

Pondera County Conservation District

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The Pondera County Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on **Tuesday March 14th 2023 at 8:00 am** at the USDA Service Center in Conrad, Montana.

Call to Order: Chairman Jack Judisch called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Present: Jack Judisch

Bryce Johns

Roger Paulsen

Ramsey Offerdal Jr.

Paul Jones

Kaysie Steele

Stacy Thornbrugh- NRCS

Dan Severson- MSU Extension

Mike & Lorie Hogan, 310 permit inquiry

Chris Hindoien & RMIS Team

Absent: Cole Peebles

Keith VandenBos

Mike and Lorie Hogan, members of the public that live near Valier, came in to present a project to the board with the intention of filling out a 310 permit and having it approved. The Hogan's wanted to build a small reservoir near a coulee on their property. After they presented their project and passed there photos around, Jack Judisch mentioned that because the project does not affect a perennial stream, there should be no need for a 310 permit. The board agreed. The Hogan's left briefly after.

Chris Hindoien and the RMIS team gave their Liability Insurance pitch for the premium and benefits they came up with for PCCD based on our application sent in. Chris explained it is the same coverage that the district received under MACo. Chris took time to go over the insurance packet he put together for us, and answered any questions if the board had them. Chris mentioned at the end of his discussion that if PCCD wanted to go forward with accepting RMIS Liability Insurance Coverage, to get in touch with them and they will send some paperwork our direction to sign and then a notice of loss sheet will have to be filed from the date the district

signed the paperwork to when the coverage starts which will be July 1st, 2023. Chris and the RMIS team left shortly after giving their presentation. The board voted on whether we should accept the liability insurance coverage through RMIS. Bryce Johns moved to accept the premium price for RMIS liability insurance coverage starting July 1st, 2023. Ramsey Offerdal Jr. Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Severson, MSU Extension, introduced himself to the board and gave a summary on how he moved out to Montana from the east coast for the MSU extension position.

Previous Minutes:

- Ramsey Offerdal Jr. moved to accept the previous meeting minutes. Paul Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bills and Financial Statement:

- Kaysie Steele presented the financial statement. Paul Jones moved to accept the financial report. Ramsey Offerdal Jr. seconded to motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Topics not on the agenda may be discussed, but if action is required, the topic must first be placed on the next meeting agenda.

NRCS: Stacy Thornbrugh mentioned that she had nothing new to present since the last meeting, but expounded on how NRCS is moving forward with their EQIPs and CSP applications. Stacy mentioned that they are moving forward with 3 EQIPs currently and are still waiting on a few CSP applications to come down through the rankings. Stacy said that 2 CSP applications ranked medium out of 12 applications. Stacy gave the example of the Blackfeet Fund Pool and money being distributed there. Kaysie Steele asked what the rankings were for. Stacy explained they are based on natural resource concerns and the relevance for the area.

MSCA: Roger Paulsen reported that MSCA is going to try to get to the wells in our area to abandon in the upcoming weeks. They plan to start on the wells near the Bullhead Rd. He reported that MSCA's drilling work near Hysham a few weeks ago was successful.

Extension: Dan Severson, MSU extension agent, introduced himself and his work with the extension office in Pondera County since moving to Conrad. Dan reported on the postponement of the Beekeeping 101 Workshop from this past Saturday due to poor weather conditions the guest speakers were going to have to travel in. Dan mentioned the rescheduling of this event is tentative for the end of April. Kaysie Steele reported that there was 15+ people that registered for the beekeeping event that was supposed to be held this past weekend. Dan mentioned the food insecurity grant project that MSU extension is currently in the works on. The initiative is called "Lettuce grow together" and aims to cover home gardening to food preservation. This project initiative will be free for 15 individuals in the community, with hopes to raise funds through the

year and charge in the years to come. The initiative will take place at the Conrad Community Garden. Dan mentioned that housing the project at the community garden will offer space for people to grow things as well as get them involved in the community working alongside one another in the garden. Dan mentioned that he participated in the FFA event this past weekend and it was a huge hit. Dan followed up by saying that he will be in touch on further information for the Beekeeping workshop details.

PCCD: Administrator

- Kaysie Steele submitted a written report

Old Business:

- Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist with NRCS
- Coffee Connection meet up with other local Administrators on January 11th recap
- RRG Dupuyer Creek Quarterly/Final Report and Reimbursement Request
- Liability Insurance Update
- Children Conservation Books
- 2023 Map Books Ordered
- Tentative Composting Workshop for May 12th
- PCCD RRGL Grant Hearing held on January 20th
- Memorandum of Agreement between PCCD, NRCS, & DNRC
- Unfunded Cooperative Agreement revised for 2023
- Local working group meeting
- Annual Plan/ 5-Year Plan
- Tentative Beekeeping Workshop in collaboration with MSU Extension and Marias Greenhouse
- CD Funding Survey: Due March 1st

New Business:

1. Kaysie Steele shared the Tree Fabric Invoice we received from Toole County and the check we wrote to them for \$3,625.00 for the 29 Landscape Rolls we plan to pick up mid-April. The check will be given to TCCD at the time of pick up.
2. Kaysie Steele reported that the 2023 CD Funding Survey the board filled out together last meeting was submitted on time.
3. Kaysie Steele gave a brief report on the Area III Quarterly Meeting on 2/23 via zoom.
4. Kaysie Steele reported the success of the March 7th Local Working Group Meeting. Kaysie Steele brought in the posters created at the Local Working Group Meeting that summarized our top natural resource concerns in Pondera County and associating linkages, the top customer groups that need to be addressed with these concerns, and the top products/services that should be offered to the customer groups.

5. The Board discussed our process to proceed with our Long-Term Plan based on the results of the Local Working Group Meeting. Stacy Thornburgh and Kaysie Steele will work on a draft of the plan and have the draft completed by mid-April. Stacy and Kaysie will work to use other Conservation Districts plans as an example to prompt the writing and style of long-term plan. Draft copies will be shared with the board members as well. The final version of PCCD's long term plan was decided to have a deadline of our May 9th board meeting.
6. Kaysie Steele mentioned that she followed up with DEQ about the water sample assessment letter we received in the mail and is waiting to receive a call back from them on what exactly is needed from PCCD.
7. Kaysie Steele discussed that our application for the education "Mini-Grant" for Composting Workshop we will be hosting in May has been submitted. The budget portion of the grant is still being worked on with the help of Mary Hendrix from the state CDB office in Helena.
8. Kaysie Steele presented one of our conservation children books we ordered for our Little Conservation Library in the office. Advertising for this initiative will be in our Quarterly newsletter to go out next month, as well as flyers around town, and other means.
9. Kaysie Steele reported that the CD Administrative Grant opened March 1st and she plans to apply the district for this grant before the deadline mid-April.
10. Kaysie Steele shared the beginning workings of the Pondera Outdoor Classroom scheduled for May 4th. The Board shared some key insights as to what the day will look like and past success with it. In years past, the event took place at the picnic area in Dupuyer Creek, and the board would like to have the event at this location again. The board also mentioned that we need to send invitations to the five colonies in the area, Conrad, and Valier schools. Paul Jones said that the board usually applies for an education "mini-grant" for the event to help with funds. There are typically 5-6 stations with 4th graders rotating 20 mins through each. A sack lunch is usually provided for the day of the event. The Rolling Rivers trailer was scheduled for the day for PCCD to use, and the board suggested having someone run a station for it. Other station ideas the board suggested could be done by NRCS, MSU extension, FWP, Marias Greenhouse, Seth/Jenny Becker with Stick Leg Ranch for a meat to table demonstration. Kaysie Steele plans to get the ball rolling on creating invitations, reaching out to presenters, and many other of the logistics for the event in the upcoming days.
11. Kaysie Steele shared that there is an Administrator Workshop scheduled August 27th-29th at the Fort Peck Historical Hotel. This was shared with all Area III administrators during our quarterly call. We will hear more about this down the road.
12. Kaysie Steele stated that she is in the works of the April Newsletter and should have it prepared by the first of the month.
13. Kaysie Steele shared an opportunity for the board to work with NRCS on a Soil Health Educational Event in Valier in June. The board was asked if PCCD would like to advertise and be one of the sponsors of the event. Paul Jones moved to accept helping with the Soil Health Educational Event in Valier in June by means of advertising and sponsorship. Ramsey Offerdal Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Stacy

Thornburgh mentioned that since Sarah Zilke has taken a new job and no longer works for NRCS, Ethan Kalinowski will now be taking over the leadership of this event.

Executive Session: No executive session.

Correspondence:

- March CDB Newsletter
- BLM letter inquiring our interest to participate as a cooperating agency in updating and amending EIS and resource management plan for solar energy planning on Federal Public Lands. After deliberation, the Board decided to pass on this.

Adjournment:

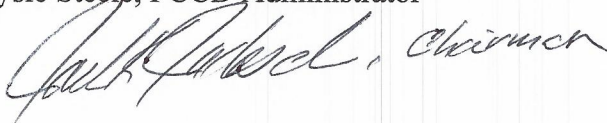
- Ramsey Offerdal Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting. Roger Paulsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Jack Judisch adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

CALENDAR

- April 11th PCCD Board Meeting
- April 12th Coffee Connection with other local Administrators in Shelby

Respectfully submitted,

Kaysie Steele, PCCD Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Judisch, Chairman".

Thompson mentioned that since 2001, Little has taken a new job and no longer works for NRC's, Brian Robinson will now be taking over the leadership of this event.

Executive Session: The executive session.

Correspondence:

- March CTR Newsletter
- BLM letter regarding our interest to participate as a cooperating agency in riparian and
- concerning FIS and resource management plan for solar energy planning on Federal Public
- Lands. After deliberation, the Board decided to pass on this.

Adjournment:

- Ramsey offered to move to adjourn the meeting. Roger Johnson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried.
- Jack Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

CALENDAR

- April 11th PCCO Board Meeting
- April 12th Coffee Connection with other local administrators in Shelby

Respectfully submitted,

Kaycie Strick, PCCO Administrator

