

FBC Meeting
October 28, 2009
Cultural Building, Salish & Kootenai College, Pablo, Montana

Attendees: Joe Brenneman, Cathy Barbouletos, Susan Brueggeman, Jan Metzmaker, Bob Sandman, Jim Simpson, Thompson Smith, Mickey Sogard, Dan Bangeman, Clayton Matt, Ed Heger and Joe Lamson

Summary of Meeting and Recommendations/Actions Taken (quorum present):

- Mickey Sogard moved and Dan Bangeman seconded a motion to approve the **minutes** of previous meeting with changes proposed by the Caryn Miske, Executive Director (ED).
- Consensus to approve **letter of support for Flathead County Planning Office**.
- Ed Heger, Chair announced **reappointments** of the following members: Tom Smith, Jan Metzmaker and Mickey Sogard.
- **Polson Stormwater Presentation:** Colette Anderson with TDH Engineering gave a presentation on the Polson Stormwater planning grant which will identify potential implementation techniques that could be used to address the problem of overland flow (quality, quantity and conveyance) which is adversely impacting water quality. TDH is also developing a water sampling plan for Ronan and Polson implemented a stormwater tax of \$4 per month to use for matching grants. A letter of support for this project will be voted upon at the next meeting.
- The Chair and the ED presented the **2010 budget**. Currently, there is a shortfall in due to vacancy savings, and the ED will work with DNRC to determine if the vacancy savings can be waived. If not, the ED will identify various alternatives to cover the shortfall. The proposed 2010 budget was approved in principle. The next budget process begins in January.
- DNRC has agreed to classify a **modified FTE** position. The Board was sent the job description prior to the meeting. Additional staff would allow the Executive Director to have additional time to prepare for meetings, communicate with the board and pursue additional funding opportunities. Despite the base budget shortfall, grants funds are available to cover a modified FTE. Mickey Sogard moved and Thompson Smith seconded a motion to finalize and classify the modified FTE previously forwarded to the members. The motion was approved by consensus.
- Executive Director discussed the following topics:
 - **Office Space:** The ED is working with DNRC on the new office space. Depending upon the October 2009 costs associated with the new office

space and DNRC's willingness to absorb the building costs for the FBC (until FBC's existing office lease expires), the FBC may be able to move to the new space in November.

- **Website design:** the page is in dire need of revision and we need to enlist a contractor assist in web development. The ED distributed a survey for board input regarding website design.
- **Transboundary update:** (1) the transboundary committee is not functionally as it should and the Executive Committee has agreed to discontinue this committee. Future transboundary work will proceed by continuing the cooperative efforts through participation on the Crown Manager's Partnership, and the ED will consult members as needed for other transboundary efforts. Members will also participate more broadly in transboundary discussions. (2) The UN delegation visited the Flathead in September. A favorable report is expected. The draft from the delegates will be forwarded to Waterton-Glacier for fact check and then to UNESCO. Issues regarding FOIA requests are pending from NGOs, although the federal agencies maintain that FOIA requests are not applicable. (3) transboundary research effort – FNF provided \$50,000 for water quality research. 2010 funding is still being sought. In the near future, researchers will be brought together to develop a sustainable funding plan.
- **Water Quality District** discussions are moving forward.
- **Cooperative efforts:** The CORE Group Source Book, a comprehensive resource for educators is moving forward, and the Lake Book is almost complete.
- **Phase I Ground Water Study** underway and Phase II scope is pending. Whitefish and Tri-State groundwater studies at initial planning stages.
- All **grant reporting** requirements are up-to-date.
- **TMDL modeling** meeting is planned for January 2010 and is being sponsored by the Clark Fork Task Force.
- **Lidar mapping** is underway.
- **Volunteer Monitoring Program:** Due to complications with the University of Montana signing the contract for FLBS lab analysis, the short term worker hired to undertake water sampling (chlorophyll a) was unable to proceed. The volunteers continued to collect data as in previous years. The board agreed that the VMP is an important way to get buy in from the community and is a useful educational tool and therefore wants

the program to continue. Next year, the FBC will need to identify lab to do the analysis for the Chlorophyll a samples and the staff to manage the program into the future needs to be resolved. The VMP sampling sites, monitoring criteria, SAPs, etc. will be reviewed by the Monitoring Committee and recommendations will be made as to how to proceed.

- **Planning Updates**
 - **Flathead County:** Joe Brenneman informed the members that large tract facilities zoning was being considered to deal with large owners such as Plum Creek (1/4 million acres). North Shore Ranch is still in litigation. Planning Office investigation continues.
 - **Lake County:** Sue Shannon informed the members the County is updating its subdivision regulations. The North Lake County Zoning District (Woods Bay area) is proceeding. Floodplain regulations will be developed from LiDar flights and should be available in January of 2010.
 - **CSKT:** Janet Camel informed the members that the tribes are currently updating the Comprehensive Plan. Her office is also working with Polson on a cultural clearing house review for all subdivisions. Floodplain regulations not developed yet but this is a future priority.

- **BNSF Update:** Jan Metzmaker gave an update on two water quality issues in Whitefish involving BNSF. The EPA is currently overseeing a dredging operation to remove pollutants in the Whitefish River. The City of Whitefish received a \$50,000 grant to drill 22 test wells in the Railway District.

- **501(c)(3):** It was determined that a government agency can accept a donation but donors cannot get a tax deduction. The fiscal agent concept was investigated, and the ED will work with one of two local groups to develop a fiscal agent agreement so that tax deductible donations can be received by the FBC.

- **MOU with DNRC”** Mickey Sogard reported that the draft MOU is almost complete. Once the MOU Committee finalized the draft, it will go to the legal department for review. The goal is to have a MOU ready for the December meeting. The modified FTE classification can move forward without the MOU.

- Ric Haurer gave a presentation on the results of the **transboundary research**.

- The next FBC meeting will be December 2 and a tour of Hungry Horse Dam will be offered.