to haul logs.  
 Proposed Construction Date: Start date: 8/24/2021    Finish date: 8/24/2021  
 Inspection Recommendation: Approval as proposed.  
 Inspection Comments: Nice location for an exit ford. 15 day waiver recommended. 318 waiver issued.  
 Discussion: Same situation as previous, but rather than a culvert, utilizing a pile of rocks. Smooth it out to be used to drive on rather than tearing up the mountainside during logging operations.  
 Decision (August 2021): Bob Logar motioned to approve as proposed with 15 day waiver. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carries.  
 UPDATE (February 2023): Drought conditions + scheduling difficulties prevented project. Extension requested.  
 Discussion: Bob Logar motioned to approve 1 year extension. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.

**c. Application Number: GD 50-21**

Inspection Date: August 10, 2021

Applicant: Dennis Davaz  
 Landowner: Woosley Land & Livestock LLC, c/o Lyle Woosley  
 Contractor/Agent: Dennis Davaz  
 Perennial Stream: UN trib, Middle Fork, Muddy Creek  
 Type of Project: Culvert Construction  
 Purpose: To install culvert on existing route to haul logs.  
 Proposed Construction Date: Start date: 8/23/2021    Finish date: 8/23/2021  
 Inspection Recommendation: Approval with modifications.  
 Inspection Comments: Change pipe to 24". Otherwise approve as proposed with 15 day waiver. 318 waiver issued.  
 Discussion: Same story as GD 48-21. Upped size due to drainage as a modification.  
 Decision (August 2021): Bob Logar motioned to approve as modified with 15 day waiver. Jason Camp supported. All in favor, motion carries.  
 UPDATE (February 2023): Drought conditions + scheduling difficulties prevented project. Extension requested.

Discussion: Bob Logar motioned to approve 1 year extension. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.

d. Application Number: GD 51-21

Inspection Date: August 10, 2021

Applicant: Dennis Davaz

Landowner: Woosley Land & Livestock LLC, c/o Lyle Woosley

Contractor/Agent: Dennis Davaz

Perennial Stream: Middle Fork, Muddy Creek

Type of Project: Culvert Removal, Bank Stabilization

Purpose: To remove culvert, partially washed out in 100 year event. Do not anticipate needing as a crossing site in the foreseeable future.

Proposed Construction Date: Start date: 8/26/2021    Finish date: 8/26/2021

Inspection Recommendation: Approval as proposed.

Inspection Comments: Needs removing. Pipe failed years ago. Thank you, Ry! 15 day waiver recommended. 318 waiver issued.

Discussion: Large culvert, blown out by past gully washer. Road still intact. Going to remove the pipe, repair the road.

Decision (August 2021): Tammy Swinney motioned to approve as proposed with 15 day waiver. Loren Blanksma supported. All in favor, motion carries

UPDATE (February 2023): Drought conditions + scheduling difficulties prevented project. Extension requested.

Discussion: Bob Logar motioned to approve 1 year extension. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.

6. **Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business:** None

7. **Adjournment of 310 Meeting:** 10:39am

**February 23, 2023 • Business Meeting**

**Call to Order:** The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on February 23, 2023. Chairman Sherwin Leep called the business meeting to order at 10:59am.

**Supervisors Present:** Sherwin, Leep, Loren Blanksma (Zoom), Mike Hansen, Briana Schultz, Tammy Swinney (Zoom), and Bob Logar.

**Supervisors Absent:** Jason Camp

**Staff present:** Becky Clements, Elizabeth Emeline, Leia Miller, Bea McNamara

**Guests Present:**

**Zoom attendees:** Holly Hill (GWC), Nick Banish (GLWQD)

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA-**

1.      Guests & Public Comments on District Business Meeting-
2.      Grants/Agreements/Contract Report - See Spreadsheet

3. Cost-share Program:
  - a. Chris Derrick- replacing trees lost during 2 drought years. Improve habitat and combat erosion. Asking for \$1000. Total project costs just over \$2K. Mike Hansen motioned to approve the cost share application. Briana Schultz supported- \$1000 approved. All in favor, motion carried.
  - i. Bob offers his assistance to help with Chris's trees and try to overcome drought conditions. Elizabeth will let the landowner know of the offer.
4. Well-Testing Cost-share Program: None
5. Consensus Agenda
  - a. January Meeting Minutes- Mike Hansen motioned to approve minutes. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. Excused Absence of board members- excuse Jason Camp, absent this meeting.
6. NRCS
  - a. Report
  - b. Civil Rights review- pend until March
7. Supervisor Report: Planning Boards
  - a. Planning board- Manhattan- met 2/15. Growth policy draft approved. Sent to town council for approval.
  - b. County Planning Board- John absent. Sherwin reports there is a small development proposed next to Danhoff in Bozeman. County planning board is recommending approval.
  - c. GLWQD- Last meeting discussion topics- Turnover on board members. Discussion on funding, stream team projects. GLWQD trying to get away from stream team oversight- trying to pass to GWC. Water quality map for the county regarding well testing data. Nick looking for guidance on what the board would like to see with that. Nick reports that they now have the capabilities to share that data. Can provide to the CD to see what the potential water quality issues are. Will potentially be an annual report type thing. Hoping to have it out this year.
  - d. MACD update- Mike reports- lots of meetings as of late. Good success with NACD resolutions. Karl Christians did a great job representing them at NACD. Legislative- major funding effort to have CDs into the coal trust fund. Currently tabled. Political move- largely. Marijuana tax money as funding solution – still up in the air. A lot of strong support, but things might not work out. Level of optimism seems to

have dropped a measure. Western Sanders county has a bill regarding urban supervisors. Expecting modifications of the rules regarding urban supervisors. Likely MACD won't support it. Becky to check with Becca for the number of this bill. Jason Garber retiring.

- e. Gallatin Watershed Collaborative- Gallatin Sensitive Lands- one for water, one for historic preservation. Massive gaps in data. Encouraged to consult Cadastral to fill in some of those gaps. Another call- grants and funding opportunities, collaboration of projects. Pool resources for the resources.
- f. DNRC Update- see report
  - i. Survey- Net gain for GCD would be on the dues side of things. Mention our cost share program which could benefit from the added funds. Tie in some of the priorities we discussed in Fairmont. Training and travel can be increased with additional funding.
- g. MRCDC – see report- Mike attended. Will be receiving a good amount of funding through NRCS. MRCDC looking to be a main recipient of additional funds. Looking for shovel ready projects. Soliciting ideas from CDs. Additional cost share or support of the TIPS. Focus on forestry, impacts on watershed. Piggyback on existing activities that may be shovel ready. Collaborate as a team and get list of ideas to Molly Masters. River Rendezvous- would be good to have GCD representation at this. Not on the water. Will be more on grazing.

## 8. Staff Reports

- a. Administrator's Report- Becky – GPS- delete data set for reference to any mention of 310/flag them all to contact the CD. Elizabeth says this is easily accomplished. Offer Elizabeth to be able to assist the GIS team if needed. Becky to send letter to GIS administrator, cc the commissioners.
- b. NRS Report- Elizabeth- update on MT Recovery Response Symposium recently attended.
- c. Education and Outreach Director- Sydney- lots of planning for upcoming events. Realtor Workshop- maybe invite Molly/MRCDC (include in on the ground projects to MRCDC) to discuss "living on the banks" issues. CORE group update.
- d. Education Specialist Report- Leia- Soil Health Symposium was great! Grazing coalition- North Dakota program. Encouraged to start one in MT. Focus to be on soil health.
- e. BSWC Report- Bea- working 4 days in GCD, one day in BCD. Learned a lot at soil symposium. Incorporated ideas from that into the Ag Spotlight for the Belgrade News.

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9. Old Business

## a. Insurance Update

- i. Payne West- after saying they were going to write a policy for CDs, they unexpectedly backed out.

- 1. Rocky Mountain Insurance Services is prepared to underwrite for CDs. Informational zoom meeting was held the day we were traveling home from NOLA and the link to it has not been posted yet by DNRC. Becky will listen as soon as it's available. Lots of materials were sent to us which Becky still needs to go through. Plan for an update on this next meeting.

## b. Pavers in greenhouse- project is finished.

## c. Three Forks, West Yellowstone updates:

- i. Three Forks Council Meetings- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 6pm. Zoom available.

- 1. Next Meeting- 3/14/2023

- ii. West Yellowstone Council Meetings- First Tuesdays. Work sessions at 6pm, meeting at 7pm. Zoom available.

- 1. Next Meeting-3/7/2023

## d. Other old business?

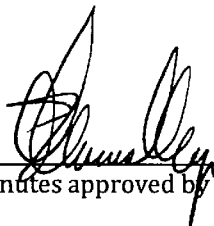
## 10. New Business

## a. NACD Conference Recap

- i. Resolution Update – all
- ii. Learned a lot, lots of good ideas, inspiring!
- iii. Lots of great speakers- Tom Vilsack- US Secretary of Agriculture. USFWS Director- Martha Williams, NRCS Chief- Terry Cosby
- iv. MT crew! Unexpected but really awesome!
- v. Presentation update- went really well. Not a lot of attendees- last one of the day, late in the day, presenter before us went over her time. But, the presentation was great and there was good engagement by the audience.

## b. Conference room electrical update- ask about retractable option.

- c. American Legion- donation request – Mike Hansen motioned to donate \$50 to this community event.  
Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. Soundproofing Office Space(s) – Initial meeting- have a plan. Project will be starting soon.
  - e. MFM Trivia Fund Raiser- American Legion donated their space. April 29, 6pm.
  - f. Other new business?
11. CD Seminars/Workshops:
- a. Rancher Roundtable workshops- March, April, May
12. Parking Lot
- a. QB Budget
  - b. Audit
  - c. Governance Calendar
13. Accounting (Deposit, Credit Card, Invoices) + Updated P&L, Balance Sheet - Mike Hansen motioned to approve as proposed. Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carries.
14. Adjournment of Business Meeting- 1pm

  
Minutes approved by

3/16/23  
Date

  
Minutes prepared by

3/1/23  
Date

## Attachment A

Funding Provided For:	Partners?	Date Approved	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Funded	Grant Progress (Funds used or committed)	Current Amount spent or reimbursed by	Final Amount Reimbursed to GCD	Final Report Submitted	Final Report Deadline
NRCS Camp/Godfrey Creek Rehabilitation	Nabut collaborative project with NRCS	6/15/2020	\$16,600.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	12/19/2022	12/31/2022
Educational Materials	GISA	12/16/2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$0.00			8/28/2023
Area 6 Pullinator Initiative road, site prep, signs and promotional	Area 6	4/21/2022	\$37,427.79	\$37,500.00	\$11,819.81	\$11,819.81			4/29/2023
Volley Ditch Breach Repair	Volley Ditch	12/15/2023	\$2,815.00	\$2,815.00					
Water quality improvement, Lining	Dry Creek, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$195,462.00	\$195,462.00					
Water quality improvement, Repair & additional lining	Highline Canal, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$205,274.32	\$205,274.32					
Water quality improvement, Siphon & blowoff	Volley Ditch, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$340,372.00	\$340,372.00					
Water quality improvement, Headgate rehab	Formers Canal, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$184,000.00	\$184,000.00					

Completed Grants

Active Grants

Contract not yet finalized

Total  
Grant \$989,423.32

## Attachment B

### Water Year to Date of 2/17/2023 (Water year begins October 1-September 30)

Gallatin:	Feb, 103%	Jan, 105%
Madison:	Feb, 113%	Jan, 124%
Jefferson:	Feb, 101%	Jan, 104%
Yellowstone:	Feb, 91%	Jan, 97%

Programs; for 2023 funding

#### EQIP: (signup deadline 10/28/2022)

Tip; Animal confinement

-1 application; (estimated financial assistance, \$440,000)

Tip; forestry/fuels reduction Bridges; 2021-2023

Will run through Joint Chiefs funding; see below

High tunnel

-4 applications; (estimated financial assistance, \$14,000)

#### Joint Chiefs 2023

-19 applications; (\$551,000 estimated financial assistance)

-progress fy2022

-NRCS; \$534,798 obligated in 2022

-most practices scheduled in future

#### NWQI; Camp and Godfrey creek; 2023

-2 applications; (\$300,000 estimated financial assistance)

-irrigation

-small acre grazing

#### RCPP; 2023

-4 applications; (up to \$315,000, remaining in financial assistance,

may cap to fund 2024 applications)

#### CSP 2023 Renewal

-2 applications funded(\$189,000, financial assistance provided)

#### CSP 2023 Classic (high priority, addressing resource concern all land uses and addressing at least 5 Montana Priority resource concerns)

-3 applications

-one medium priority

-2 low priority

#### Community Agriculture

-more practices than just high tunnels

-alley cropping, brush management, small high tunnels, no-till, cover crops, windbreaks, micro-irrigation, tree, and shrub establishment.

**Climate Smart Agriculture (Inflation Reduction Act);** Inflation Reduction Act funding will provide direct climate mitigation benefits and will expand access to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation on their farm, ranch or forest land through practices. Conservation funding is available for the following programs and initiatives: EQIP (area/state wide), EQIP tips (county), CSP (area wide), ACEP (Agricultural Land Easements)

-accepting apps through March 17

Events

Past;



Soil Health symposium; Billings (Feb 8-9)

Future;

All NRCS employee meeting; Great Falls 2/21-2/23

Misc

- Field office is still meeting with producers, planning, and certifying practices

- Hiring

- Hiring administrative assistants

## Attachment C

**REPORT TO WESTERN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
FEBRUARY 2023****CD FUNDING SURVEY**

During this legislative session, MACD is continuing to work towards securing additional funding for Conservation Districts across the state. As part of this effort, we have an urgent request for information from the CDs for our legislators. We need details about your CDs priorities and preparedness to use additional funds if they become available. We have prepared a short survey and I have included it as part of this report. **I ask that you please take a few moments to complete this survey and return it to me as quickly as possible.** I want to make sure the voices of all my Conservation Districts are heard by our legislature.

**CDB OFFICE HOURS**

We will be hosting CDB Office Hours via Zoom on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. During both sessions we will focus on CD Funding, the aforementioned funding survey, and legislative updates about CD Funding. It's shaping up to be, "Funding February!" Please join our online discussion to hear the updates, give feedback, and ask questions.

**CDB GRANTS: OPEN FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 15**

Pollinator Grants as well as Project & Capacity Grants are now open for application. The deadline for application is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Education Mini Grants will continue to be open on an on-going basis. If you would like to discuss a project or program idea or have me review a draft application, please let me know.

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARENESS DAY**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Capitol Rotunda for Conservation District Awareness Day! This event was a huge success. Many of the legislators were impressed with your efforts and I had a great time seeing you all there. Keep up the good work!

**WESTERN MT GRAZING & AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**

Several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the Western MT Grazing and Agriculture Conference, hosted by Lake County and Missoula CDs. Again, well done! This was a great event and I appreciated the opportunity to attend!

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions, concerns, or ponderings.

-Hailey Graf

**Hailey Graf**

Conservation District Specialist  
Conservation Districts Bureau

Phone : (406) 437-4435

Email: [hailey.graf@mt.gov](mailto:hailey.graf@mt.gov)

**Attachment D****Administrator's Report- February 23, 2023****310 Administration**

- (2) new 310 applications for review; (0) reinspection; (0) emergency applications; (0) Complaints; (1) site inspections (0) jurisdictional questions; (4) extension requests; (0) Stream Access Complaint

**Accounting**

- Paid bills and taxes, PERS and payroll

**Media**

- Updates to Facebook and website.

**Board Meeting**

- Information, planning, organization for the February meeting.

**Other: Miscellaneous**

- Weekly staff meeting- Mondays
- Gilly- discussions with development team, NACD presentation planning and practice
- Manhattan After School Program
- NACD trip preparations
- Model Rules changes to Jason for review. Publication to Belgrade News for formal announcement. Resolution prepped for meeting.
- Positive Pay upload for January.
- MT reporting for 2022
- Payroll report- 2022
- Rotunda Day in Helena.
- MACD legislative Meet and Greet event in Helena.
- Testify at MT Capitol for GCD in support of CD funding bill.
- 1099 materials to accountant, completed documents sent to MT + grant recipients.
- Meeting with Jason Garber and Buddy Drake for advice on 310 application.
- Contact local legislative reps regarding CD funding bill.
- Meeting with electrician for CR upgrades.
- Travel to New Orleans for NACD conference attendance + Gilly presentation.
- Gallatin County GIS – working on tracking down who is responsible for the data on this site.
  - Contact has been made with county GIS department. I explained what GCD was wanting and haven't heard back.
- Audit- contact RVCD to get their contact for accounting firm in Butte.
  - Received the POC for Accounting Firm from RVCD. Will reach out and have update next month.

**Discussion Items:****Meetings in Conference Room (scheduled):**

- AGAI meeting- 2/22, 11-1
- Area 6 meeting, 3/8, 12-2

**Upcoming workshops/Meetings (attending):**

- MFM- SNFMP meeting- 2/22
- CD Roundtable/Area Representative Meeting- 3/15, 10:00-12:00.
- Rancher Roundtable- 3/30 6pm

## Attachment E

### NRS Staff Report | Gallatin Conservation District Board Meeting | February 23, 2023

#### Grants: \*See Excel Sheet\*

- DNRC 223 Grant (Camp/Godfrey Creek Rehabilitation): Reimbursement received; contract is completed.
- DNRC 223 Grant (Invasive Species Edu Trailer): GISA is working through rebranding. Scheduled for the trailer design and wrap. Grant extension till August approved.
- DNRC RFP Funding (Pollinator Initiative Grant): Site prep materials have been delivered; bags have been ordered. Most will be distributed to other districts at our Area Staff Meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Valley Ditch Company Breach Repair Emergency Grant: Contract has been signed by GCD, waiting for DNRC signatures.
- ARPA Valley Ditch: No finalized contract with DNRC yet. Started procurement process. Put out a call for bids in Belgrade news.
- ARPA High Line Canal: No finalized contract with DNRC yet. Looking into starting procurement process.
- ARPA Dry Creek Irrigation Canal: No finalized contract with DNRC yet.
- ARPA Farmers Canal: No finalized contract with DNRC yet.

#### Cost Share Programs:

- Conservation Cost Share: CS\_04\_23\_Chris Derrick
- Well Testing Cost Share: No new applications.

#### Outreach:

Water Supply Report: Completed January 2023 report and it was sent out via email and are up on the website.

#### Monitoring:

Horseshoe Hills: Have begun discussing the plan for stream flow monitoring in the Horseshoe hills with NRCS.

Hebgen Lake: Attended a webinar on the health effects of toxic algae. First day of the season should be after Memorial day.

#### NACD Convention:

Thank you for sending us to the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. We learned from some of the national leaders in the Conservation District world, as well as wildlife, agriculture and conservation sectors during keynotes and breakout sessions. With new inspiration, we are coming back very excited to try to implement all the ideas we heard about during our time at convention.

Thank you again!

**Events/Meetings Attended:**

- Rotunda Day in Helena – 1/24
- Legislative Meet & Greet – 1/24
- ARPA Advisory Committee meeting – 1/24
- Montana Recovery Response Symposium – 1/25
- Planning for Soil Health Call #1 – 1/26
- Love your Land Open house – 1/31
- Harmful Algal Blooms Webinar – 2/1
- GVED Grizzly Bear Webinar – 2/1
- Planning for Soil Health Call #2 – 2/2
- MACD Leg Meeting – 2/7
- Planning for Soil Health Call #3 – 2/9
- NACD Convention – 2/11-15
- Stream and Land stewardship call – 2/21
- AGAI Board Meeting – 2/22
- MWCC Resources webinar – 2/22

**Upcoming Events:**

- GVED - Wildlife Crossings: Film & panel – 2/23
- Integrating Climate Change Research & Outreach Webinar – 2/27
- Stewardship cooperators workshop – 2/28-3/2
- Manhattan Chamber Meet & Greet – 3/7
- EO Roundtable – 3/15

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Emeline | [elizabeth@gallatincd.org](mailto:elizabeth@gallatincd.org)

## February Staff Report

### Sydney Lyons

#### Office & Garden

- Created and planned presentation for the NACD Annual Meeting
- Continued training Bea and offered weekly progress check-ins
- Partnered with producers to begin planning “Rancher Roundtable” series
- Wrote and executed plans for youth educational programs
- Began planning summer activities (Stewards, Farmers Market, etc.)
- Organized and facilitated conservation “partner luncheon”
- Worked with Leia and Bea to brainstorm ideas for new material
- Remained point of contact for events and programs
- Continued promoting the 2023 John Venhuizen scholarship
- Created and delivered the February e-newsletter, *Garden Grit*
- Promoted opportunities through social media, newspapers, and website
- Worked with several organizations to plan summer outreach events

#### Education & Outreach

- National Association of CDs Annual Meeting
- Manhattan After-School program
- GVLТ “Next-Gen” Board Meeting
- Working to include Manhattan and other small communities in the work that GVLТ does
- “Fleece Friday” at the Bozeman Public Library
- Gallatin Water Collaborative “Education and Outreach Team Meeting”
- Agency luncheon
- Gallatin Valley Earth Day meeting

#### Upcoming

- Rancher Roundtable series
- Harvest of the Month lesson with Gallatin Valley Farm to School
- Irving Elementary after-school composting lesson
- GVLТ Next Gen Board Meeting
- Three Forks Elementary ag education day
- Visiting schools in Gallatin County to promote the 2023 Scholarship
- Partner luncheon
- Montana Science Center ‘STEAM Saturday’ lesson

# February 2023

Afterschool Program Feb 2nd



We made  
Valentine cards  
for the citizens  
senior

We talked  
about caring  
for others  
and eyes  
of hibernation  
and birds coming  
back.

The Soil Health  
Conference was  
so amazing!

- Great tips on healthy soil, healthy bodies.
- Regenerative grazing
- Tailor to your own space & be creative

I took lots of notes if you  
want to see!

• We are collecting  
coffee grounds from  
2 coffee shops in  
Manhattan!

Senior Citizen Center Feb 22nd

- Teaching about  
watercolor painting  
with natural dyes  
and the importance of  
our water.



Mark

I purchased some  
Ag. Books and info.  
Can't wait to show you!

Working on  
Summer Stewards  
theme

and our schedules  
are filling up with  
events!