

## NORTH POWELL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Regular meeting May 4, 2015**

**1:30, Kyle Graveley, hosting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tracy Manley. Supervisors present were Kevin Ertl, Jim Stone, Tim Quigley, and Kyle Graveley. Also present were Jason Saari, Brad Weltzien, Glen Green, Susie Johnson, and Ron Pierce.

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

It was moved by Jim Stone, seconded by Kevin Ertl and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Treasurer Jim Stone reported \$2,366.47 in the district checking account and \$2,398.90 in the district savings account.

District Secretary Susie Johnson provided written financial reports. The balance in Petty Cash is \$88.00 and \$47,680.00 in County Funds.

### **CLAIMS TO BE PAID:**

There were no claims to be paid this month.

### **SB-310:**

1. NP-17-14, Michael A. Herrin, Washington Creek Mining. **On Hold.**  
Susie reported that it is in the hands of the Forest Service now and she has not heard anything else about it.
2. NP-01-15, Ryen Neudecker, (Gary & Sharon Jacobsen), West Fork Jacobsen Spring Creek  
Culverts/Channel alteration/Fish Habitat.  
Ron reported that the Army Corps. has someone new on board that wants to look at it and he has stipulations for the project to narrow the creek channel. There are three pivot crossings and the rest of the system has already been restored. There has been 15,000 feet of the creek restored in the last 10 years. However, the new person, Nathan Green, has a huge list of stipulations including wetlands remediation, grazing plans, old permit reviews, etc. He will be there tomorrow with Ron and Ryen, so hopefully they can take care of some of his concerns when he sees it all tomorrow with them. Any of the Supervisors are welcome to come tomorrow too.
3. Doug Rohrer, follow up inspection. Susie reported that she not heard anything from him. She sent him the law book that the CD's attorney said she should send him. She wrote him a letter at the same time to send with the book informing him that the Supervisors still

wanted to have an inspection on his place, but she hasn't heard back from him. Doug and Meyers are at odds now over the headgate situation. The Supervisors should probably get together sometime soon and go look at everything. Meyers received their 310 permit for the headgate work, but they re-routed the creek, breeched the creek, breeched the canal and also went on to Rohrer's doing excavating work to make a bank for the canal. Rohrer has been doing some digging there now too in order to install a post marker for surface limits and with all the new excavating, the ditch is leaking. They are fighting over who should be allowed to do work there now. Doug did shut his water off when asked, so they could clean the canal, which was helpful and let them get it cleaned out well this year. Susie will e-mail Doug that the Supervisors want to come and do the inspections next Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. They will meet at the corrals on Doug's place at 9:00 a.m. to go and look at the headgates, Doug's and Meyers' and they should be done with everything by noon. Ron also asked them to check and see if the fish ladders have been installed yet. They had one year to get them installed with the permit they were issued, but they may be stretching it out until fall. There was a brief discussion on the problems involved with the work that was done, how it was done, access violations that occurred, etc. After the Supervisors look at everything next week and take pictures, they will have documentation on the situation and can then proceed to look at issuing violations, if needed, to resolve the situation and get everything functioning as required.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2014 Annual Report. Susie passed out copies of the report to everyone. It was a review of what they worked on during the last year; a copy of the report is in with the minutes.
2. 2015 Annual Plan. This was approved at the last meeting and just needed to be signed today.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Kyle reported that Ryen Neudecker asked him to check with the other Supervisors for their support of an RRGL Planning Grant that Ryen wants to apply for through the DNRC to cover the design plan costs for the ditch spring project. He will be asking for \$5,500 and the CD would be the applicant for the grant and in return for completing the application and sponsoring the grant, the CD would get some Admin funds from it; 10% is the usual rate for the Admin fees and that was the rate Susie told Ryen would need to go to Admin. It was moved by Jim Stone, seconded by Tim Quigley and motion carried to approve sponsoring this grant application as presented.

#### **MT FW&P 124 Permits:**

1. University of Montana, Shanley Creek, Road decommissioning & culvert removal or replacement was noted as good conservation project work that ties in with the Forest Service work being done there.
2. Powell County Road Department, Jefferson Creek, Replace culvert was noted. It was an emergency 124 where the culvert was coming apart and the Avon road crew were worried that the road was washing out as well. It has been reviewed and the old small damaged culvert will be pulled out and replaced

with a bigger six foot pipe to be counter sunk 20% and it should turn it all into a better road crossing when completed. It was done under a 20 day permit limit and is probably already finished, since they have been logging there recently.

3. Cottonwood culvert crossing was discussed briefly. Jim and Ron have looked at that one already and the 124 permit and rip-rap work were done to protect it in case of high water. The culvert will still need to be replaced, so the County engineer has looked at it and they are looking into getting the financing together for the project.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

Ron reported that Greg Munther has quit doing the 310 inspections for him. They are looking at someone else to do the inspections; Amy Chadwick is one of the possibilities and she would be doing this on her own time for them. She will not be doing it as part of her consulting firm position. If it works out for her to do it, they will bring her on board July 1<sup>st</sup> at the start of the new fiscal year. They only have a \$5,000 a year budget for the inspection work done for them each year, roughly about 10 inspections per year. Beau Downing has also left FW&P to work with the NRDP now, but he used to work for them on their 124 permitting. Beau has still offered to do the 124 and 310 training classes for the Conservation Districts, if they are still interested in participating in that training with him. Ron also reminded everyone that they have a 310 inspection tomorrow on Jacobsen's.

Glen reported that they have 66 active EQIP contracts that they are working on, status reviews, payments, etc. They had 25 new applications in Powell County and they ranked 15 of them and so far they have two of them pre-approved. The funding this year for the Missoula area was just under \$800,000 and was much lower than what they have gotten in the past. The program manager in Bozeman has held back about one million dollars to be used in case some approved projects are short on funding and it can then be used to help those projects out. Glen hopes to get another one or two applications approved and funded. For the 2016 EQIP program year, the sign-up deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. For CSP, they have three applications for this year and for 2016, they have two applications, but they are just the five year renewals from their original 2011 contract dates. The new State Conservationist is in the office in Bozeman starting today. Her name is Lisa Coverdale, she came here from Connecticut, but grew up on a ranch in Utah. The RCPP program should be making an announcement soon for the pre-proposals to start being submitted for this year. He expects that the Blackfoot Challenge will be submitting a proposal again. They also received a bio-security alert on the avian influenza and the swine epidemic diarrhea virus. For visiting or inspecting large producers of hogs and poultry, they have been given security and cleaning precautions to follow to reduce the spread of the viruses. Both viruses are in Montana, so everyone may want to start practicing some precautions even with their smaller operations. The current vaccines have not been working very well, so prevention is probably the best alternative to practice right now.

Brad reported that he has been working with NRCS, Glen and Jason, on certifying some things on Parcel's and cleaning up their contract. On Mannix's, they have been finishing up some units and outlining some new ones. He has been working with Jason putting together a project for the Geary Brothers; a pre-commercial thinning project on 133 acres and some weed spraying. They are waiting to hear about the funding on that one. Brad has also been working on a new CSP and answering their questions on possible enhancements for their property and refining the grazing and fencing plans he has been working on for them. For the BCCA, he just finished the RP for weed spraying and will be doing the selections this week for the whole year. They are also working on some pilot placements of electric fencing units to see what might work for keeping bears out. They are also working on the grazing units plan for this year and getting some GIS mapping done on the BCCA. He has also started working on the fish screens for this year. Regarding the NRCS contribution agreement, Glen reported that those kinds of agreements have been put on hold until the new State Conservationist is settled in and able to get started on them. He does know that their state program manager in charge of recommending them for funding and the level of funding they receive has recommended that the Blackfoot Challenge agreement get funded. Regarding the Ender project, Brad added that the stream project agreements are going to expire, so he has been working on a grazing plan, but hasn't been able to talk with the landowner. Instead, he has re-worked everything to work with the ranch manager and then he will run it by TU for their approval and when it is all ready to be signed, he will give it to the ranch manager to get it to the landowner. It is going to be a new process for him doing the grazing plan on a restored stream that hasn't been grazed for a while. Brad will be using several different monitoring triggers for the ranch manager and himself to go by and help them know if they will need to add fencing anywhere to keep the cattle out of the stream or the pasture.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 1, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Tracy Manley, hosting.**

Submitted by Cheryle Wood

Date: May 14, 2015

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