

BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
August 10, 2010

Board of Supervisors' regular scheduled meeting, August 10, 2010, called to order at 8:07, by Vice Chairman, Bob Nelson.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Eldredge, Jim Lindquist, Kent Myers, Bob Nelson, Bob Popham, Steve Vogt.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Tom Ruffatto

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eric Anderson (Ravalli County Floodplain), Henry Burkwhat (NRCS), Julie Ralston (BCD)

MINUTES:

Eldredge moved to approve with an amendment the July 27, 2010 minutes. Vogt seconded, motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

- Concerning Farm Services request for 2010 crop yields and grazing loss, Popham stated, there was no continuity of the soil moisture this year. The growing season was at least three weeks later than normal. The BCD believed that Ravalli County had a 33% loss on orchard grass hay yields and grazing loss.
- BCD Board reviewed the Ravalli County Commissioner's "Mitchell Slough Portage Request Amendment to Written Findings June 23, 2010", and its request that the BCD forward this information to Scott Blahnik, the person who requested the portage request. Ralston tried to forward the information, but it was returned undeliverable with no forwarding address. She notified Glenda Wiles with the Ravalli County Commissioners to let them know that the BCD did not have the current mailing address for Mr. Blahnik. Ralston will place the returned envelope and information in the Mitchell Slough file.
- Ralston reported that she was able to contact Brianna Randall with the Clark Fork Coalition to gather a little more information on the Hamilton Ground Water Investigation Program Project. Brianna apologized for not being able to attend tonight's meeting, but that Al Pernichele with the Bitter Root Water Forum could probably answer any of the BCD's questions or concerns. The ground water study grant, which the Clark Fork Coalition thought the BCD might be interested in applying for, is offered through the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The application for the grant is due August 13th. Burkwhat was concerned with the reasoning behind the ground water study and whether it would be used to target the agricultural community. Vogt moved to keep an eye on the project and if it is that important the BCD could possibly apply for or sponsor a grant the next time it is offered. The BCD was not given enough time or information to apply this year. Myers seconded, motion carried.
- The BCD Supervisors received a CD copy of the DEQ's "Bitterroot Main-stem TMDL Planning Area Draft Nutrient, Sediment, and Temperature Report."

COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORTS:

- Myers had nothing new to report from the Open Lands Board.
- Eldredge reported, the County Planning Department has recommended approval on the proposed Canyon Breeze LLC Subdivision located behind Les Schwab in Stevensville. The proposed subdivision calls for 25 dwellings on one acre parcels. Each dwelling will have its own well and septic. One concern is the density of wells and septic's located within close proximity of the river. DEQ would be the ones to address this concern. Burkwhat asked does anyone look at the soil types? Eldredge believes this also is a concern and it will be up to the County Commissioners to make final approval.
- Burkwhat asked Myers if the Opens Land Board was directly linked to the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). It is Myers understanding that the FRPP is not available to Ravalli County because of the BCD's decision to withdraw its designation of local soils of importance. Burkwhat stated, the BCD's decision should not have any impact on local Ranchers and Farms from participating in FRPP. Myers believed that this issue is something that needs to be revisited to help clarify the issue. Popham asked Burkwhat to visit with Dan Huls concerning this subject.

NRCS REPORT:

Henry Burkwhat reported:

- His temporary one month assignment has been completed.
- The local NRCS office has 56 EQIP applications that need to be dealt with right away. Kris Berg from the state NRCS office will come and help get the local office to get caught up on its workload.
- There are three proposed irrigation projects. Two of the projects, Sunset Bench and the Blake Highline Ditch, have applied for the National Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Sunset Bench was looking for a gravity pipeline and the Blake Highline Ditch wanted a fairly lengthy irrigation flume. Burkwhat reported, that both projects applications did not get accepted for CCPI funding assistance. Burkwhat is going to submit a Special Initiative for these two projects and a third irrigation project. He will ask the area office to assist him in putting together the proposals. The main resource concerns are energy and water savings.
- The Huls Dairy project is not working as planned. So, NRCS is inclined to possibly pay for the needed equipment to bring it up to 100% efficiency.
- NRCS is working closely with the Salish Kootenai College to upgrade its soil and conservation curriculum.

Popham asked Burkwhat if NRCS could cost-share on placing a turbine in a gravity pipeline for a ditch system to generate electricity, and are there any ditch systems here in the Bitterroot large enough to support this concept? Burkwhat stated, yes there are ditch systems in Ravalli County large enough. However, he is unaware of any NRCS cost-share programs for this kind of project, even though he believes it can show a huge savings in energy.

GRANT INFORMATION:

Nothing to report.

NOTICES

BCD Board Reviewed:

- The Ravalli County Floodplain Department's notice of sufficiency and invitation to comment on the Raymond Dieckman proposed floodplain project.
- Eric Anderson explained the Ravalli County Floodplain Department's notice of a floodplain violation. This notice is for non permitted construction on the East Fork of the Bitterroot River by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT). The MDOT has received all the other necessary permits required and has applied for an after the fact floodplain permit.
- DEQ's short-term turbidity permit issued to John Petersen in the Nez Perce Fork drainage.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 310 Application BT001-2010 Xavier Pastor/Little Sleeping Child Creek-remove sediment from an existing pond. Request for inspection. Vogt tabled.
2. 310 Application BT019-2010 Michael and Nancy Canning/Bitterroot River-bank stabilization. Eric Anderson stated, the landowner has had to move his road after an emergency highwater situation. Therefore, the applicant will not be able to shorten up his proposed project as suggested by other permitting agencies. It is Eric Anderson's understanding that the applicant will amend his design to address the fisheries' concern and possibly include the removal of an adjacent log jam. Lindquist tabled for an amended plan. Burkwhat is concerned with the acceptable amount of sediment and nutrients being deposited in the river from soil erosion compared to a proposed stabilization project that is going to minimize that erosion? Eric Anderson believed the fisheries issue is directed more toward the time of year for which a certain amount of sediment is acceptable. Nelson believed that anything more than 2% could be an issue.
3. 310 Application BT045-2010 Jean & Lucian Taylor, Wanstrath/Tin Cup Creek-flood protection, bank stabilization, and gravel removal. Nelson moved to approve with modification that the proposed stabilization on Sections A & B be done with root-wads and Section C will be done with rip-rap. Vogt seconded, motion carried.
4. 310 Application BT050-2010 Twin Creek Properties, LLC/Robertson Creek-replace existing culvert or extend it. Eldredge moved to approve as a project with a 15-day waiver. Lindquist seconded, motion carried.
5. 310 Application BT051-2010 Blackfoot Telephone Coop., Charles Scripts/West Fork-bore new telephone line. Nelson moved to approve with modification that the conduit should be bored below the scour line. Myers seconded, motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

- 310 violation BT044-2010 Will Mehring/Tin Cup Creek. The BCD reviewed two letters one from Will Mehring and another from Andy Massie. Vogt moved to forward the letters to George Corn for legal review. Nelson seconded, motion carried.
- The BCD reviewed a notice of completion on 310 permit BT021-2010 Kootenai Springs Ranch/Bitterroot River-irrigation.
- The BCD reviewed Mr. Nesler's request for an extension on 310 permit BT124-2009 replacement of an existing headgate/West Creek. The extension will be placed on the next BCD agenda. The BCD also reviewed Nesler's final bridge design for approved 310 permit BT128-2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 310 Application BT052-2010 Jim Omdahl/Bitterroot River-irrigation and stabilization. Eldredge stated he has visited the site and it appears that the proposed project is for more bank stabilization then irrigation. Eldredge tabled for a design and further review.
2. Emergency 310 Application BT053-2010 Richard Smith/North Burnt Fork Creek-removed debris to prevent flooding. Eldredge moved to approve as an emergency. Vogt seconded, motion carried.
3. 310 Application BT054-2010 Ryan and Brandy Watley/West Fork of the Bitterroot River-replace existing bridge. Nelson moved to approve with modifications to the application. Modifications will include: 1.) New abutments will be placed 10' back from the existing ones. 2.) Approximately four temporary ford crossings with heavy equipment during construction. 3.) The bottom I-beam of the bridge will be placed 4' above the highwater mark to allow for ice and debris flow. 4.) The old cross logs will be removed. 5.) Detail on the quantity and placement of precast. Myers seconded,
4. 310 Application BT055-2010 Peter Krause, Sub Peak/Bitterroot River-bank stabilization. Eldredge tabled for inspection.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Nelson gave a brief report on the two BCD watershed presentations. One, on the Blackfoot River, because it was so far away, made for a very long day. The other was at the Daly Mansion, “Kids in the Garden.” The presentations went very well. Ralston and Nelson requested that the BCD’s logo and contact information be painted directly on the trailer. Eldredge moved to have the BCD’s logo and contact information professionally painted on the watershed trailer. Vogt seconded, motion carried. Vogt believed that the BCD should consider limiting where and how far the trailer it goes for presentations. Eric Anderson asked if the BCD would consider leasing out the trailer? The BCD had some liability concerns with the idea.

PUBLIC OPEN MIKE:

- Burkwhat announced that the Local Working Group will hold a meeting at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 11th, 2010.
- Burkwhat asked the BCD if it had heard whether or not the Forest Service (FS) is now requiring fish screens on all irrigation diversions on FS property? The BCD had not heard this and believed that he should contact the FS.
- Eric Anderson reported that Mary Lipert a landowner located south of Donaldson Gravel Pit on the Bitterroot River, is looking for funding on a possible bank stabilization project. Anderson will contact her and let her know about the BCD cost-share program.

DISTRICT BUSINESS:

1. Vogt moved to approve the Treasurers report and pay the bills with county checks 4706-4711. Lindquist seconded, motion carried.
2. The BCD reviewed its 2010 Certified Taxable Valuation Information.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

The BCD Board Reviewed:

1. MACD report on its trip to Washington, D.C.
2. Magazines: Dell; GS Graduate School; Office Depot.
3. NACD Forestry Notes
4. Northwest Power and Conservation Council Quarterly

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Bob Nelson

Bob Nelson, Vice Chairman

Julie Ralston

Julie Ralston, District Administrator

Date: 08/31/2010