

MWCC Quarterly Meeting Minutes January 24, 2006

In attendance:

Sue Higgins	Amy Miller
Bill Milton	Jen Boyer
Tina Bernd-Cohen	Debbie Zarnt
Nicole McClain	Janette May
Larry Van Rinsum	Pete Woll
Jim Wilbur	Megan Sweedland
Glenn Phillips	Noorjahan Parwana
Bo Stuart	Steve Merritt
Alan Rollo	Vicki Marquis
Sibyl Govan	Jane Holzer
Barbra Rushmore	Mike Philbin
Joy Short	Steve Schmitz
Gerald Mueller	Ann Storrar
Ann Schwend	John Zelanzy
Laurie Kelley	Dave Kascht
Matt Vincent	Robert Ray
Gayla Wortman	Randy Apfelbeck

Welcome and Introductions

Call for 2006 MT Watershed Stewardship Awards

- Will be held in the Rotunda
- Has been moved to May due to conflicting schedules
- Looking for one new member for the committee

MACD Update

- A watershed committee has been created, a press release will be out soon.
- Social at the Red Lion at 5:00 pm January 25, 2006
- LEP Program: 44 grants, 16 completed, 20 pending. Eight will be finished by March 31. Money left over (\$35,000) will be used to help out with the Watershed Symposium.

DNRC Watershed Group Criteria

- Information has been put together on this topic and sent to Mary Sexton. That is all so far.
- Background: Needed consistent way of internally sorting watershed activities to be able to provide financial and technical assistance.
- The criteria has the potential to effect funding in that it may determine which part of the agency the request will go to.

Jen Boyer and Susan Higgins, Incoming Co-Chairs Introductions

- Jen has been with the Coordination Council since 1998 and has also worked with the Big Hole Watershed Committee. She's currently employed at the Sonoran Institute. Her goals are to engage everyone who is out there, get them involved, get them information and also put on a great symposium.
- Sue Higgins is the Outreach Director at the Water Center. She has worked as a water planner at the DNRC, Director of the Watercourse, and also at the Whirling Disease Center. She's glad to be back in water issues. She works on the website and will run the four meetings

Recognition of Amy and Bill's Past Service

- Special presentation from a "visitor from India" (aka Dave Martin) who explained how Amy and Bill help him through the TMDL Process. T-Shirts for Minutia Amy and Big Picture Bill were presented.

MWCC Operating Guidelines

- The guidelines were read out loud and people were able to make comments.
- Nothing useful happens without conflict. Council should always be modeling behavior. These guideline represent what we believe our culture is and how we get work done. An annual review of the guidelines was suggested.
- Under the Core Values section:
 - Encourage consensus
 - add the words "members act as a council when"
- Definitions
 - What is a partner?
 - Have partners sign on to be sure they are aware of guidelines
 - Have a running list of partners
 - Is there a potential for one person to have more than one vote – when they are a member of two organizations?
 - Voting has always been a little awkward. There isn't a set list
- Steering Committee
 - Main job is not making decisions but paying attention to what needs to be done.
- Special Visit from Richard Opper – appreciates and understand the work MWCC does.
- Work Group
 - Work plan is approved by main council
- Decision Making
 - Define Consensus
 - Voting – from present and qualified voters.
 - Change chair election to be defined by members present
- Potential consensus definitions
 - Implies that they can live with the outcome, but not necessarily like it or agree

- Suggestion to include “before closing a discussion make sure that no one has an objection” in order to be sure that you reach people who don’t always speak up
- Suggestion to make sure that consensus is main means of moving forward, voting is last resort
- Suggestion to increase super majority to 90%
- Suggestion to have contact list of all members, type one up and pass it out.
- Motion to accept guidelines with revisions
- Accepted by everyone

Work Group Reports

Steering Committee

- Next meeting February 14th 8:30 – 10:00. If anyone is interested contact Jen or Sue. Anyone is encourage to attend

Funding Committee

- Seeking federal funds, state funds, private, and researching opportunities with River Network
- Have not had a meeting since last summer, not one scheduled at this time

Outreach and Education Committee

- Goal is to effectively distribute information, identify education needs
- February 15th they will be selecting new chair

Monitoring Work Group

- Meeting this Thursday. Let us know if there are issues you want to hear about.

Retreat Committee

- Next retreat will be at the B-Bar Sept. 11-13 (M-W). Limited budget helped make the decision to do the B-Bar again.
- Working on training needs
- Putting together a package to ask places to compete for our business.
- Will have a certificate of training, council has been trying to evolve more professional consistent training.
- Will be taking theme of retreat then carrying it over to a training the day before the watershed symposium
- Need to coordinate with Outreach and Education Committee

Water Activities Work Group

- DEQ 319 procedures guidance, act as multidisciplinary
- How use 319 for GW protection
- What funding is available – how do you get it

- Working on making applications look similar – make it easier to fill out applications for different agencies

Watershed recognition work group

- Working on award ceremony in capital, celebration of work that you do. Try to get as many people as possible

Symposium Work Group

- December 5-7 in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn
- Planning Committee: raise money, plan and arrange agenda, logistics, need 67,000, will have regional approach, governors office will support this effort.
- Theme : The growth in the interior west is having effect on landscapes and economies: Population, restoration, economy
- If you want to be involved contact Jen.

Wetland Council is having a meeting February 1st. Focus – GW SW interaction.

Conservation Districts

- SWCS meeting February 1-2, Amber Waves of Change

Presentation from Laurie Kelley, Rosebud Conservation District

The Rosebud watershed group was formed in 2004 and has been very active in the community. Membership is up to 200 members. Board members include landowners, and tribal members. They are developing solutions to protect the watershed. They help support the initiative to pass a land use ordinance where water must be used for beneficial use only. They received a LEP grant for equipment for baseline studies. They've held 12 meetings, a pot luck, participated in the county fair, and held a plant ID contest. They've also held a workshop for landowners and presented the rolling rivers trailer.

Presentation from Amy Miller, Park County CD and Nicole McClain, Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin.

UYWB is very diverse, not all the members are making their money from agriculture. Traditional agriculture is disappearing. They now have 200 people on their mailing list. They hold a meeting every month and have guest speakers. Typical turnout is 30-40 people. Two other watershed groups are active in the area: Crazy Mountain, and Upper Shields. It is interesting working with the three groups that all have different demographics. Collaboration between the Park CD and the local watershed groups has helped promote sound resource management and assist local stakeholders at the grass roots level. For a list of benefits see handout.

Presentation from Vicki Marquis, The Missouri River Conservation District Council

She thanked Gayla for all her hard work laying the foundation for the effort. The Council is composed of 14 counties that are primarily agriculture based. There are four federal

superfund sites, six state sites, and 2 voluntary clean up sites in the area. There are eight dams and three endangered species. The CD's are already on the ground working in the area. We are lacking Petroleum County but are working on it. We are linked very well with DNRC and NRCS for technical support. We have four river reach areas that focus on local issues. Success include: interaction with the BLM, Montana's first CREP, legislative funding for a full time position, and work on data gap analysis. Future activities include: stakeholder meetings, CWMA for the Middle Reach, expanding partnerships. Next meeting is in Winnett, March 9, 2006.

Agency Updates

DNRC – Ray Beck – Administrator

- The DNRC is very committed to working with watershed groups.
- We are starting budget process, now is the time to let them know your needs.
- 223 program, deadline Feb 1st. May 1 or 15th.
- Last call for proposals for WS Assistance grant program. Review committee will be going over it next week.

DEQ – Robert Ray

- New 2006 WQ report will take care of outstanding streams.
- New Staff: Anne Storrar, WQ Specialist, Andrew Jakes – Pollution outreach and education coordinator.

Randy Apfelbeck - DEQ

- Wetland Program (Lynda Saul couldn't be here): Theme of Feb 1 meeting will be water availability for wetland restoration, & GW SW interaction.
- Two positions will be opening (GIS and Heritage Program) to track wetland gains and losses.
- There is an upcoming Supreme court case that is very important for wetlands: Rapanos and Carabel. What constitutes "waters of the US" what wetlands and streams are hydrologically connected to waters of the state
- 1000 more reprints of Vascular plant guide are available.

Forest Service, Bruce Sims

- WS restoration activities include: Road obliteration, riparian fencing, instream restoration.
- 1.8 million in WS restoration on Montana forests. 2940 acres.

BLM, Mike Philbin

- Call your local office and encourage them to participate in Watershed efforts
- Developing plans of managing resources. Opportunity for voices to be heard. Get involved during this stage !!!
- Working on a supplemental EIS for CBM development for SE MT. There is still an opportunity to comment.

Fish Wildlife and Parks, Glenn Philips

- Future fisheries improvement program. Info on web.
- July 1 and January 1 Deadlines

Water Center

- Water Policy Symposium, Sept 18-20 in Bozeman.
- Working on a film on MT watershed groups and efforts

Montana Watercourse Update

- Working on redoing the Guidebook for Volunteer WQ Monitoring in MT
- Upcoming WET Workshops, Know Your Watershed Tours, and Volunteer Monitoring trainings.

NRIS

- If you have any ideas for interesting changing contact on website. If you have any questions call. Happy to help.

ICL

- Have a new publication. Toolkit for people working with multistakeholder settings. How to set up structures that match goals. Review draft – will have final out later on in the year.
- Will be doing a workshop coming up in June on shared leadership.

Sue and Jen

- Reviewed changes to guidelines
- Encouraged people to get involved in a work group
- Curriculum for training needs to be developed
- Create a wetlands program for one of these meetings

Next Meeting:

- To be set with the Awards Ceremony
- Location: Forsyth, October 2006. Laurie Kelly agreed to host the meeting.
- Next meeting potential topics: Weeds, Energy agenda, mini training, economic sustainability.