

**Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust**  
**Minutes from Joint State Federal Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2021**

**Attendees:**

Jeff Baumberger Chair, (BOR) [jbaumberger@usbr.gov](mailto:jbaumberger@usbr.gov)  
Katie Stevens, BLM [kasteven@blm.gov](mailto:kasteven@blm.gov)  
David Allen, (USFWS) [david\\_allen@fws.gov](mailto:david_allen@fws.gov)  
Rick Northrup (MFWP) [rnorthrup@mt.gov](mailto:rnorthrup@mt.gov)  
John Hagenruber (FS) [john.hagenruber@usda.gov](mailto:john.hagenruber@usda.gov)  
Jay Erickson, CAB chair; [jaye606@gmail.com](mailto:jaye606@gmail.com)  
Mitch King, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (ED) [mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org](mailto:mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org)  
Jeff Hagener, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (President) [jdhagener@icloud.com](mailto:jdhagener@icloud.com)  
Deb Lane, Recorder [deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org](mailto:deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org)

Jeff convened the call in meeting at 9:31 am.

**Minutes:**

The 01/21/2021 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Dave; Second by Rick; Vote 4-0 to approve

**Financials:**

The Trust balance as of 3/31/21 was \$30,066,834.

The Trust Manager is recommending an adjustment for the 2021 project allocation figure to include the amount for the value of the Southern Elkhorns Trust asset. This is an increase of \$116,800. A total of \$1,069,953 will be available for projects in 2021.

Assets for Conservation (Southern Elkhorns): The fencing issue has been resolved for this property but work on a method to address fencing issues for future projects or acquisitions is necessary. Access is also a concern for the adjacent landowner. The FS and landowner will look at options for assure the adjacent landowner has the needed access to his property. The Trust and FS are targeting an end of summer closing for the transfer to the FS. The Trust Manager will begin looking for other potential purchases using Assets for Conservation. Asset for Conservation purchases would have to meet 5 values: 1) Conservation; 2) Public access; 3) Saleability; 4) Cost recovery; and 5) support of both CAB and JB.

**CAB 2021 project review:**

A total of seven projects were received for the 2021 funding cycle. One project is for inside the target area and six are for outside of the target area. One project (Missouri River Open Lands) was not funded.

Inside: The Conservation Fund submitted the Scratchgravel project which is in the northern end of Scratchgravel Hills just outside of Helena. The vote by the CAB was 3 for the project and 1 not in favor. Fencing issues were a concern for this project. It is recommended by a majority for funding at \$50,000.

**Outside:**

- Flathead Land Trust submitted Bad Rock Canyon for a second year request. High scoring project the CAB is recommending funding of \$125,000.
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks submitted Cree Crossing WMA which in on the Milk River. It will create a new access point for recreational purposes. The CAB recommends funding of \$100,000.
- Trust for Public Land submitted Montana Great Outdoors CE. This is a very large Conservation Easement on over 130,000 acres near Libby, MT. The CAB recommends funding of \$150,000.
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks b submitted Sweathouse Creek CE. This will permanently protect 540 acres of productive fish and wildlife habitat. The CAB recommends funding of \$67,000.
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation submitted the Willow Creek project. This will add 829 acres to the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area. The CAB recommends funding of \$158,400.

The public comment period will run from May 5, 2021 until June 3, 2021.

**Jimtown Rd project:**

This is a 123 acre parcel about 20 minutes off of a well-maintained road just outside of Helena. Could be subdivided into a rural subdivision. The property is surrounded by FS land. The Trust is considering a direct purchase of the property with an eventual transfer to the FS. Some additional costs for hazmat, closing, and holding expenses may occur if the Trust proceeds with the acquisition.

**Dover Island:** The National Parks Association and Dept of Justice wanted to assure the Trust that if FWP is unable to complete and maintain the FAS on the Island YRPA would complete it. Their application stated if FWP was not able to proceed, both parties would provide the funding and maintenance for the FAS. The JB appreciated their update and were okay with the potential change.

**Fencing:**

When private land is acquired by an agency it becomes the responsibility of a private landowner to maintain the fence. It has been an issue for a few projects that the Trust has helped to acquire. Since each federal agency has varying procedures regarding fencing with private landowners, the Trust would like to help mitigate in some way the problem. Discussion will continue as to the best way the Trust can help to resolve future fencing issues.

**Public Comment:** None

**Next meeting date:**

June 17, 2021 at 9:30 AM. This will be a conference call. Jeff B will coordinate the details of the call.

**Adjourned:** 11:02 am