

# Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC)

Virtual Meeting

RCAC MEETING MINUTES February 23, 2022

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## OPEN MEETING

### ATTENDANCE

RCAC Appointed Officials Present:	Others Present:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Bonsell (Vice Chair)	Stephanie Criswell
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Breipohl- resigned	Jason Garber
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O. Ramsey Offerdal	Mary Hendrix
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayla Wortman (Chair)	Veronica Grigaltchik
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judi Knapp	Hailey Graf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Johnson	Randell Hopkins
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Schroeder	Katherine Certalic
	Mark Bostrom
	Jennifer Mohler
	David Laufenberg- Madison CD
	Brittany Johnson Valley County CD
	Kailey Tordoff- Natural Resources Conservation Services

## CALL TO ORDER

Gayla Wortman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0857am.

## ACTION ITEM

### Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Johnson asked for correction on the minutes; changing "Bob Bonsell" to "Doug Bonsell."

### Motion

Kathleen Johnson moved to approve the November 16, 2021, minutes with proposed corrections; second by Ramsey Offerdal. Motion passes, no opposition.

## FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS

### Grant program guidelines, application, and ranking criteria

- Discussion regarding revision of grant program documents.
- CDB has begun drafting new guidelines and will send to Council Members for May meeting.
- Applications will now be on Submittable and will be revised. For the current 223 cycle, applicants will need to create a Submittable account, complete a short form, and attach the existing application.
- Ensure that Districts have the guidelines.

- Discussion on Range Days and if it is possible for DNRC to create a line item in the budget for the program.
- Agreement to move funding for Range days out of the CDB budget and into the Rangeland Program.
- Currently a 501(C)(3) runs Range Days, they typically secure their own funding and do not use funding from DNRC.

### **Statute and Council Purpose**

#### **Bylaws**

- Bylaws developed by the CDB were based off other programs within DNRC.
- Bylaw revisions will include the council's potential impact on advocacy re: federal laws, the number of council members, the possibility of term limits for council members versus the term limit on the entire council.
- Section 3 was formed from the appointment letter; agreed that this letter needs revision as it does not accurately reflect the council's duties.

#### **Strategic Planning**

- Consensus that RCAC should have a bigger role than 223 grant reviews.

#### **Council Purpose**

- The council sunsets July 1, 2022.
- The new administration is evaluating board and commissions. There was discussion about the RCAC being assigned to the DNRC director's office if the governor's office does not renew the Council.
- There was discussion of drafting an authorized letter to start this change. Gayla, Chair, offered to draft a letter to the director's office for this potential change in assignment.

#### **Council Vacancies**

- Potential new council members must be engaged in the council's affairs.
- Candidate profile sheet- availability, interest, skill set, etc.

### **223 GRANT HEARINGS**

#### **Jennifer Mohler, Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance (GISA)**

- Invasive Species Education Trailer Project.
- Council members asked that GISA consider a rental/damage control agreement if the trailer is lent to other agencies.

#### **Brittany Johnson, Valley County Conservation District**

##### **Kailey Tordoff, Soil Conservationist, NRCS**

- Land and Legacies Project.
- Nature Conservancy is sponsoring part of the project.
- Disseminate information to other conservation districts.

**ACTION ITEM**

<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Gallatin	Invasive Species Education Trailer	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>VOTE:</b>	Judi motioned to approve this project in full; council members unanimously agreed to approve the project for \$10,000.		
Valley County	Land and Legacies	\$3,750	\$5,000
<b>VOTE:</b>	Kathleen motioned to approve this project in full; Doug proposed to push this project to \$5,000 to ensure they have the funding to make this happen. Judi seconded the amended motion, council members unanimously agreed to approve the project for \$5,000.		

**223 GRANT BUDGET**

**Stephanie Criswell, Conservation Districts Manager, DNRC**

- \$15,000 was awarded today from the 223 Grant fund balance.
- The last cycle of FY22 closes on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There needs to be more promotion for grant applications to make the program more competitive.
- Further clarification is needed regarding whether or not 223 grant funds carry over or need to be obligated by the end of the fiscal year- Stephanie will get clarification.

**OTHER**

- Regarding the Council’s operations, there was discussion about whether Conservation Districts in other states have advisory councils.
- Montana must consider conservation impacts from agriculture and urban development. This will be readdressed in the strategic planning session.
- CDB staff to contact NASCA as a starting place and provide any points of contact to Gayla who will research more.

**FUTURE MEETING**

- The next RCAC meeting will be May 11<sup>th</sup> in Lewistown, MT.

**ACTION ITEM**

- RCAC will meet in April via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31am.