

Petroleum County Conservation District
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Local Common Sense Conservation
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Jay King – *Chairman*, **Brenda Brady**, *Vice-Chairman & MSCA*,
Laura Kiehl – *Treasurer & MRCDC*, **Ralph Corbett** – *Urban Supervisor*, **Rodney Rowton** – *Rural Supervisor*, **Butch Arthur** – *Urban Supervisor*, **Nathan Descheemaeker** – *Supervisor*

October 25, 2023

Call to order: Chair Jay King called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:11pm. Those present were Jay King, Brenda Brady (Virtual), Ralph Corbett, Rodney Rowton, Butch Arthur, Laura Kiehl and Nate Descheemaeker (Virtual). Others in attendance were Steve Wanderaas, McCone CD; Diane Black, McCone CD; Katie Lund, PCCD Fiscal Manager; Brent Smith, CEMIST; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Those in attendance virtually were Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; Diane Ahlgren, MSGOT Representative; Veronica Grigaltchik, DNRC CD Specialist; and Therese Hartman, MSGOT.

Approval of Minutes: Ralph Corbett moved to approve the September 27, 2023 regular board meeting minutes as corrected; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: Steve Wanderaas from McCone CD discussed Resolution 23-03 “Irrigator Water Rights” submitted by Roosevelt CD, and asked that our CD consider opposition of the Resolution when it is presented at the MACD Convention in November.

Partner Reports:

MRCDC: Molly Masters stated that the MRCDC Quarterly meeting will be held during the MACD Convention in Billings, November 14th, from 2pm – 5pm; this will be an in-person meeting only. Annual reports have been printed and will be sent out to CDs and the MRCDC Council. MRCDC will have an additional \$21,720 from carry over from last year’s grant that will be put into their Travel budget. The MRCDC Coordinator telework agreement will be discussed in New Business and needs to be signed.

MWC: No report.

MSGOT: No Report.

MSU Extension: No Report.

DNRC: Veronica stated they had 14 applications submitted that went through their Grant Review, for a total of \$282,079 in funds requested. The PCCD/ACES Planning Grant for Stream Restoration was one of the applications, and it is scheduled for a grant hearing at the MACD Convention on November 14th. CEMIST reporting was submitted and the disbursement has already been sent out. There is a grant writing workshop in Lewistown Oct 30. The 2nd round of CD funding will be coming out soon.

NRCS: No report.

Pheasants Forever: No Report.

Winnett ACES: Brenda Brady stated that the next ACES Board meeting is November 1st at 6pm, following their Conservation Committee meeting. They are having a Jam Session at the 55 Main building during the December 9th Christmas Stroll. Their ACES Annual Meeting is scheduled for Jan 17.

CEMIST: Brent stated that CEMIST held their Quarterly meeting with a focus on the "state" of AIS in the state of Montana and our neighboring states. CEMIST also had a monthly meeting on the same day to discuss budget, work plan review, and funding options. The CEMIST Executive Council agreed to send Brent to the MACD convention in Billings this November. CEMIST's annual update is included in the BOD packets. The AIS Train the Trainer workshop in Missoula was well attended (17 attendees). Looking at hosting 2 additional workshops next year in Central and Eastern Montana. On November 20-21 MISC is hosting a Science Advisory Panel with regards to Woody Invasive Species in the state of Montana in Billings. CEMIST is hosting another EHS meeting in Lewistown on December 12th. It is convention and show season so that will be a major focus of CEMIST for the next couple months.

BLM: No Report.

Supervisor Reports:

Brenda Brady: Went to the "Private Lands Partners Day" Partnerscapes Conference in Missoula; had a tour of the Blackfoot Valley by the Blackfoot Challenge Organization. They had a site visit for a prescribed fire and stream bank stabilization project; NRCS and FWP has been very involved. Their Fuels Mitigation projects using prescribed fire was very effective and possibly something we can look at for our Fuels Mitigation program; possibly a more efficient approach cost wise and a developing tactic.

Laura Kiehl: Orrin had his FCA meeting this morning and they discussed the state of the grants the irrigation district is in. FCA & NRCS working together and WWC applied for another \$8,000 planning grant to get another phase of the Capital Improvements Plan accomplished but they were denied; they have been encouraged to apply again next year. Currently have the \$110K left in the grant for the creek headgate. Applying for FEMA money to fix the creek headgate and using the \$110K for the main headgate. Planning a "Kick-off" meeting in the next couple weeks.

Ralph Corbett: No report.

Jay King: Jay discussed the Area 1 Meeting; had positive comments from attendees. Katie stated that we cleared \$150 from the Area 1 Meeting after all our expenses.

Rodney Rowton: No report.

Nate Descheemaeker: USFWS have updated and are rewriting the National Refuge System policies; closed October 16th. It discusses Landscape Conservation Planning and other items. Discussed the Missouri River Headwaters Conservation Area and their Conservation Land Protection Plan. They have a Proposed manual that defines the Land Protection Plan.

Butch Arthur: Asked if there has been any contact with Stephen Vantassle. Trish stated that she has visited with Cody Ream from MSU Extension and Cody will be visiting with Stephen about putting on a class next spring for Applicators credits.

Old Business:

- A. **MSGOT Lease Contract:** Jay stated that there has been conflicting info on whether or not the \$750K will trigger an audit. Therese Hartman with MSGOT stated that if we were to trigger an audit, MSGOT will pay for it. All the contracts combined total around \$1.3 million and will allocate out around \$220K – \$340K annually. Ralph Corbett moved with the statement that the PCCD Board is not worried about having an audit, and willing to move forward with the MSGOT lease contracts, as long as MSGOT will pay for an audit if it is required; Rodney Rowton seconded. Brenda Brady abstained. Motion passed.
- B. **MWC Admin Contract:** Ralph Corbett moved to approve the MWC Admin Contract; Laura Kiehl seconded. Motion passed.
- C. **RRG Planning Grant this fall:** Katie stated that she visited with Autumn and Lindsay and they will come to the November meeting to talk us through the RRG Planning Grant that will be opening this fall. WWC is on board to work with us.
- D. **DNRC Project Grant Update:** Veronica stated that MOUs between the CD and our Partners is missing. Other than that, the grant application looks good. The MOUs can be signed at our next board meeting.

New Business:

- A. **310 Updates – Rowton & Beatty:** Laura Kiehl moved to approve the Beatty 2023-8 310 application with the contingency of photos and a sketch of the proposed work; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion Passed. Ralph moved to approve the Beatty 2023-9 310 application with the contingency of photos and a sketch of the proposed work; Laura Kiehl seconded. Motion Passed. Butch Arthur moved to approve the Rowton 310 application; Ralph Corbett seconded. Rodney Rowton abstained. Motion Passed.
- B. **BLM 5 Year Extended Fuels Mitigation Program after 2024:** Ralph Corbett moved to continue the Fuels Mitigation Program with the BLM; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.
- C. **Young Ag Couples Conference:** Rodney Rowton moved to financially sponsor the \$100 registration fee per couple for the Young Ag Couples Conference; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed.
- D. **MACD Auction Item for Cooler:** Ralph Corbett moved to send Valley CD \$40 to go towards the purchase of a Lone Mountain cooler for the MACD Convention Area 1 Auction item contribution; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

E. MACD Conference & Scholarship -Admin/Supervisors attending: Jay and Brenda are going but will be taking care of their own lodging. Laura might apply for a scholarship if she attends. Katie might attend one day. Trish applied for a scholarship for her travel and lodging. Trish will register all the supervisors that are going. Ralph Corbett moved to have Trish attend the MACD Convention; Laura Kiehl seconded. Motion passed.

F. MRCDC Telework Agreement: The board went over the agreement. Brenda Brady moved to approve the MRCDC Telework Agreement; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Administrative: Discussed Katie's MOA. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the MOA between the PCCD and Katie Lund; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed. The board looked over the Administrator October report. Trish gave a quick overview of a few items from the last month.

1. **MACD Award** – Discussion was had regarding the MACD awards and nominating Diane Ahlgren for at least one of the longevity award categories. Trish will get this submitted. Katie mentioned getting a thank you gift for Diane also. It was decided that the board members will pitch in monies for this and Katie will use the CD card to get something purchased and reimburse the CD. Possibly present this at the January ACES meeting.

Ralph Corbett moved to allow Trish to take December 26 - 28 off for vacation; Butch Arthur seconded. Rodney abstained. Motion passed.

Ralph Corbett moved to change the PCCD December board meeting to December 20th at 5pm; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

A. Grant & District Updates:

Financial:

1. **Petroleum CD:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay the PCCD unpaid bills; Laura Kiehl seconded. Motion passed.

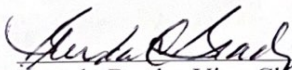
2. **Missouri River CD Council:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay the MRCDC unpaid bills; Butch Arthur seconded. Motion passed.

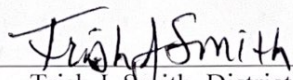
Correspondence: Went through a few unimportant items in the correspondence folder; DEQ letters and publications.

Announcements:

A. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 5pm, PCCD Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.


Brenda Brady, Vice-Chairman


Trish J. Smith, District Administrator