



Pondera County Conservation District

406 North Main- Conrad MT 59425- Phone (406) 278-7611 ext. 101- Fax (406) 278-7997

The Pondera County Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on **Tuesday April 9th, 2024, at 8:00 am** at the USDA Service Center in Conrad, Montana.

Call to Order: Chairman Paul Jones called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Present: Roger Paulsen

Matt Pedrotti- NRCS

Paul Jones

Sarah Zielke

Eric Gunderson

Kaysie Steele

Kesler Martin

Absent: Ramsey Offerdal Jr.

Previous Minutes:

- Roger Paulsen moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Eric Gunderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bills and Financial Statement:

- Kaysie Steele presented the financial statement. Eric Gunderson moved to accept the financial report. Roger Paulsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Heather Rice, PCCRC Manager, joined us for the meeting, she shared her appreciation for the partnership and work completed with PCCD. Heather shared the current project that grant money through the CD is helping to complete. The S Canal Project is a shared proposal of a pipeline NE of the highway near producer, Mark Grubb's farm. The proposal is to service the canal to get water more efficiently and timely to these producers who currently wait a week before obtaining their water. The goal will be to get water to the producers more efficiently

and to fill gaps where there is no delivery of water to areas. Heather brought in a map to show the extent of the S Canal project and mentioned that they are looking at roughly 3800 ft of pipe. Heather also shared the other active project with PCCD currently and that is the Automation at the C-Canal and the North Dyke area. This project will continue to be worked on this summer.

NRCS: Matt Pedrotti shared that Ethan Kalinowski has officially moved to Dillion and will continue to work remotely for the Conrad NRCS office until the foreseeable future. Matt shared hiring updates for our area. There are currently 9 position openings in our area. Matt shared that all jobs are flown on USA jobs except the most current DC position. Matt shared that the State Conservationist, Tom Watson, has given our area direct hire capabilities which allows for a more lenient hiring process and aims to speed up the process. Matt gave some program updates that there are 2 EQIP contracts obligated and 3 contracts going through the final review process. For CSP Classic, Matt shared that there are 16 contracts pre-approved- 4 contracts for IRA, and 12 for MT-Ag lands. For general CRP, Matt shared that field visits will be completed to confirm seedlings once the CSP contracts are obligated. For CRP Grasslands, Matt shared that the signup starts on 4/29/2024. Lastly, Matt shared two resources on the benefits of stripper headers and disc drills and mentioned that he would pass the information along to Kaysie, PCCD Administrator, to send to the board members and any other producers interested. Matt also shared that he will be attending a Range Training in Havre on May 7-9 as well as presenting at the PCCD Outdoor Classroom on Friday May 3rd in Dupuyer.

MSCA: Roger Paulsen shared that a new hire for MSCA has occurred. Roger also shared MSCA has a 5-year funding and will report more next meeting.

PCCD: Administrator

- Kaysie Steele submitted a written report.

Old Business:

- 2024 MACD Dues Invoice received for an amount of \$4,000
- Operations Audit to be conducted.
- Letter from MSCA- Naming a New Liaison for the District
- Water Reservations: Upcoming Site Visits & More Information
- Office Supplies & Outdoor Classroom Supplies Purchased
- Outdoor Classroom Preparations
- 2024 MACD Convention
- PCCRC RRG Planning Grant Application Approval
- Area III Employee Meeting Summary: 3/1/24
- Seed Donation Packets & Master Gardener Level 1 Online Course

- Landscape Fabric Pick Up Order at Toole Co. CD

New Business:

- Kaysie Steele shared PCCD's April Newsletter with the board and mentioned that they have been posted around town and online.
- Kaysie Steele gave an update on the Master Gardener Course that the textbooks have been ordered and received and the registration forms with the accompanying check for the Administrator and sponsored community garden member have been sent in to register for the course.
- Kaysie Steele shared the desire for an in-house operations audit to still occur. Since both Dan Severson and Ramsey Offerdal Jr. were unable to attend the meeting, this item will be tabled by next month's meeting, and we will schedule a date to complete it.
- Kaysie Steele shared the need to establish a general spending allowance for the office. The board decided to approve an annual amount for office spending next month after Kaysie Steele will research a rough estimate of how much they spend on office supplies for the year.
- Kaysie Steele shared the invoice for the 2024 Bridger Plant Materials Center Donation. Paul Jones shared what the Bridger Plant Materials Center is and the various projects they have completed over the years. The board discussed a desire to visit the center in the fall time. Eric Gunderson made a motion to support the Bridger Plant Materials Center with a \$35 donation this year. Roger Paulsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Kaysie Steele shared the Montana Conservation District Employee Organization Quarterly Report with the board.
- Kaysie Steele shared an Outdoor Classroom update that the district has the venue nailed down, the booth presenters are confirmed, and the maps and agendas for the day of the event are made. Kaysie shared that the little goodie bags are packed for the students and currently the district is waiting to hear back from the schools on their attendance. Kaysie shared that they are excited for another great event this year!
- Kaysie Steele shared that the conservation trees are scheduled to be delivered on Friday, April 26th in the late morning. She mentioned that all tree customers have been notified and will pick up their trees, landscape fabric, and settle up on their bill on that day.

Executive Session: None

Correspondence:

- CDB April Report
- Earth Scout Letter

Adjournment:

- Kesler Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Zielke seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Paul Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

CALENDAR

- April 22nd-23rd Cascade CD Envirothon
- April 26th – Late morning trees delivered.
- May 3rd PCCD Outdoor Classroom
- May 14th PCCD Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Kaysie Steele, PCCD Administrator



CHAIRMAN PCCD