

**Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
Minutes from Joint State Federal Board Meeting  
January 31, 2020**

**Attendees:**

John Hagenruber (Chair) (FS) [j.hagenruber@usda.gov](mailto:j.hagenruber@usda.gov)  
David Allen, (USFWS) [david\\_allen@fws.gov](mailto:david_allen@fws.gov)  
Tom Sawatzke (Co-Chair)(BOR) [tsawatzke@usbr.gov](mailto:tsawatzke@usbr.gov)  
Scott Haight [shaight@blm.gov](mailto:shaight@blm.gov)  
Rick Northrup (MFWP) [rnorthrup@mt.gov](mailto:rnorthrup@mt.gov)  
Jeff Hagener, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (Board Mbr) [jdhagener@icloud.com](mailto:jdhagener@icloud.com)  
Mitch King, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (ED) [mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org](mailto:mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org)  
Leroy Schram, PPLT Board member  
Brenden Weiner, GVLТ Program Director  
Deb Lane, Recorder [deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org](mailto:deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org)

John convened the meeting at 9:00 am.

**CAB position Update:**

Tom stated Matt Lumley has been nominated for the hunter position on the CAB. He is a regional director for Big Game Forever. Not much is known about Matt. Mitch offered to make the first contact with him to set up a conference call or meeting.

**Minutes:**

The 10/22/2019 minutes were not available for review. Deb will email them to the Joint Board for motion/second/vote on approval or changes.

**Financials:**

The Trust Manager is recommending \$997,366.75 for the 2020 funding cycle. This represents a 4% distribution for 2020. The Trust balance as of December 31, 2019 was \$26,467,197. **Motion to approve: John; Second: David; Vote 5 – 0 to approve the recommended 2020 project distribution level.**

The Investment Policy and Guidelines was presented by the Trust Manager for review:

Removed "Advisory" from the Joint Board name.

Recognized that growth is a necessity for a permanent endowment.

Add "over the long term" after the word "funding" in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

It was decided the JB will sign as "received" on the investment policy as acknowledging their receipt and support of the document.

Trust Manager 4<sup>th</sup> quarter invoice for \$82,450.25 was approved by John H. Jay, chair of the CAB will email his response once he has been able to review the invoice.

### **Mullan Pass/Austin Creek Project:**

This project has been approved by the CAB as presented and will begin a 30 day public comment period. Once completed the CAB will present the project to the Joint Board.

### **Joint Board Email Votes:**

None

### **Middle Cottonwood 2019 project Update:**

A March 10, 2020 closing is expected. GVLТ expressed concerns regarding the wording in the Trust's Conservation Servitude and they asked for review of their updates. Sally Johnson the attorney working for the Trust offered her interpretation of GVLТ's wording changes and the impact it has for the Trust. The Joint Board reviewed each item from her interpretation with Brenden Weiner from GVLТ:

1) Assure public access across the property is defined; 2) Establish the deadline for which USFS has to finish their due diligence and receive the property; 3) Add the word "public" in the Public Conservation Values section 4) okay with this as FS allows (camping & picnicking); 5) Keep as is; 6) okay with using the appraised price for determining the Trust's percentage of contribution to the project; 7) Keep as is; 8) keep as is.

GVLТ will revise their Conservation Easement document incorporating the items listed above and will send it for review to Deb/Sally. Unless Sally identifies any new red flags we can proceed with the revised document.

JB recognizes that on a case-by-case basis some concessions/adjustments can be made in the Trust's Conservation Servitude/Grant Agreements as long as the basics are retained in order to protect the Trust's investments into perpetuity.

### **Sleeping Giant:**

It appears the access issue with the neighboring ranch has been resolved and the sale with the Canadian purchaser will be completed. It may be possible for the Trust to still negotiate some public access thru a trail, etc. with the parties involved and that may be pursued in the future.

### **Public Comments:** None

### **Next meeting date:**

BLM will have a new representative for the Joint Board in the coming months. A letter to document the change should be ready by the June meeting. The next Joint Board meeting may be held on June 25, 2019 in Helena. Location to be determined at a later date. The CAB will be setting a project review meeting date in May – once determined, the Joint Board will be notified to see if their May meeting can be held the day after the CAB meeting in May.

### **Adjourned: 11:58**