



## **Petroleum County Conservation District**

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*Local Common Sense Conservation*

*www.petroleumcd.com*

**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, Diane Ahlgren* – *Associate Supervisor, MWC & MSGOT*

**June 28, 2023**

**Call to order:** Chair Jay King called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:04pm. Those present were Jay King, Brenda Brady, Ralph Corbett, Nate Descheemaeker and Rodney Rowton. Others in attendance were Brent Smith, CEMIST; Josh Hobbs, Coordinating Wildlife Biologist; Veronica Grigaltchik, DNRC CD Specialist; Kasydi Lucas, DNRC CD Specialist; Frank Solf, land owner; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator (Virtual); Katie Lund, PCCD Fiscal Manager; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Laura Kiehl, Butch Arthur and Diane Ahlgren were absent.

310 Updates (Solf) was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Frank Solf discussed his project and the board looked over his 310 paperwork and the two board members that inspected his 310 proposed project (Rodney Rowton and Jay King) advised the rest of the board to approve his 310 permit. Ralph Corbett moved to approve the Frank Solf 310 permit; Rodney seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ralph Corbett moved to approve the May 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes with amendments; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

**Guest/Public Comment:**

**Partner Reports:**

**MRCDC:** Molly Masters stated that they had a couple of tours the week prior and they were both well attended, wrapping up financials this week with Katie and will be gone the end of July for maternity leave.

**MWC:** No Updates.

**MSGOT:** Trish stated that due to weather MSGOT hasn't been able to meet up with the three landowners with the leases, but we are scheduled to go out July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> if MSGOT officially approves the leases at their next meeting the following day.

**MSU Extension:** No Updates.

**DNRC:** Veronica introduced Kasydi Lucas who is training to be a CD specialist. She is in Helena and will be placed in a in a Montana location in need of a CD specialist after she is done training.

Kasydi was also part of Stacy Barta's ranch internship program. Veronica asked the board if Petroleum County has a water reservation since CDs were granted water rights with a certain allocated amount and CDs can then authorize landowners to use these water reservations. Had another funding forum the day prior to go over survey results; she handed out sheets and went over the summary of the results. This trust will take a few years to accumulate. At the start of the new fiscal year, education grants will be open for fall projects. Veronica will have vacation leave for a couple weeks in July.

**NRCS:** Trish stated that Reba Ahlgren told her that they have one more SGI contract approved for a total now of six.

**Pheasants Forever:** Josh gave an update on the Conservation Committee. They have twelve projects, wrapping up several in the next month to six weeks. April 2024 they all need to be completed. Got the next NFWF grant – will be opening up for applications. Mid-September is the next deadline and will go over applications at the October meeting. BDA projects are going very slow due to the rain. Starting Tuesday, the youth group will be on the King ranch and the adult group will be at the Schultz ranch.

**Winnett ACES:** Brenda stated that there will be a Jam Session at the 55 Main Building this Saturday and they will always be the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. The August Jam Session will also have the All-ACES Meeting with a potluck.

**CEMIST:** Brent stated that today CEMIST had their monthly meeting: June 13th AIS Early detection and Monitoring training was hosted by CEMIST in Miles City and there was a total of 10 attendees, there will be another AIS early detection and monitoring class in Harlowton on August 9th. Criag McLane was the instructor from MT FWP. FWP has potential funding available for CEMIST staff to do additional AIS monitoring. There may be an ask of the PCCD to support a contract between MT FWP and CEMIST/PCCD. Quarterly Meeting July 26th next month, Feral Pig presentation with Jared Beaver from MSU Extension. Request from Fergus CD for an Eastern Heath Snail in Lewistown in early December. CEMIST and MISC are negotiating a possible contract for CEMIST to coordinate 4 ISAN AIS trunk workshops. CEMIST will update PCCD with information and there may be a request for PCCD, on CEMIST's behalf, to enter into a contract with DNRC(MISC) for these workshops.

**BLM:** No Updates.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Brenda Brady:** No Report.

**Laura Kiehl:** No report.

**Ralph Corbett:** Trying to get the sage grouse markers made up but weather hasn't cooperated and also been very busy.

**Jay King:** No Report.

**Diane Ahlgren:** No report.

**Rodney Rowton:** Funding came in for the river bank project around his house. It is currently around 200 feet away from his house; cut 75 feet closer this year.

**Nate Descheemaeker:** They did get comments developed for the landscape conservation rule for the Grass Commission Front and did work for the counties. Going to be working with some counties with the coal deal. The environmental impact statement will be due in the month. There is around 1.2 million acres open for lease that might be reduced to 52,000 acres. Going to be a possibility of huge reductions in coal in the Powder River basin. They have 80% of the surface coal that the BLM manages in the entire nation. Will be getting comments in on that as well.

**Butch Arthur:** No report.

### **Old Business:**

- A. **Fire Mitigation Program/Info Meeting:** Trish discussed the upcoming plans for having a fuels mitigation informational meeting in September and she will let the board know the official date soon. Planning on having a supper along with the meeting; Wendy Jones will be facilitating the meeting along with Forester Bruce Reid. Applications will be handed out at the meeting and Bruce will start working with land owners this fall and next spring.
- B. **Irrigation Grant:** Trish stated that Murnions called and left a message earlier that day that they would like to drop this for now (everyone listened to their message). This is just a planning grant and will need to get another grant for the actual project work. It is best that the water users get an Irrigation Association set up. Should set up a separate meeting for all the water users and the CD to figure out everyone's thoughts and what the next plan will be, but will wait to see what funding will be like this fall since Veronica stated there will be some changes.
- C. **Area 1 Meeting:** Trish discussed the upcoming Area 1 meeting that will be October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Decided best to just stick to the MACD agenda and if we have anything after their agenda (tour, etc.) it will just be optional for attendees in case some attendees would rather head back home after the main meeting. Trish has discussed catering with the Winnett Bar but no menu has been decided yet. Will start getting registrations the end of Aug/Early September. The Area 1 group/MACD will be having a planning meeting soon.
- D. **BLM Public Lands Rule Comment Letter Approval:** Everyone looked over the letter that Brenda put together using suggested comments that were sent by the MT Stockgrowers. Ralph moved to approve the letter with amendments; Rodney seconded. Motion passed. Trish will send the letter along with the MRCDC comment letter.

### **New Business:**

- A. **310 Updates – Frank Solf:** This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- B. **Possible change to Board Meeting time:** There was discussion on moving the

meeting to Wednesday, same time. This would work better for the administrator so that she can work on meeting items the next day at the office, and not have to move them to the following week. Decided to keep the July meeting on Thursday, but will check the community calendar and with partners to see if Wednesday at 5 would work. Tabled to the next July agenda.

**C. Upcoming TA Grant Cycle:** Trish stated that we will need to apply for this in August, and the deadline is Mid-September. We are finishing up the 2021 TA grant and will be using the 2022 TA grant soon.

**D. Future 2023 Education Programs Grant:** It was decided to table this until spring.

**E. Local Working Group Fall/Winter Meeting** – Discussed a future Local Working Group Meeting. Decided to have it around the same time as before but looking at a new plan to get more attendees; possible different locations at area ranches.

**Administrative:**

**A. Grant & District Updates:** Went over Admin. monthly report and answered questions. Discussed the River Rendezvous/CMR CWG tours the week prior and learning to use the EZ Jects on Saltcedar. Purchased two EZ Jects through the MWC and once they are done using them the EZ Jects will be stored at the CD, and the CD can possibly use them when MWC isn't using them. Discussed the No-Till Drill rental agreement and Caitlyn Overland's suggestions, and the current status of the No-Till drill. Discussed the MCDEO Member Dues and it was decided that Trish would be the only one paid for through the CD as a member, and the other employees that are funded under other grants (MRCDC, CEMIST, MWC) can pay for this membership also, but it will be funded through their specific grant.

**Financial:**

**A. Petroleum CD:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay PCCD unpaid bills; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

**B. Missouri River CD Council:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay MRCDC unpaid bills; Brenda Brady Seconded. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Folder of recent correspondence was brought for the board to look over.

**Announcements:**

A. Next Board meeting: Thursday, July 27, 2023, PCCD Office

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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J.C. King, Chairman

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Trish J. Smith, District Administrator