

# UPPER YELLOWSTONE WATERSHED BASIN

## PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*General Membership Meeting  
December 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM  
St. John's Hall, Emigrant, Montana*

### -Minutes-

#### **Those Present:**

Alvin Pierce  
Art Burns  
Bert Otis, Vice-Chairman  
Bill Moser  
Bruce Malcolm  
Christina Staten, DEQ  
Eleanor Bossert  
Gayleen Malone, Park CD  
Jerry O'Hair  
Jim Frazier  
Jim Melin  
Jim Robinson, DNRC

Keith Neal  
Mark Rose, Chairman  
Martin Davis, Park CD  
Marty Malone, Park County Extension  
Nicole McClain, Coordinator  
Phil Dawson  
Roger Nelson  
Ron Archuleta  
Russell Smith, ADC Services  
Sean Murphy  
Svend Andersen  
Tom Arrandale  
Virginia O'Hair

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman, Mark Rose**

#### **2. VISITOR INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **3. APPROVAL OF November 2006 MINUTES, by consensus.**

#### **4. PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT – UPDATE**

- ◆ a. Gayleen Malone, Park CD Supervisor. There are some serious issues that the Park Conservation District is dealing with right now regarding the suspension of Amy Miller, District Administrator. It appears as if there has been mishandling of Park CD funds. An auditor recently came in to review the books and Amy assisted him, which is rare in a case like this. Currently the District is working with the bank to get a line of credit. Folks have been wondering where the money is for the weed grant cost share, and members will be paid for the spring/summer billing tonight and for the summer/fall billing before the end of December. Mill Creek Water District project participants were not paid either, but they will also be paid before the end of the year. The next step for the District is to meet with the County Attorney this coming Monday to see where to go next. Amy is paying the money back, but we are working out the details. DEQ is coming in to help with reports that are overdue and then that money will be coming in too. The Supervisors feel fairly confident that everything will be worked out soon, but will need to make a major change in plans.

Q: Phil: Gary & Daryl presented information to the Shields group that the CD is broke and in the hole. A: Gayleen: Yes, at the very moment that is true, but there is money for the weed grant cost-share and more money coming in. It was Amy's job to send in reports on grants/contracts, but she didn't do the reports and so there is money tied up in that. But on Tuesday, DEQ will be coming in from Helena to help with that.

Q: Bert: Has anyone considered having one coordinator for both watershed groups in Park County? A: Gayleen: Yes, but it will not be Amy.

Q: Ron Archuleta: What about funding; how does that work for the Coordinator's position? A: Nicole: The position is entirely soft funded, which means the coordinator writes grants to fund not only projects but their own position as well.

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### 5. UYWB UPDATES

- **Coordinator's Report:**

- New Journey: Nicole accepted the Coordinator position with the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council effective January 2, 2007. *(Ps. I've truly enjoyed working for the UYWB the past two + years! A truly heartfelt thank you! NM ~.~)*
- Project Updates: Capacity Building (Mountain Sky), Cottonwood Reestablishment (DNRC/YRCDC), Peer Mentoring (DNRC/HB223) & Spotted Knapweed projects (MT Department of Ag), Paradise TMDL Planning Area project (DEQ).
- Funding Update: Statement of Accounts

Grantor:	Contract#	Grant Name:	Project Name:	Begin Date	Expire Date	Original Amount	Current Balance	% Used
MT Dept of Ag	2006-056	NWTF grant	Spotted Knapweed Project	6/1/2006	9/30/2007	\$37,862.00	\$17,961.00	53%
DNRC/YRCDC	RC-CCD-319	Special one-time funding	Cottonwood, Locke, YR Debris Removal	10/3/2006	8/20/2007	\$13,000.00	\$11,026.83	15%
DNRC	N/A	HB-223 grant	Pilot Peer Mentoring Project	1/1/2007	12/31/2007	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	0%
Mountain Sky Guest Ranch	N/A	Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	Park CD Watershed Capacity Building Grant	?	?	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00	0%
DNRC/CARDD	30W-07-261	WPA	Watershed Planning & Assistance Grant	6/1/2006	12/31/06 (extension possible)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0%
MT Department of Environment Quality	205057	319 Grant Program	Paradise Valley TMDL Planning Area Project	6/1/2005	6/30/2007	\$48,888.00	\$42,488.00	13%
MACD	05A-12	Local Empowerment Program	Mill Creek Flushing Flow	8/25/2006	9/30/2006	\$10,000	\$1,000.00	90%
<b>OPEN:</b>						<b>\$140,450.00</b>	<b>\$103,175.83</b>	<b>27%</b>

- On behalf of the Park CD and UYWB, Nicole attended the MACD 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Great Falls from November 7-9, 2006.
- On behalf of the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council, Nicole attended the MWCC Watershed Symposium in Great Falls from December 5 – 7, 2006. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the DVD "Headwaters to a Continent" a film about Montana's Working Watershed Groups, please contact Nicole at [YellowstoneRiver@aol.com](mailto:YellowstoneRiver@aol.com). For more information about the symposium, <http://watersheds.montana.edu/symposium/>
- **Chairman's Report:**
  - Mark Rose. Letter of recommendation signed by past Chairman's of the UYWB and a big thank you to Nicole. Marty has stepped forward (through the Extension office) to act as interim coordinator for the UYWB, and a big thank you to Marty as well!

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Endangered Species/Wildlife Committee**

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Bert Otis. Paradise Valley Sanitation Project – meeting presentation. Will schedule Janet Barwick of NRDC for February meeting agenda to talk about this project.

- **Irrigation Committee**

- ◆ Jerry O'Hair. Tom Hughes, DNRC Hydrologist/Water Rights Specialist – meeting presentation. DNRC helped with the canal project, they put in concrete blocks a time or two and also moved them a couple times; now it appears to be working. Tom is working up a final report on this project and would like to present it to the group with other issues as well. Would like to try to schedule this into the agenda in the next few months (March 2007?).

- **Range Committee**

- ◆ Alvin Pierce. Tentative Range Monitoring Workshop – Spring 2007

- **Stream Stabilization Committee**

- ◆ Roger Nelson. Tour: Dana/Nelson Restoration Project – Spring 2007

- **Weed Committee Update**

- ◆ Eleanor Bossert. MWCA Annual Conference: January 16-18, 2007. Nicole will try to attend as she might already be in Helena on this date – will advise in early January. But, letters of support are needed from participants.

### AGENCY UPDATES

- Ron Archuleta, Livingston District Ranger.

- ◆ The Forest Service is releasing the travel plan & EIS tomorrow after 4 years. It is the final decision on exactly what kind of trail use is appropriate for the entire Gallatin National Forest. The plan is available online, plus there are CD's at the office.

- ◆ FS will be salvage harvesting timber in Passage Falls area and the comment period will close on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The salvage harvest will take place on 45 acres bordering the road above Anderson Creek Bridge.

- ◆ About 1 year ago congress passed legislation for cost recovery on FS ground, and changes to leases must be evaluated for cost recovery. They are asking permit holders to pay for analysis to renew, amend or revise permit. Not sure about whether or not this is applicable to small permit holders, but for the larger leases it will. This only applies if the lease requires changing. This action is a congressional issue not FS. Temple Hills Bible Camp Master Plan defines how they want to expand over the next 10 years – this is an example of an applicable case.

- Christina Staten, DEQ – Watershed Planner. Christina came down from Helena tonight to attend this meeting and become familiar with members. There is currently a stop work order in place with Park CD and the Paradise TMDL Planning Area project; however, they do want to start to do some of the preliminary planning in the near future. Currently DEQ is looking to hire a Senior Planner, and after that takes place Christina might be available to come and help move the early TMDL planning process forward.

### 6. **OPEN ITEMS & PROJECT IDEAS.**

- ◆ Regarding the Cottonwood Reestablishment project – Russell Smith, of ADC Services, will offer part of their space to help us get this going – and will keep in touch. According to Nicole, Carol Endicott of Confluence Consulting is who we have been working with, but she's accepted a new position with the FWP as Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Restoration Specialist effective January 1, 2007. She might be able to contract with Confluence to follow the project through to completion, but is currently waiting a decision from FWP whether or not she can do this. If not, Jim Lovell of Confluence will take over the project.

### 7. **Program: Annual Business Meeting**

Please join us this month as we review where the watershed group has been over the past year and where it is headed in 2007. Marty Malone, Park County Extension agent, Paradise Valley landowner, and fellow watershed member, will lead an exercise aimed at determining the watershed community member's educational needs & resource issues, as well as help review the current mission statement and objectives.

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NOTE: Please see forthcoming results of exercise.

8. **CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS.** Mark thanked everyone for coming and bid farewell to Nicole McClain, outgoing Coordinator of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin.

9. **ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting:**  
**Program: Allan Stienle – Army Corps of Engineers:**  
**Cumulative Effects Assessment & the Special Area Management Plan**  
**Thursday, January 4, 2007 @ 7:00 PM.**  
**St. John's Hall – Emigrant**

*Thank you for coming!*

Key to Commonly Used Acronyms:

DEQ – Department of Environmental Quality	MBMG – Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology
DNRC – Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Services
FWP – Fish Wildlife & Parks	Park CD – Park Conservation District
LEP – Local Empowerment Program (MACD)	TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load (DEQ)
MACD – Montana Association of Conservation Districts	UYWB – Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin
MWCC – Montana Watershed Coordination Council	WPA – Watershed Planning & Assistance Grant (DNRC)
MWCA – Montana Weed Control Association	YRCDC – Yellowstone River Conservation District Council

Equipment List: (Available to members on loan)

- ◆ Trailer mounted weed sprayer (2)
- ◆ ElectroNet fencing – (9) 35" x 164'
- ◆ 10 Watt Solar Panel
- ◆ IntelliShock 42B battery energizer & 12v 44 amp battery