

March 21, 2024 • 310 Meeting

Call to Order: The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on March 21, 2024. Chairman Jason Camp called the 310 meeting to order at 9:01am.

Supervisors Present: Jason Camp, Mike Hansen, Briana Schultz, Tammy Swinney, Loren Blanksma, Bob Logar, Sherwin Leep.

Supervisors Absent:

Staff present: Becky Clements, Elizabeth Emeline, Sydney Lyons, Audra Bell

Guests Present: Tyler Winkel (RESPEC), Buddy Drake (FWP), Chris Mahony (NRCS), Kingsley Murphy (GD 11-24), Ryan Elliot (landowner), Alex Fox (PSC), Kyle McMurray (HD77 Candidate), Kris Gerdred (Confluence, Inc.), Miguel Ley (Confluence, Inc.), Lilly McLane (GWC), Emma Lawher (BSOA), Jim Lovell (Confluence, Inc.), Dick DeBernardis (GD 19-24), 5 members of The Democracy Project Group.

Zoom attendees: Mace Mangold (GD 16-24, GD 17-24), Drake Duford (GD 59-23), Katherine Berry (GWC).

1. 310 Applications

a	Applicant Number: 06-24	Perennial Stream:	Mandeville Creek and Farmers Canal
	Applicant	Connor Parrish, Trout Unlimited	
	Landowner:	DNRC	
	Contractor/Agent:		
	Type of Project:	Channel/Bank Projects	
	Purpose:	Trout Unlimited is proposing the construction of approximately 103 habitat structures including Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) and Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). These structures will slow streamflow in Farmer’s Canal and Mandeville Creek, increasing natural uptake of excess nutrients. During high flow events, as the water slows and spreads across the floodplains, it will increase the amount of time and space where plants can uptake excess nitrogen. Similarly, slower stream flows allow sediment to settle behind habitat structures and deposit on the floodplain.	
	Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 6/1/24	End Date: 10/31/26
	Inspection Date:	3/13/24	
	Inspection Recommendation:	Approval as Proposed	
	Inspection Comments:	A great project proposal, recommend a board visit in the fall.	
	318 Authorization Complete	Yes	
	Discussion:	No issues. Great enhancement to Mandeville creek. Would be a great project for a reinspection tour. Planting won’t take place until next fall. Stream work will be done this fall. There’s been lots of projects and the visibility of this one is good.	
	Decision:	Mike Hansen motions to grant approval. Tammy Swinney supported. All in favor, motion carried.	
b	Applicant Number: 14-24	Perennial Stream:	Baxter Creek
	Originally 89-22 (expired 12-15-23)		
	Applicant	Tom Berkley, Outlaw Real Estate West	
	Landowner:	Laurel Parkway LLC and Baxter Creek LLC	
	Contractor/Agent:		

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Type of Project: Agricultural and Irrigation, Channel/Bank, Crossing/roads

Purpose: The project is to realign an unnamed ditch to follow property boundaries and return flow into Baxter Creek. The new ditch will reestablish a surface water connection, adding minor sinuosity and native vegetation to the waterway corridor.

Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 7/1/24 **End Date:** 6/30/25

Inspection Date: 3/13/24

Inspection Recommendation: Approve with Modifications

Inspection Comments: The plan is to modify the direction of the previously permitted ditch with a road constructed over it. Pipi is 36'x100'. Fish resting structure needs to be incorporated. Submit drawings before meeting. Extend if necessary.

318 Authorization Complete Yes, from the original application process.

Discussion: Been to the site a couple of times. Jurisdictional to the CD. Development going in. Water will be redirected across the field to reach Baxter Creek. Applicant submitted and updated design that incorporated a fish resting structure. This is necessary due to the standardized practices of FWP. For every 80' of culvert, a rest structure must be incorporated. This permit is an updated version of the application number GD 89-22.

Decision: Bob Logar motions to approve the new application with the modification recommendations of the inspection team. Mike Hansen supported. Briana Schultz abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

c Applicant Number: GD 20-24	Perennial Stream: Baxter Creek
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Applicant Tom Berkley, Outlaw Real Estate Partners

Landowner: Baxter Creek LLC

Contractor/Agent:

Type of Project: Agricultural and Irrigation, Channel/Bank, Crossing/roads

Purpose: The primary purpose of this project is to add sinuosity to a previously straightened section of Baxter Creek and to restore wetlands along Baxter Creek via the removal of side cast materials and revegetating banks. A box culvert for a road crossing (Competition Drive) is also needed for this project location. An unnamed ditch will also be realigned to flow into Baxter Creek. Currently there is no surface connection between the ditch and Baxter Creek.

Proposed Construction Dates: **Start Date:** 7/1/24 **End Date:** 6/30/25

Inspection Date: 3/13/24

Inspection Recommendation: Approve as Proposed

Inspection Comments: Project will add more sinuosity and mimic the original configuration.

318 Authorization Complete

Discussion: The creek was straightened years ago. To improve the stream for development, they are going to add some sinuosity to the channel.

Decision: Sherwin Leep motions to approve as proposed. Loren Blanksma supported. Briana Schultz abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

d	Applicant Number: GD 15-24	Perennial Stream:	Hyalite Creek (Middle Creek)
	Applicant	Briana Schultz, Sundog Ecological Inc.	
	Landowner:	Middle Creek Academy Inc.	
	Contractor/Agent:		
	Type of Project:	Crossing/roads	
	Purpose:	To install a footbridge spanning Hyalite Creek to allow the school to access the east side of the waterway.	
	Proposed Construction Dates:	Start Date: 7/1/24	End Date: 10/15/24
	Inspection Date:	3/13/24	
	Inspection Recommendation:	Approval with Modifications	
	Inspection Comments:	Piers should be placed on high terraces on both banks. Do not pull trees or shrubs, cut them leaving roots.	
	318 Authorization Complete	Yes	
	Discussion:	Footbridge over Hyalite creek. Terrace to terrace. Keep as much vegetation in there as possible. Good project	
	Decision:	Bob Logar motions to approve with modifications. Tammy Swinney supported. Briana Schultz abstained. All in favor, motion carried.	

e	Applicant Number: 16-24	Perennial Stream:	Gallatin River
	Applicant	Kaiser Real Estate West, LLC	
	Landowner:	Kaiser Real Estate West, LLC	
	Contractor/Agent:	Shedhorn Services	
	Type of Project:	Channel/Bank Project	
	Purpose:	The project proposes to add riprap bank stabilization material along approximately 200 linear feet of streambank. The original riprap has "thinned" due to scouring and/or portions loss due to flanking during high flow events. This project is necessary to protect the ranch access road and to prevent loss of property.	
	Proposed Construction Dates:	Start Date: 5/1/24	End Date: 5/14/24
	Inspection Date:	3/13/24	

Inspection Recommendation: Board Discussion

Inspection Comments: Random rock placement (maintenance) vs. blanket riprap

318 Authorization Complete Yes

Discussion: Blanket rip rap approach is proposed. Already rip rap in there, and no real threat of mass erosion. Angle of the bend has lessened over the years. Buddy thinks some placement might be good, but not blanket. Open grassy area behind the bank with no infrastructure besides the road. Doesn't support the proposal of blanket rip rap. The applicant wants to maintain the riprap that was placed 2001. In 2011, the river breached the existing riprap. As a precautionary, 200 feet of riprap was installed downstream from where the road turns. Since some of the rock has been scoured; the applicant is looking to maintain the previous project. Mike comments that it doesn't seem like the river is putting that much pressure on the bank. The applicant is concerned that if they don't maintain it, the situation is just going to get worse and if not addressed then will have to consider a barb or something more intrusive. Buddy states when riprap is installed the river's velocity starts to migrate downward and naturally wants to avulse under the placed rock. This is why we recommend a rock trench to be incorporated into the design to prolong the effectiveness of the stabilization method. Placing rock oftentimes will pull the river's energy to the armored bankline, eventually the bank will fail and there will be extensive erosion. Mace states that because the riprap has moved and thinned, this indicates there is pressure on that corner. The applicant will utilize the existing (failed) riprap, which will just wash away if not reused. The riprap near the road is fine, it's 200' beyond the road is what is being considered. Applications is for blanket riprap. If they want to just "patch" it, the applications needs to be quantified-amounts and where to place. Buddy states the board has set a precedence regarding blanket riprap and does not think this should be allowable based on that. Further discussion on the options available for this reach focused on patching the existing riprap.

Decision: Bob Logar motioned to place the project on hold until new plans with additional information on quantities of fill material; Tammy Swinney supported. All in favor, motion carried.

f Applicant Number: 17-24	Perennial Stream:	Gallatin River
Applicant	Kaiser Real Estate West, LLC	
Landowner:	Kaiser Real Estate West, LLC	
Contractor/Agent:	Shedhorn Services	
Type of Project:	Channel/Bank Project	
Purpose:	This project proposes to place riprap bank stabilization materials along approximately 160 linear feet of streambank. The ends of the riprap will be keyed into prevent flanking. This project is necessary to protect access to approximately 70 acres of ranch land.	

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Proposed Construction Dates: **Start Date:** 5/1/24 **End Date:** 5/15/24

Inspection Date: 3/13/24

Inspection Recommendation: Board Discussion

Inspection Comments: Ranch road is close to eroding bank and 160' of rock is justifiable. Relocation of road may also be possible.

318 Authorization Complete: Yes

Discussion: Buddy states it's a bad idea to have a road near an eroding bank. Discussed the option of potentially moving the road to behind the vegetation. The only access that they have to the 70 acres of land. If the road is to stay, the bank will need protection. The primary channel is not currently pressuring this bankline. Engineer states 30-40' of bankline has been lost in the last 3 years to channel migration. Thinks even if they move the road, the bank is going to continue to move and will lose more bankline. Mace states there is active erosion, definite energy on that corner. During design, they considered moving the road, but considered the impacts to the riparian vegetation and thought the riprap option the least disturbing to the vegetation. He also states he thinks the USACE would prefer the riprap option over moving the road. Moving the road borders on the railroad right of way- is another concern. Buddy thinks in the long run- the riprap will exacerbate the problem. Riprapping the bank could buy some time- in case that doesn't work.

Decision: Loren Blanksma motions to approve as presented. Sherwin Leep supported. Briana Schultz and Tammy Swinney do not support, all other support. Motion carried.

g Applicant Number: GD 18-24	Perennial Stream:	Churn Creek
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Applicant Stonegate Subdivision HOA

Landowner: Stonegate Subdivision HOA

Contractor/Agent: Urbani Fisheries

Type of Project: Channel/bank project

Purpose: Pond sediments will be excavated to a depth of approximately 12 feet. Spoils will be used to build wetland benches along the pond fringe, these areas will be sodded and seeded. Inflow channel will be narrowed with pool/riffle habitat and streambank vegetation being added. The pond will be cleaned on a semi-annual basis to maintain depth and function.

Proposed Construction Dates: **Start Date:** 6/1/24 **End Date:** 3/31/25

Inspection Date: 3/13/24

Inspection Recommendation: Approve with Modifications

Inspection Comments: Unnamed Tributary of Churn Creek (Stream/ditch) When working on project flow blockage using hay bales or silt fencing, ect.. Needs to be placed on both inlet and outlet.

318 Authorization Complete Yes

Discussion: Fire pond in subdivision. Need to excavate out the sediment. Clean up that portion. Slow moving water coming in. Dredging

materials will be placed well above the pond/stream, to make sure none of the sediment gets back into the creek. Maintenance permit will be submitted eventually for this property as well- this will need continued dredging of the sediment. Too much sediment- the homes in the area flood. Sherwin thinks the trash screen should be removed from design so buildup does not occur.

Decision: Bob Logar motions to approve as presented- but remove the trash screen. Sherwin Leep supported. Briana Schultz abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

h Applicant Number: GD 19-24	Perennial Stream:	Hyalite Creek
Applicant	Dick DeBernardis	
Landowner:	Holly Brown and Ken Leclair	
Contractor/Agent:		
Type of Project:	Agricultural and irrigation, Crossing/roads, channel/bank	
Purpose:	Placement of materials to rebuild both banks of Hyalite Creek upstream from the canal crossing to stabilize the banks to stop further erosion around the canal crossing structure	
Proposed Construction Dates:	Start Date: 8/1/24	End Date: 9/30/24
Inspection Date:	3/13/24	
Inspection Recommendation:	Approval with Modifications	
Inspection Comments:	Approximately 30' of angular riprap on west side of creek. Dig 2' trench to place rock toe and no higher than 2' above cement wing wall. It would be okay to place a small amount of rock on east side abutments. Excavate gravel deposit no deeper than 1' upstream on the east bank. Do not pull or remove trees, cut and branch in the way. Spoils must be removed from floodplain. Should support 5-year maintenance permit for debris removal but not for channel excavation.	
318 Authorization Complete	Yes	
Discussion:	Messy situation. Hyalite creek is running under the pipe. Old system. Has been patched multiple times. Rock around the wing wall. Don't dig out trees. Also asking for a 5-year maintenance permit.	
Decision:	Sherwin Leep motions to approve with modifications and 5 year maintenance permit for debris removal. Tammy Swinney supports. All in favor, motion carried.	

2. Complaints:

Complaint Number: 01C-24	Perennial Stream:	Unnamed Trib to S. Dry Creek
Complainant	Buddy Drake	
Nature of Complaint	In-line pond on an unnamed tributary of S. Dry Creek	
Verification of alleged Violation:	Observed aerial photos/images while investigating a nearby permit application. Looks to have been completed sometime in 2020/2021.	

Inspection Date: 3/13/24

Inspection Recommendation: Board Discussion.

Inspection Comments: Activity has been initiated on a perennial flowing stream without a valid permit.

Discussion: Thought the stream was a ditch. Pond was dug on channel. Spoil piles still there. Pond was dug without a permit, in approximately 2020. ¾ of an acre pond. The biggest issue is evaporative loss. No fish. No berm. 15' depth max in the middle. The violator is completely agreeable to fix this issue. He thought it was a ditch. Was advised by former GCD staff that the stream was a ditch. Thought he was following the rules, but is here to make it right. Multiple ponds in the area. Precedence has been set with other projects that have come before this board. Stream has characteristics of a ditch- added to his belief that it was a ditch- not a stream. Rerouting the creek was discussed. Engineered plans would likely be required. Looks like creek was rerouted when the pond was built. Violator admits to this, but again- thought he was dealing with a ditch. Discussion on water rights. Rerouting may cause an issue with that. Discussion on giving the violator a little more time and have him talk to DNRC and see what might be able to work something out with his water rights. A couple of options to mitigate this problem. Fill it in or bypass (steep hill to climb with DNRC). Acknowledge the violation, set a check in date in 60 days. Recommended to get somebody with some expertise on how best to do this project under the circumstances. Contact the USACE as well.

Decision: Bob Logar motioned; Mike Hansen supported. All in favor, motion carried.

b	Complaint Number: 01C-23	Perennial Stream:	Nixon Gulch Creek
	Complainant	Edward Zurey	
	Nature of Complaint	Excavation and redirection of Nixon Gulch Creek to enlarge their pond. DNRC reports they have no water rights. The flow to Nixon Gulch Creek has stopped.	
	Verification of alleged Violation:	Nixon Gulch Creek has raged every spring since we've seen over the last 14 years. Now there is no flow.	
	Inspection Date:	3/13/24	
	Inspection Recommendation:	Board Discussion.	
	Inspection Comments:	Pelletier's purchased the property w/ pond already on site. While this is a violation, no remedial action is needed.	
	Discussion:	Very isolated location. Landowner owned property for 4 years. Pond has been there prior to his purchase. Very small pond. No spoils anymore. Buddy doesn't see any reason to mess with this. Very small impacts. Straight shot flow through. Pipe needs to be removed- plugged. Recommended to remove all the plumbing for the waterfall.	
	Decision:	Mike Hansen motions to acknowledge as a complaint/violation. Suggest removal of waterfall plumbing and culvert pipe. Leave rocks. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.	

4. 310 Emergency Applications: none

5. Extension Requests

6.	a	Applicant Number: 11-24 Originally GD 20-22	Perennial Stream:	Spring Creek
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Applicant Kingsley Murphy, Laughing Horse Ranch LLC

Landowner: Laughing Horse Ranch LLC

Contractor/Agent:

Type of Project: Agricultural and Irrigation Project

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to design a stable diversion, headgate, pump configuration, and water tank system associated with a new pain/ of diversion location due to channel incision disconnecting the existing point of diversion associated with various water rights from Spring Creek point of diversion and North Fork Spring Creek point of diversion. Existing diversion ditch is disconnected approximately 6-10 feet above the existing creek level.

Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 5/1/24 **End Date:** 5/10/24

Inspection Date: 4/18/22

Inspection Recommendation: Approval as proposed.

Inspection Comments: Purpose of project makes sense and approach is reasonable. 15-day waiver recommended. 318 waiver issued.

2022 Discussion: Existing diversion ditch - which is disconnected. Proposal to construct a channel to provide stable area for a headgate. Newly constructed headgate will divert water to be used for irrigation. Diverting to a vault and pumped up the hill to a tank. 5x6 vault Stock tank is 10,000 gallons. Irrigate fields from the tank. Water rights support this. Current system is a ditch system that just is not working well anymore.

2022 Decision: Mike Hansen motioned to approve as proposed with 15-day waiver. Tammy Swinney supported. All in favor, motion carries.

2024 Discussion: No objections from the inspection team.

2024 Decision: Loren Blanksma motions to grant extension. Bob Logar supported. All in favor, motion carried.

b		Applicant Number: 59-23	Perennial Stream:	Bull Run Spring Creek
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Applicant Gary Rieschel

Landowner: Ilene Casey

Contractor/Agent:

Type of Project: Agricultural and irrigation, Channel/banks, Crossing/roads

Purpose:

Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 3/21/24 **End Date:** 12/31/24

Inspection Date: 9/12/23

Inspection Recommendation: Approval as proposed

2023 Inspection Comments: The project looks good and is much needed. No in-channel construction during October and April.

Sept. 2023 Discussion: 3 different landowners. All in support of project Willows were mechanically ripped out years ago. No riparian. Creek is over widened and shallow. Going to shorten the channel to get grade in there. Have done great work with other projects. A little hesitant with the distance (7,000 feet), but it is really needed along this stretch. Revegetation will really have the greatest impact. Width/Depth ratio is skewed badly, so this project is very needed. Reinspection tour idea.

Sept. 2023 Decision: Tammy Swinney motioned to approve with the no construction months adhered to. Mike Hansen supported. All in favor, motion carried.

2024 Discussion: Don't want to set precedence of allowing construction during spawning, so FWP has decided to look at these projects individually. There are very few fish in this stretch. FWP is in support of the waiver of the timing restriction. USACE has also held up construction. Hoping to complete the project this spring. With the restrictions in April, they wouldn't be able to accomplish this. The project is a good project with far-reaching positive impacts. The potential impacts to spawning are far outweighed by the positive impacts.

2024 Decision: Mike Hansen motioned to grant an extension request with a 15-day waiver. No construction restrictions. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Other 310 Business:

a. Jurisdictional Determination

i. Applicant Number: GD 13-24 Lynn Bacon	Perennial Stream: Middle Creek Ditch Lateral
Applicant	Bozeman Hause Two LLC (Randy Akwawi)
Landowner:	Bozeman Hause Two LLC (Randy Akwawi)
Contractor/Agent:	
Type of Project:	Agricultural and Irrigation, Building/structure
Purpose:	The ditch lateral will be realigned to flow directly south to north through the property. This reroute will enable residential development while following the necessary City of Bozeman codes for road layout. All disturbed ground areas will be seeded with seed mixes appropriate for city parks and roadsides and a weed management plan will be adopted as needed.
Proposed Construction Dates:	Start Date: 7/1/24 End Date: 6/30/25
Inspection Date:	2/7/24
Inspection Recommendation:	Non-Jurisdictional
Inspection Comments:	Non-Jurisdictional

Discussion: Definitely ditch. Totally dry.
Decision: Bob Logar motions to acknowledge as non-jurisdictional. Tammy Swinney supported. All in favor, motion carried.

b. 310 Old Business:

i. **Abbreviated jurisdictional form** – Jurisdictional determinations should submit an application, as was discussed at last board meeting. This form is just an abbreviated form. If determined as jurisdictional, could then be instructed to fill out a normal 310. Buddy states that other districts don't do that. Board thinks this is a good idea and will provide a paper trail. Tammy Swinney motions to approve the abbreviated jurisdictional determination form for use. Bob Logar supports. Add a line for the CD to sign as receipt. All in favor, motion carried.

8. 310 Coordinator's Report- Audra- See attachment A

a. **Scheduled and attended inspections. Worked on updating digitizing and fillable PDF. Inspection team iPad getting up and running. Tracking down completion forms. Worked on Gilly with the team. Gilly- make a delete permit option.**

9. Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business- None

10. Adjournment of 310 Meeting- 1040.

March 21, 2024 • Business Meeting

Call to Order: The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on March 21, 2024. Chairman Jason Camp called the business meeting to order at 11:10am.

Supervisors Present: Jason Camp, Mike Hansen, Briana Schultz, Tammy Swinney, Loren Blanksma, Bob Logar, Sherwin Leep.

Supervisors Absent:

Staff present: Becky Clements, Elizabeth Emeline, Sydney Lyons, Audra Bell

Guests Present: Kyle McMurray (HD77 Candidate), Kris Gerdred (Confluence, Inc.), Miguel Ley (Confluence, Inc.), Lilly McLane (GWC), Emma Lawher (BSOA), Jim Lovell (Confluence, Inc.), 5 members of The Democracy Project Group.

Zoom attendees: Katherine Berry (GWC).

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA-

1. Guests & Public Comments on District Business Meeting-

a. **Gallatin HS- The Democracy Project Club- funding request for outdoor learning space.**

i. **Multipurpose green space for the school. Incorporate native plants. Water conservation. Benefit biology and science classes. Asking for \$5K to be used in the first phase. Feel their mission aligns with ours. Administrators with the school board are going to be in charge of maintenance. Water is also lined up. Wanting to get all of phase one done by this summer.**

Club has about a dozen members. Democracy project club will also help with maintenance going forward. Going to try to find trees and plants locally. Bob Logar motions to approve \$5K to the Democracy Project. Briana Schultz supports. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Big Sky Best Practices funding request- Big Sky Owner Association- climate and natural resources protection in BS. This publication helps highlight ecosystem stewardship, water conservation, wildlife protection, fire mitigation, etc.... Formed a best practices document. Looking for printing costs donation. \$1000 for graphic design and printing. Madison CD also put in \$1000. Does contain a mention of 310 permitting through the GCD. Goal is to help protect the sensitive ecosystem at Big Sky. The publication be distributed through their office, chamber of commerce, digitally, etc... Will be available to whole community at no charge. Discussion that the mention of wetlands could be stepped up. Still in editing stage, and feedback is welcome. Sherwin Leep motions to donate \$1001 to the cause (so we beat Madison County!). Briana Schultz supported. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Kyle McMurray- House District Candidate- HD 77 MT State Legislature. Born and raised in Manhattan. HD77 spans Manhattan, and South, Willow Creek, Townsend. Extremely rural district. His father is in the agricultural business. Lifelong involvement with ag, farmers, and ranchers. Feels he would be a good fit for our area. Republican ticket.
- d. Hammer Ranch RRGL with GWC sponsorship ask- looking for support. Going to pursue grant funding. This project is a piece of a larger project. GWC has a 319 grant on Camp Creek and Warm Springs Creek in the area. The whole system needs to be fixed. Fish barrier needs to be removed as it is critical fish spawning area. If GCD sponsors, will lower the costs for everyone, including GWC's part. Replace headgate, fish ladder, pass water through slough to try to preserve cold water. Bypass structure to take water around the waterfowl habitat. In concept phase right now. No designs. Looking for a planning grant. Need government entity to sponsor. Will take care of the paperwork on their end. Planning to work with irrigators and hire a water rights professional. Mike Hansen motions to approve sponsorship. Tammy Swinney supports. All in favor, motion carried. Lilly also needs a letter of support for the 319 grant.

2. Grants/Agreements/Contract Report - See Spreadsheet- Attachments B



- a. Final report for Valley Ditch hopefully by mid-April. Hoping to have that closed out soon. Other ARPA grants are moving along slowly.

- b. Grow Wild- will have formal report from Jen in April for her pollinator grant through us.
 - c. Farm Fair grant went through.
 - d. Discussion on Highline ARPA grant. GCD board will issue a retroactive letter, formally declaring the emergency status of the ditch breach, NRCS can also write letters of support regarding the emergency status.
3. Cost-share Program:
4. Well-Testing Cost-share Program:
 - a. WTCS-11-24- Senger- 138.54
 - b. WTCS-12-24- Verzuh- 227.03
 - c. WTCS-13-24- Mast- 155.25
5. Consensus Agenda
 - a. February Meeting Minutes- Mike Hansen motions to approve as presented. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Excused absence of board members-all present
6. NRCS
 - a. Report – see report- Attachments C.
 - i. Will request an executive session within the next couple of months to go over applications.
7. Supervisor Report: Planning Boards
 - a. Planning board- Manhattan- Bob reports- met last night. Growth policy still being worked on.
 - b. County Planning Board- John absent
 - c. GLWQD- Briana reports- plans for summer monitoring. Tech hired and BSWC member hired.
 - d. MACD Update- Mike reports- SATC meeting. Spring board meeting is coming up. June 11-13. MACD dues- Mike requests to go ahead and pay dues now, as we have the ability and don't need to wait for the dues grant to process.
 - e. Gallatin Watershed Collaborative- Briana reports- Next week will have a meeting. Setbacks will be discussed.
 - f. DNRC Update- see report – Attachment D
8. Staff Reports
 - a. Administrator's Report- Becky – Attachment E

- i. Financial review- No red flags. Wait to conduct full audit when it is required.
 - b. NRS Report- Elizabeth- Attachment F
 - c. Education and Outreach Director- Sydney- Attachment G
 - i. Lots of events! Need a tracker for our trailer.
 - d. Education Specialist Report- Leia- Attachment H
9. Old Business
- a. Governance Calendar - display on screen
 - b. Permissive Mill Levy- Becky update
 - c. Three Forks, West Yellowstone updates:
 - i. Three Forks Council Meetings- 2nd Tuesdays, 6pm. Zoom available.
 - 1. Next Meeting- 4/9/2024
 - 2. Re-election of Mike and Bob complete.
 - ii. West Yellowstone Council Meetings- First Tuesdays. Work sessions at 6pm, meeting at 7pm. Zoom available. .
 - 1. Next Meeting-4/2/2023
 - iii. Manhattan Town Council Meeting- Urban Supervisor reappointment complete.
 - d. Other old business?
10. New Business
- a. Gallatin County Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and Housing Strategy (HS) to guide future development. - review of the website. Everybody please look at it. Comment if you'd like. Can comment online. It would be wise to give thought and attention to this study.
 - b. Other new business?
 - i. Resolutions-
 - 1. Incorporating towns to tax base
 - 2. Neonicotinoids- against this powerful insecticide
 - 3. Setbacks
11. Parking Lot
- a. Conference room electrical update

12. Accounting (Deposit, Credit Card, Invoices) + Updated P&L, Balance Sheet – Mike Hansen motions to accept financials as presented. Tammy Swinney supported. All in favor, motion carried.

13. Adjournment of Business Meeting- 1:43

	4-17-24
Minutes approved by	Date
	4/11/24
Minutes prepared by	Date

Attachment A

310 Coordinator Report - March 2024 Gallatin Conservation District

310 Business

8 New 310 Application	0 Emergency Application
2 Extension Requests	1 Complaints
1 Jurisdictional Questions	0 Stream Access Complaints
9 Site Inspections	0 Reinspections

- Fielded questions and information related to the 310 application process.
- Scheduled and attended the March inspection tour
- Updated PDF Forms
- Reaching out to previous applicants

Gilly Updates

- Met with 4 Corner Foundation
 - o Working through the redundancy
 - o Adding new components to improve the efficiency of entering historical data
 - o Making improvements to the mapping

Miscellaneous

- Area 6 meeting
- Ag Spotlight
- Assisted with garden planning

Attachment B

Grant Report | Gallatin Conservation District Board Meeting | January 2024

Grants	Funding Provided For:	Partners?	Date Approved	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Funded	Grant Progress (Funds used or committed) (1/2024)	Current Amount spent or reimbursed by GCD (1/2024)	Final Amount Reimbursed to GCD	Final Report Submitted	Final Report Deadline
MWCC Grant Bear Creek Restoration	Soft Restoration on banks of Bear Creek	BSWC	3/16/2023	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,862.96	\$4,862.96	\$4,862.96	11/6/2023	11/6/2023
ARPA - Godfrey Canyon Siphon and Blowoff (AC-22-0185)	Water quality improvement. Siphon & blowoff	Valley Ditch, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$340,372.00	\$340,372.00	\$337,372.00	\$337,372.00			9/30/2024
ARPA - Dry Creek Irrigation Canal Improvement Project (AC-22-0183)	Water quality improvement, Lining	Dry Creek, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$225,141.00	\$225,141.00					9/30/2024
ARPA - High Line Canal Improvement Project (AC-22-0184)	Water quality improvement, Repairs & additional lining	High Line Canal, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$205,274.32	\$205,274.00					9/30/2024
ARPA - South Cottonwood Headgate Rehabilitation (AC-22-0186)	Water quality improvement, Headgate rehab	Farmers Canal, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$184,000.00	\$184,000.00					9/30/2024
DNRC Pollinator Grant - Big Sky Pollinator Garden (CDG-24-3780)	Creating a pollinator garden in Big Sky by Osla Trail	Grow Wild	9/21/2023	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00					12/31/2024

Completed Grants	Completed Grants
Active Grants	Active Grants
Not yet finalized	Not yet finalized

Total Grant Funds:	\$974,787.00
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\$342,234.96	\$4,862.96
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Attachment C

Water Year to Date of 3/15/2024 (Water year begins October 1-September 30)

Gallatin:	March, 82%	February, 73%	January, 71%
Madison:	March, 93%	February, 86%	January, 75%
Jefferson:	March, 85%	February, 80%	January, 67%
Yellowstone:	March, 89%	February, 79%	January, 80%

Programs; for 2024

EQIP: Tip; Animal confinement

-4 applications

Joint Chiefs 2024; Forest health, fuels reduction

-13 applications

RCPP; 2024

-1 application

CSP 2024 Renewal

-none

CSP 2024 Classic (high priority, addressing resource concern all land uses and addressing at least 5 Montana Priority resource concerns)

-1 application

Community Agriculture 2024

-2 apps

more practices than just high tunnels

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

Horseshoe Hills (TIP) 2024;

-2 applications; **Obligated**

Rooting for Soil Health (TIP) Area wide

-None from Gallatin

NWQI

-1 apps; preapproved

-Currently soliciting applications for (Please see; what is available in my county on NRCS website); www.nrcs.usda.gov then navigate to Montana and then to what is available in my county

1. Bridger Bangtails Forest Health/fuels Reduction/Forest Health; **Edited to include additional land associated with Joint Chiefs project which expires in 2024**
2. Community agriculture; generally smaller operations that service local community
3. AFO relocation; relocation or decommission of confinement facilities that impact waterways in the lower Gallatin.
4. RCPP program; properties with easements
5. Rooting for soil health (stripper header, no till, ect)
6. CSP

7. NWQI; Camp and Godfrey creek watersheds

Events

Past

Future;

All employee call; 3/20/24

New farmers talk; Dry Hills Distillery 3/27/24

7th graders Gallatin Gateway youth group talk with CD 4/18/23

Farm Fair; May 7-9th

Trainings

Misc

Hiring administrative assistants

Avery accepted Bozeman area forester position

Torie Chulyak; has been acting supervisory DC in Conrad, Cut Bank, Browning through end of May

Deadlines

EQIP; Application 10/27/2024?

CSP Application 10/27/2024?

Attachment D



REPORT TO SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MARCH 2024

The last day to file a Declaration for Nomination & Oath of Candidacy is March 11

Is a Federal Shutdown Imminent?

We have been down this road before, and another shutdown is looming. NRCS will communicate updates to CDs directly and will provide instructions on lockdown procedures if Congress fails to reach a spending agreement by Friday, March 1.

February 29 Update: The attempt to avert a partial government shutdown is taking place in the U.S. Congress. As of this submission, it is still up in the air. If you are co-located in a USDA building, review what you may need to successfully carry out CD operations working in alternative locations just in case.

Current Grant Opportunities

- CDB FY24 CD Education Grant <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit/260642/fy-24-cd-education-mini-grants> - rolling deadline, closes through April 30
- CDB FY24 Planning, Pollinator, and Project Grant Cycle 2 – <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit> closes March 15
- RDG Planning Grants – <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit/a9e0931e-49db-4427-8fa1-e518962ca2a3/reclamation-and-development-planning-grant-application> accepted through March 21
- RDG Project Grants - <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit/e3e1f03d-86ad-4576-bdb1-88cb6057c1ea/2024-reclamation-and-development-rdgp-project-grants/eligibility> accepted through May 15
- RRGL Planning Grants – <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit/076f4a29-4dd6-4ca8-aa4a-5d173522e716/renewable-resource-planning-grant-application-2025-biennium> accepted through April 30

Grant Opportunities Coming Soon!

- RRGL Project Grants
- Renewable Resource Program Watershed Management Grants
- Renewable Resource Program Irrigation Development Grants
- Renewable Resource Program Technical Assistance Planning Grants

Visit [Submittable](#) for more information.

Permissive Mill Levy Information

Montana counties use the permissive mill levy to assess annual property tax in amounts necessary to provide health insurance to their employees. As political subdivisions, conservation districts have the same authority to provide their employee(s) this benefit. Learn more here. [Permissive Mill Levy Fact Sheet Determination of Permissive Mill Levy Worksheet](#)

Upcoming Events in March

- DIY Strategic Planning Training is Tuesday, March 5 at 9:00 am OR
- DIY Strategic Planning Training is Wednesday, March 6 at 5:30 pm

CD Specialist Report for Big Horn County CD : Broadwater CD : Carbon CD : Gallatin CD : Jefferson Valley CD : Lewis & Clark CD : Lower Musselshell CD : Meagher CCD : Mile High CD : Park CD : Stillwater CD : Sweet Grass CD : Upper Musselshell CD : Yellowstone CD The best way to reach me is either by email mary.hendrix@mt.gov or calling the work cell at 406-431-2639. Mailing address: 1539 Eleventh Ave, PO Box 201620, Helena, MT 59620

Daylight Saving Time begins again Sunday, March 10, 2024. It ends on Sunday, November 3. Clocks will “spring forward” one hour at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Didn't the need to spring forward/fall back go away in 2023? Actually, no.

- Federal law still prohibits states from enacting permanent daylight-saving time (DST).
- Proposed legislation to change federal law, such as Senator Marco Rubio's Sunshine Protection Act, stalled in 2023 despite gaining momentum in 2022.
- Dozens of states continue to consider proposals to adopt either permanent daylight-saving time or permanent standard time. Yet, no states adopted a legislative change in 2023.
- Without new movement on proposed changes, Americans should expect clock changes to continue through 2024.

Article source: [Latest Updates: Daylight Saving Time in 2024](#)

CD Specialist Comments

The Lorax is one of my favorite stories chronicling the plight of the environment. The story, if you remember, features the Lorax, “*who speaks for the trees*” who confronts the Onceler, the business magnate who causes environmental destruction. After the last Truffula tree is cut down, the Lorax sadly disappears leaving behind a cautionary word “UNLESS” engraved on his rock platform. Too late, the Onceler realized that *unless somebody like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better*. Conservation districts in Montana have been caring a whole awful lot since 1940.



Theodor Seuss Geisel or Dr. Seuss wrote and published *The Lorax* in 1971. We celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2. Visit [Seussville](#) for activities, crafts, and printable for children.

Attachment E



Administrator's Report- March 21, 2024



Accounting

- Paid bills and taxes, PERS and payroll

Media

- Updates to Facebook and website.

Board Meeting

- Information, planning, organization for the March meeting. Agenda + February minutes prepped.

Other: Miscellaneous

- Weekly staff meetings
- Positive Pay upload for February
- Continue training Audra on 310 tasks and procedures + Gilly
- 941- Q2
- Reconcile bank accounts
- Gilly meeting + work with new development team
- MACD Board Meeting
- Performance eval prep for Leia
- HR assistance from NRCS, DNRC, MACD, Rocky Mountain Insurance
- Urban Supervisor – guidance from Caitlin Overland
- New office phones set up
- Area 6 Employee Meeting
- News and Brews attendance
- Records retention research
- Garden research + planning meeting with staff
- GC Elections department – request for clarification
- SNFMP purge of old records
- Ag Spotlight article written
- Personnel committee meeting
- Financial Review meeting

Discussion Items:

- No movement on MIA insurance yet.
- Looking for food trucks and musicians for MFM.
- Scholarship- please promote!
- Gilly!
 - Recap notes with Hailey.
- Strategic planning- more staff, so look at where the CD wants their priorities to lie with our staff. Terry Profata- excellent resource. Will look at getting her assistance. Where do we want to be in the future?
 - Gilly? Legislative? GCD jurisdictional areas- GC tax base? Programs? Organize files!
- Cattle Panels

Meetings in Conference Room (scheduled):

- Homeschool Hands- On Ranch Class- 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/29, 930-11
- Gallatin County Planning and Community Development Meeting- 3/20, 4:30-8pm
- 4-H Committee Meeting, 4/26, 5:30-7:30
- AGAI meeting- 3/28, 11-1

Upcoming workshops/Meetings (attending):

- CD Employee Roundtable- 3/20, 10-11
- News and Brews- 3/27, 6-7
- MT Envirothon- judge- 4/22-23. Great Falls

Attachment F

Grants: *See Excel Sheet*

- ARPA Valley Ditch: Budget Meeting with Jason and Tyler (NRCS) went well. Total project cost has been finalized and final reporting is underway. Project closeout by the end of March. Should be closed before the end of March.
- ARPA High Line Canal: WWC has sent invoices for January and February. Both paid and will be requested for reimbursement with the March quarterly report. Still in Progress: DNRC is discussing internally if they will be able to reimburse for Phase 1 of the project due to procurement issues & the 2021 breach not being proclaimed an emergency at the time. Working on deadline extension.
- ARPA Dry Creek Irrigation Canal: WWC has sent invoices for January and February. Both paid and will be requested for reimbursement with the March quarterly report. Still in Progress: Design is currently over budget; the county is working on how to fill the gap. Working on deadline extension.
- ARPA Farmers Canal: WWC has sent invoices for January and February. Both paid and will be requested for reimbursement with the March quarterly report. Working on deadline extension.
- DNRC Pollinator Grant for Big Sky: Jen has begun working on the March quarterly report. I will have an update next month.
- DNRC CD Admin Grant: Listed as "In-progress" in Submittable.
- DNRC Mini Education Grant for Farm Fair: Grant awarded. Waiting for agreement. Budget set at \$2,500 since EMS will be volunteering again this year.

Watershed Management Grant: No new details from DNRC.

Cost Share Programs:

- Conservation Cost Share: No new applications.
- Well Testing Cost Share: WTCS_11_24_Senger - \$138.54
WTCS_12_24_Verzuh - \$227.03
WTCS_13_24_Mast - \$155.25

Outreach:

Water Supply Report: Completed February 2024 report. Report is online & was emailed out to the masses.

Events/Meetings Attended:

- Calls with DNRC & Gallatin Co (Every Monday)
- EO Round Table – 2/21
- Quagga mussel response in the Snake River webinar – 2/21
- Economic impacts of climate change on forests webinar by GVED – 2/22
- ARPA/Engineering Update Call – 2/27
- Monthly Water Collaborative Call – 2/27
- News & Brews – 2/27, 3/12
- AGAI Meeting – 2/29
- Irrigation Efficiency webinar – 3/1
- Garden Planning Staff Meeting – 3/4
- MWCC Annual Meeting – 3/6
- Area 6 Employee Meeting – 3/7
- Valley Ditch budget meeting – 3/11
- Fire adapted Gallatin WGM – 3/19
- EO Roundtable – 3/20
- Envision Gallatin, FLUM & Housing Plan – 3/20

Upcoming Events:

- Belgrade Seed Library event – 3/23
- Calls with DNRC & Gallatin Co (Every Monday)
- ARPA/Engineering Update Call – 3/26
- Monthly Water Collaborative Call – 2/26
- News & Brews – 3/27
- AGAI Meeting – 3/28
- CD/ NRCS meeting – TBD
- GPI Site Visit – 4/8
- Gallatin County Weed Managers Meeting – 3/17

- The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) will host the 12th Plant Conservation Conference on Thursday & Friday, April 11 & 12, 2024 on the campus of MSU in Bozeman. *Restoration* is the theme.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Emeline | elizabeth@gallatincd.org

March 2024
Staff Report
Sydney Lyons

Education & Outreach

- Facilitated two "News and Brews" adult education events in Three Forks and Manhattan
- Delivered education programs in several schools
 - Monforton, Headwaters, Ophir, Irving and Manhattan Schools
 - Students have been very engaged! Many are unfamiliar with ag-related topics and GCD
- Hosted Community of Resource Educators meeting
 - Shared upcoming events with members and brainstormed ways to collaborate together
- Attended Gallatin Valley Earth Day meeting
- Assisted at homeschool program with Leia
- Attended area 6 meeting

Office & Garden

- Wrote curriculum and gathered supplies for all programs
 - Topics included: agriculture month, grains (Harvest of the Month), snow science, etc.
- Created engaging "Ag Week" and "Ag Month" social media posts
- Met several times with MSU Extension staff to plan News and Brews events
- Led planning for "Gallatin Valley Friday" programs with MOSS
- Met with staff from the Manhattan Library to plan adult education events
- Built relationships with online followers through consistent communication and promotions
- Remained point of contact for events and programs
- Created and sent March e-newsletter, *Garden Grit*
- Continued planning Summer Stewards programs with Leia


Upcoming

- Education programs in several schools
- Gallatin Valley Earth Day!
- Crafting with Recycled Fashion program
 - Partnership between GCD & the Manhattan Library
- MOSS Friday programs (5)
- Ag "News and Brews"
 - March 26: last event in series
- Flying D Ranch 7th graders day (taking Rolling Rivers trailer)
- Montana Farmers Market training

Signs of Spring...

- new calves
- new lambs
- birds coming back
- hens and other poultry are laying again.
- chicks in Murdochs and Rocky Mt. Supply
- rain instead of snow
- MUD!
- open farm visits at my place ☺
- planting seeds inside
- planning of the garden
- National Agriculture Month!
- * Ag Day is March 19th!

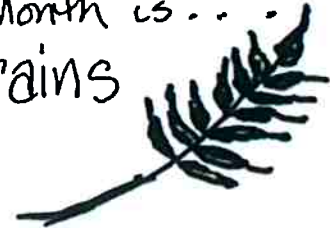
MARCH

 is buzzing!
I have seen bees ☺

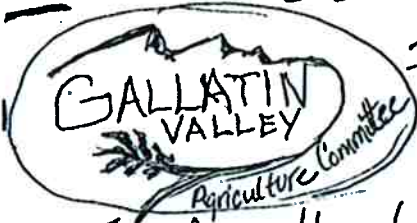
HOM

Harvest of the Month is...

Grains



We are in the schools teaching the students the importance of **GRAINS** ☺



I am very honored to be a part of the Ag. Committee.

The Agricultural Appreciation Banquet was amazing!

Congratulations to our own...

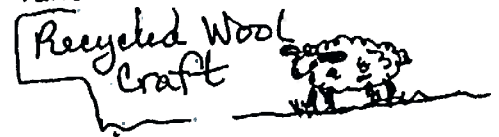
Sherwin Leep - Outstanding Farmer/Rancher

and

Alvin Vander Vos - Service to Ag.

They are very appreciative of our generous donation

We are hosting some programs with Manhattan library ~ ☺
last week in March-



Sydney has done an amazing job on outreach opportunities!
News & Brews!

We are working on Summer Stewards!

I am thankful for a flexible schedule and an understanding team during this lambing season!

Happy Spring! ☺
-Val Hill