

Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Minutes from Joint State Federal Board Meeting
June 13, 2022

Attendees:

Jeff Baumberger Chair, (BOR) jbaumberger@usbr.gov
Katie Stevens, BLM kasteven@blm.gov (present at 10:00 am)
David Allen, (USFWS) david_allen@fws.gov
Rick Northrup (MFWP) rnorthrup@mt.gov
John Hagengruber (FS) john.hagengruber@usda.gov
Chuck Hahn, CAB co-chair
Mitch King, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (ED) mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org
Jeff Hagener, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (President) jdhagener@icloud.com
Deb Lane, Recorder deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org
Guests: Travis Vincent & Kevin League (PPLT); Mark Sommer (TCF); Dan Downey (BTC); George Liknes; Laura Kautzman (FLT); Ben Horan (FVLT); Catherine Schmidt (TPL)

Jeff convened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Minutes:

The 01/27/2022 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by John; Second by Rick; Vote 5-0 to approve

Financials:

The 1st Quarter financial summary was reviewed. There is approximately \$32,000,000 in the Trust with \$4,000,000 committed to outstanding project awards. The Trust/FS closed on the Jim Town Rd project. A news release by the FS should be coming soon.

An additional \$833,000 was recommended by the Trust Manager to fully fund the CAB project requests this year for inside the basin funding. The additional funds are to fund the Reynolds project. Motion to approve the increase in project funding for 2022 made by David; Second John; Vote – 5 – 0 to approve.

Project Review:

Inside the basin:

Reynolds Ranch submitted by Prickly Pear Land Trust. It borders Canyon Ferry Lake near the Silos. CAB is recommending \$1.5 million.

Soup Creek submitted by The Conservation Fund. CAB is recommending \$650,000.

Outside the area:

Dillon High Trails Land Bridge submitted by Beaverhead Trails Coalition. CAB is recommending \$38,000.

Missouri River Riverfront CE submitted by Missouri River Open Lands Preservation. CAB is recommending \$25,000.

Mount Dean Stone submitted by Five Valley's Land Trust. CAB is recommending \$100,000.

Owen Sowerwine CE submitted by Flathead Land Trust. CAB is recommending \$125,000.

Upper Thompson CE submitted by The Trust for Public Land. CAB is recommending \$150,000.

The CAB is recommending a total of \$2,588,000 which includes \$2,150,000 for inside the basin and \$438,000 for outside the basin.

A total of 18 public comments were received. One supported the Soup Creek project and seventeen supported the Dillon High Trails project.

Motion to approve all seven projects at the funding levels recommended by the CAB made by John; Second by David; BLM abstained on the Soup Creek project and FWP abstained on the Upper Thompson project. All projects were unanimously approved.

Willow Creek:

FWP requested a change to their Deed Restriction language that is a part of their Grant Agreements. This would remove language that requested prior approval to the disposal of any properties paid for with Trust funds. They are requesting the prior approval be removed. FWP would still repay any Trust funds used to purchase grant funded projects that FWP may dispose of. FWP and the Trust's attorney will work on new language for the FWP Deed Restriction.

Recusal Process/Conflict of Interest:

No changes are recommended for the current Trust recusal/conflict of interest policies.

CAB Member Retirement:

John Gibson has officially resigned his position as fisheries representative on the Citizen's Advisory Board. The current procedure states the Secretary of Interior will nominate a replacement and the Joint Board will approve the nomination. Jeff will keep the boards up-to-date on the status of the replacement.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting date:

It was suggested to possibly have the next JB meeting in-person in Helena if possible. Jeff will send out a Doodle poll for a late September or early October meeting date.

Adjourned: 2:25 pm