

Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Minutes from Joint State Federal Board Meeting
June 23, 2023

Attendees:

Jeff Baumberger Chair, (BOR) jbaumberger@usbr.gov

David Allen, (USFWS) david_allen@fws.gov

Rick Northrup (MFWP) rnorthrup@mt.gov

Emily Platt (FS) emily.platt@usda.gov

Mitch King Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (ED) mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org

Deb Lane, Recorder deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org

Jeff convened the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Minutes:

The 02/01/2023 minutes were reviewed. Update spelling on Radersburg. Motion to approve by Jeff; Second by Rick; Vote 4-0 to approve

Financials:

The Trust balance is approximately \$29 million.

Assets for Conservation:

Williams property: A 40 acre inholding with no public access near Radersburg purchased as an asset for conservation project. A Yellowbook appraisal has been started and FS is anticipating a Sept/Oct 2023 closing.

Ferguson Property: This is an 1100 acre property in Rosebud County purchased for \$3,150,000. The Trust will hold the property until FWP can work through their due diligence to acquire it. Wildlife friendly/agricultural property containing a 109 acre pivot irrigation line. Ag use will continue through leasing.

CAB Recommendations:

No CAB member was available for the JB call. Rick was on the call with the CAB when the projects were reviewed and he relayed their recommendations. Five projects were received and four were funded. One public comment was received in support of the Upper Thompson project. No projects were submitted for inside the basin funding. First the CAB scored the projects. They determined the amount of funding for each project. There was some very robust conversation as there are several good projects this year. The final recommendations are the Case Ranch Company CE project – recommended for \$100,000 in funding; the Owen Sowerwine project – 2nd year request recommended for \$125,000; Upper Thompson CE – 2nd year request recommended for \$50,000, and Wildcat Bend FAS recommended for \$256,622 in funding. Motion to approve by David; Second by Emily to fund the projects at the

recommended funding levels. Vote 4 –0 to approve. No one recused, voted as a whole funding package.

CAB fisheries position:

Pat Byorth and David Brooks have submitted applications for the CAB fisheries position. CAB is not unanimous on either applicant. They will discuss further and send both to the JB for their review.

Interim project or potential Asset for Conservation project:

Hart Ranch is a 30 acre parcel inside the basin at its Southern border. Very desirable property for development and can also be subdivided. Purchase price is \$930,000. It was received after the close of the 2023 funding cycle and is being considered as an interim inside the area project for review.

Public Comment:

None

Next meeting date:

September 28. Jeff will send out an invite. It will be a face-to-face meeting in Helena.

Adjourned: 10:01 am