



YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 13, 2024

February-March Board Meeting Minutes

1670 48th St. West Suite #2, Billings MT 59106

1:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Sedgwick - Chair; Stacey Robinson – Vice Chair, Leroy Gabel (virtually), Brad Kraft, Bryan Mothershead

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-BOARD PRESENT: LaVerne Ivie – YCD, Nina Sedillos – YCD; Seanna Torske – NRCS; Shane Burton – NRCS; Kylie Martin – NRCS (virtually); Crystal White – Pheasants Forever; Carolyn Sevier – Yellowstone River Parks Assc.; Trestin Feagler – MSU Extension Office; Yellowstone County Attorney's office: Steve Williams

310 applicants:

Others: Don Sasse – retired MBMG

Chair Sedgwick called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

Roll Call

After introductions, Chair Sedgwick informed attendees: All issues will be addressed to the Chair; public comments are always welcome but ask that you wait until the issue is addressed on the agenda, ask to be recognized by the chair and then limit comments to 3 minutes; no action will be taken on any item, not on the agenda. Attendees were reminded to sign the attendance sheet.

Agenda Changes: Change in Peterson's 310 application

Minutes: _____ made a motion to approve the January 2024 Minutes as written, second by Robinson, motion passed.

310's

- **Applications, Emergencies, Complaints & Violations:**

- **YE-11-22 Joy Stevens, Alkali Creek** – Report on Current Status

- Still in violation but moving forward. Stevens sent Ivie an email informing YCD of her progress. Representative Williams affirmed that Stevens is making progress and is attempting to acquire a geotechnical study. Legal counsel and board are both comfortable with progress.

Other 310 issues & Projects

- **Yellowstone River CD Council** – No report.

Agency Reports

- **NRCS – Seanna Torske, Billings FO DC** reported that Zoe shared field office report with YCD board via email.
 - Hardin Field office advertising openings for recent graduates. Openings close at the end of February.
 - No comments from board on NRCS Field Report.

- **Yellowstone Co. Extension – Tristin Benson** reported:
 - MATE Show coming up. The Extension Office will be putting on six free classes at the show, each giving attendees a pesticide license.
 - Billings Public Library requested another Soil Your Undies event.
- **Yellowstone Co. Weed Department** – Joe Lockwood unable to attend. Emailed report stating that the department received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture. Purchased Salt Cedar spray. Still has 21 totes. Used some of the spray on Common Buckthorn problem at Two Moon Park. Sent before and after pictures.

BUSINESS MEETING

- **Old Business**
 - **RMC/MSU-B/BBWA Canal project proposal** – Sedillos reported that Professor Ostovar (RMC) is still researching grants, so the project proposal is at a standstill.
 - **Website** – Board approves of changes and updates to the website.
- **New Business**
 - **YCD Supervisor Area 5 – Realignment and Proposed Resolution Discussion/Decision** – Board would like to move forward with the way things are currently. Will need to wait for the Council to approve appointments before the Board can vote.
- **Board Meeting Absences:** None
- **T-Report**
 - Kraft made a motion to accept the November and December Treasurer’s Reports as written and reviewed, second by _____, motion passed.
 - **Dues – Chair opened matter to the board for discussion**
 - **Chamber of Commerce** – Board voted to keep membership. Kraft moved, _____ seconded; motion carried.
 - **NILE** – Board agreed that NILE is no longer moving in accord with YCD interests; voted not to continue membership. Gabel moved, Robinson seconded; motion carried.
 - **Beartooth RC & D** – Ivie iterated that this investment would be beneficial for future YCD interests. Board agreed. Kraft motioned, Robinson seconded; motion carried.
 - **NACD** – Board agreed to continue membership with NACD at Bronze level. Gabel moved to continue membership, Williams seconded; motion carried.
 - **Travel & Meetings** – None
- **Standing Committee Reports**
 - **Arbor Day** – Will be April 26th, 2024 from 10 am to 1 pm at location of YCD office. Parking TBD. Kraft has access to a walk-in cooler to store trees. 400 trees ordered, 9 different species. Website updated with press release and care guides for individual species. Robinson will make signs to guide interested parties.
 - **City Lakes/West End Reservoir** – Robinson has upcoming meeting with City of Billings to discuss Mater Plan. Part of planned area might be contested by Knife River as 1.5 million cubic yards was dedicated to them by the city. Board will discuss findings after meet with the City.
 - **Yellowstone CD Water Reservations** – Three (3) new landowners were made aware that they need to transfer water reservations into their names two (2) months back. After no response from the landowners, the board agreed at the last meeting to terminate their water use authorizations. DNRC responded by suggesting that the landowners be pointedly invited to a board meeting to discuss the issue. The decision to terminate will be held over until the next board meeting.
- **Unscheduled Matters** – none
- **Next YCD Board Meeting** – Next YCD meeting will be held March 19th, 2024.
- Kraft made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 pm.