

**Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
Minutes from Joint State Federal Board Meeting  
July 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)  
Jeanne Holmgren USFS  
Deb Lane, Recorder [deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org](mailto:deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org)

Jeff convened the call in meeting at 3:03 pm.

**Minutes:**

The 04/29/2021 minutes were reviewed. Revise Jeff B. email to [jbaumberger@usbr.gov](mailto:jbaumberger@usbr.gov) and the date of the minutes. Motion to approve with changes made by Rick; Second by David; Vote 5-0 to approve

**Financials:**

The Trust balance as of 6/30/21 was \$31,906,369. Approximately \$3 million of this balance is outstanding (allocated) project funding.

**CAB 2021 project recommendations:**

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. Six projects are being recommended for funding and one project (Missouri River Open Lands) was not approved.

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 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.

No public comments were received during the comment period. Motion by Dave to approve the CAB recommendations; Second by Jeff; Vote 4 – 0 to pass. (FWP recused on all FWP projects and BLM recused on their project)

**Extension Request:** Five Valley Land Trust requested a one year extension on their All-Abilities Resource project due to staffing issues/recruitment and addressing access issues. Motion by Jeff to approve; Second by John; Vote 5 – 0 to approve.

**Jimtown Rd project:**

This project continues to work through multiple issues. Due to the lengthy subdivision process with L&C County, the property will go through a boundary change with USFS. The current owner will retain approximately 15 acres and the USFS will purchase 108 acres. Current price based upon appraisal is \$825,366 to be adjusted to final figure once survey is complete. There have been no problems identified in the contaminant review.

**South Elkhorns Asset for Conservation:**

The paperwork is with the legal counsel (USFS) awaiting final approval for purchase and permission to close. Anticipating another month or so before closing. Total sale price \$3,055,000.

**Mullan Pass:** The current landowner is working on getting his own appraisal on the property. It is not yet completed.

**Lower Mussellshell Project:** This project has been returned (\$100,000).

**Public Comment:** None

**Next meeting date:**

Jeff B will coordinate the details of the call with a doodle poll in mid Sept/Oct.

**Adjourned:** 4:08 PM