

Madison River Foundation

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 12/09/2015

Location: First Madison Valley Bank, Ennis

Board Members in Attendance:

J. Dilschneider
B. Richards
B. Barker (via phone)
J. Montag
R. Clark
N. DiMeola
M. Petroni
J. Mathews

Others Present:

Liz Davis – ED

Minutes

Joe asked for any comments on the Minutes from the October 19 meeting of the Board. There being none, Bruce moved and Jeff seconded their approval. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

SEE AGENDA FOR SUMMARY OF ED'S COMMENTS.

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Draft Budget for 2016

1. Treasurer Montag began by summarizing current cash flow and stated MRF now has approximately \$259,000 in total funds on hand, about \$129,000 of which is unrestricted. This exceeds the FDIC limit for insurance in any single bank. The Board agreed it would be prudent to open a second account at Valley Bank to stay within the FDIC limits. Jeff will establish the second account.
2. Jeff then discussed his spreadsheet showing a proposed 2016 budget in comparison with the past several years (Odell funds are not included in these numbers). However, the budget contains the assumption that the \$48,000 in "donations" from 2015 such as TFO's \$26,000, will continue. [Bruce suggested special recognition for Rick Pope at TFO.]
3. Jeff explained his budget contains personnel costs for Pamela, but does not yet include a raise for the ED from current levels pending completion of her annual review. We need a title and job description for Pamela, as well as periodic reviews for her performance, as well.

The projection is MRF would have around \$18,000 for project funding (not including grant requests), and about \$27,000 cash on hand. MRF would like to grow its funding of worthy projects. Jeff walked through a list of projects we participated in during 2015, and a list of

proposed expenditures of these projects in 2016 (see handout and accompanying notes). MRF now understands that Varney Gauge funding has been secured through BLM.

Old Business

1. The Reints Easement. Liz and Brian report that Jack wants this as proposed in our October meeting. The Foundation has agreed to fund \$5,000 toward the \$200,000 commitment, and will raise an additional \$15,000 from private donors. It is understood there will be no change in the matter of public access. A question is raised about Jack's willingness to protect his banks from the effects of cows, but it is decided to take it one step at a time. Jay Erickson from Montana Land Reliance calls in and joins the meeting to say he anticipates closing the transaction mid-2016. Funds are coming in. Jay reports Jack might not be receptive to any requests for improving his riparian management: this is solely about restricting development on this property.
2. Website Update. Kelly Welch is ready to go live with the new website. Liz will alert the Board when it is online.

New Business

1. MCD. Sunni Heikes-Knapton, representing the Madison Conservation District, gave a presentation on the history of her organization starting in 2009, and its relationship with MRF. Handouts were also presented, referenced here in these Minutes. MCD and MRF, along with the Ranchlands Group formed the Watershed Council to communicate and foster coordination with various conservation goals and activities. In 2010, the Stream Team was formed to collect data and monitor river and tributary health, and other projects such as Weed Mapping and Channel Migration Study followed. Recently, a "GROWW Coordinator" was appointed to educate school kids in these matters. In 2013, Madison Farm to Fork was added to the Partnership. Interest is expressed in returning to regular quarterly meetings, with Board representation, of the Partnership. MCD has primary responsibility in Madison County for implementation of a water quality plan under the auspices of DEQ focusing on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), which will require mitigation of impaired waters – many/most of which are on private land.
2. 2016 Project Possibilities Sunni presented a short list of potential MCD projects for partnering in 2016. She was asked "how do you measure success?" Water quality is certainly one metric, but she stressed the importance of achieving success in the long run through "committed landowners." Clark expressed interest in defining metrics for evaluating future projects and measuring success. The Partnership meets again in January.
3. Granger Meeting Clark said Laszlo is out of town until December 12, but would like to meet with Board representatives about the MOU and planning for 2016. Liz will contact Jeff about several dates in the near future.
4. BPP Bruce said he would be working with Liz to finalize the presentation packets for the Business Partners Program, planning a launch in early 2016.
5. Walsh Ranch Brian and Joe reported on a preliminary conversation with Western Rivers Conservancy, who expressed interest in helping to obtain a conservation easement on this

key parcel. The Land and Conservation Fund may be reconsidered at the congressional level, TPL has approached Jackie and Craig on this possibility, and it appears the Walshes may be open to a new offer. This is welcome news!

6. Friend of the Madison Board is asked to think about possibilities for this presentation at the 2016 Gala.
7. Fish Rescue This year's event was a success, and was filmed by Bob Celesia. Liz will try and coordinate with Bart Storey for next year. Some discussion about a possible grate to cover the culverts followed, but this does not appear economically feasible. Joe suggests Bob might do a short "infomercial" about MRF.
8. Science Day Next year's event will be scheduled in July. Mark and Liz will judge.
9. Trout Congress There was no interest at this time.
10. Tenkara and Patagonia Liz is in communication with them.
11. Bricker Memo At the request of David Bricker, the Board voted to rescind his appointment as Director Emeritus of the Madison River Foundation. Mark moved "reluctantly," Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe will write a letter to David saying the Board had acquiesced to his request.
12. FWP Regulation Changes and MRF Ray asked about further communication with membership about this situation and the way it unfolded. The Board was inclined to move on in anticipation of closer communication with FWP when the EA for "social management" of the river is released. Jackie suggested the idea of a special regulation for the Hebgren to Quake section of the river, to be discussed further at a later date.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AND
RECONVENED AS THE ANNUAL RETREAT**