

# FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council Chambers (42487 Complex Blvd)

April 25, 2018

## AGENDA

| <i>TIME</i>                 | <i>AGENDA ITEM</i>                                                                                                                                                | <i>SPEAKER/LEAD</i>                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 AM</b>             | Welcome & Introductions                                                                                                                                           | Rich Janssen,<br>CSKT (acting Chair)                                    |
| <b>10:15 AM</b>             | Discussion/approval of <i>DRAFT</i> Minutes from *Sept 2017;<br>*Dec 2017; and Feb 2018                                                                           | Kate Wilson, DNRC<br><br>All                                            |
| <b>10:30 AM</b>             | Update on financials, MOUs, budget, website & Overview of<br>current by-laws<br><br>Discussion on website content/layout/features                                 | Kate Wilson, DNRC<br><br>All                                            |
| <b>11:00 AM</b>             | Final nominations and background info on interested parties<br>(for election)                                                                                     | All                                                                     |
| <b>11:15 PM</b>             | Election of Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair &<br>member at large)                                                                                          | Rich Janssen, CSKT                                                      |
| <b>11:45 – 12:45<br/>PM</b> | LUNCH (on your own)                                                                                                                                               |                                                                         |
| <b>12:45 PM</b>             | Update on Artesian plant & process                                                                                                                                | Kathy Olsen, DNRC                                                       |
| <b>1:05 PM</b>              | Update on E. Flathead Study                                                                                                                                       | Kathy Olsen, DNRC                                                       |
| <b>1:25 PM</b>              | Whitefish Lake Institute: About the Institute, septic leachate<br>project & priority issues in basin                                                              | Mike Koopal,<br>Whitefish Lake<br>Institute                             |
| <b>1:45 PM</b>              | Updates on Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC <sup>3</sup> )<br><br>and<br><br>Montana AIS Program Updates (Flathead Basin)                               | Kate Wilson, DNRC<br><br>Germaine White,<br>CSKT &<br>Jim Williams, FWP |
| <b>2:20 PM</b>              | Review strategic plan, discussion of process for approving,<br>potential focus areas moving forward, need for strategic<br>planning session at next meeting, etc. | Rich Janssen, CSKT<br><br>All                                           |
| <b>2:50 PM</b>              | Public comment                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |
| <b>3:00 PM</b>              | Wrap up and discuss/set next meeting date                                                                                                                         | Rich Janssen, CSKT                                                      |

\*Discretion of members not present at previous meetings to decide to participate in vote or not

## MEETING MINUTES

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| <b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Flathead Basin Commission (FBC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |                                                                    |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>April 25, 2018</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Time:</b>     | 10 AM – 3 PM                                                       |
| <b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Kate Wilson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Location:</b> | Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council Chambers – Pablo, MT |
| <b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| Rich Janssen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Welcome. Rich opened at 10:00 AM. Overview of agenda.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                                                                    |
| Introductions (Roundtable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Each participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                                                                    |
| <b>2. Attendees</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| Commissioners/staff: Rich Janssen (CSKT), Jim Williams (FWP), Jeff Mow (Glacier National Park), Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute/Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Mark Rellar (BPA), Kathy Olsen (DNRC), Steve Frye (citizen member), Gary Krueger (Flathead County Commission), Dean Sirucek (Flathead Conservation District), Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Chip Weber (USFS, Flathead National Forest), Jim Simpson (Lake County Conservation District), Dave Stipe (Lake County Commission), Kate Wilson (DNRC) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| Commissioners (by phone): Ed Leiser, Patrick Holmes, Kate Hunt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| Public/Other: James Steele Jr (CSKT Tribal Council), Eve Byron (Missoulian), Tom Cox (Flathead Lakers), Tom McClure (Flathead Lakers), Barbara Chilcott (DNRC), Lamont Kinkaide (public), Clayton Matt (CSKT)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| <b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                    |
| <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Topic/Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |                                                                    |
| Rich Janssen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Welcome/introductions (all)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Went over agenda</li> <li>• Confirmed quorum present for voting matters</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                                                                    |
| Kate Wilson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Discussion &amp; approval of draft Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>September 27, 2017 (Hungry Horse)</u>: no quorum present, not an official meeting. Amended from original notes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion to approve as notes instead of official minutes (Jim Simpson). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). All in favor (Mike Koopal recused himself as was not in attendance at previous meetings). None opposed. <i>Motion Passes</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>November 15, 2017 (Lake County Courthouse)</u>: Quorum, but no official note taker or Minutes taken, pieced together from observers after the fact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion to approve as notes instead of official minutes (Dave Stipe). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Chip Weber). All in favor (Mike Koopal recused himself as was not in attendance at previous meetings). None opposed. <i>Motion Passes</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>December 18, 2017 (Conference call)</u>: Quorum present, but no official note taker or Minutes taken, pieced together from observers after the fact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion to approve as notes instead of official minutes (Dave Stipe). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). All in favor (Mike Koopal recused himself as was not in attendance at previous meetings). None opposed. <i>Motion Passes</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>February 21, 2017 (Whitefish)</u>: Quorum and notetaker (official Minutes). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion to approve as official minutes (Gary Kruger). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Jeff Mow). All in favor. None opposed. <i>Motion Passes</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                  |                                                                    |

Kate Wilson

**Update on financials, budget, MOUs, website and overview of current by-laws**

- Budget update/discussion: FY18 (\$14,966) and FY19 (projected at \$17,155)
  - Discussion on how Commission would like to separate funds (personal services and operating). Recommend that some funds are left in the operation account in the event that unexpected invoices surface.
  - Working Dogs: outstanding invoice, paid by Flathead Basin Protection Fund
  - Eric Hanson contacted DNRC on some work for FBC that is currently unpaid. DNRC has no documentation of work.
  - If FBC has solid focus/need that can be defended, DNRC CARDD willing to ask for budget appropriation at the next session. All money has not been swept. Question of redundancy can be resolved internally – new, different direction could be supported.
  - Motion (Jim Simpson) to keep remaining funds in operational account for next 3 months (end of FY2018). On June 15<sup>th</sup> the remaining money allocated to personal services (staff). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). All in favor. None opposed. *Motion passes.*
- MOUs with CSKT and Blackfeet for the operation of inspection stations has been paid out by USFS grant (and both MOUs expired at the end of 2017).
- Discussion on USFS grant funds (for AIS specifically).
  - Chip Weber: Purpose was getting into AIS field, to try to supplement funding while state was standing up inspection station program (main purpose, but flexibility). Much of funding passthrough from Dennis Philmon (BOR) at Hungry Horse. Discussion about terminating that grant. Does FBC see continuing need? If we can still get funds, maintain those options? Would like to hear from FBC on whether to continue to not. See how fit with actions coming out of strategic discussion. Maintain options. Few enough funding, though state has really stepped up to the plate.
  - Kate W: Funding for CSKT and Blackfeet stations (that were part of MOU with FBC) now contracted directly with Tribes from FWP. So probably should find alternative options for using that funding. Or assist with funding stations not currently being contracted through FWP.
  - What are challenges or gaps for UC<sup>3</sup>? These funds could assist with any gaps that UC<sup>3</sup> is seeing. Probably education & outreach or monitoring expansion. Have latitude to use funding for various AIS purposes.
  - Dave Stipe: Lake County contracting with Caryn Miske for grant writing – long term. Would like to get change in statute (state nuisance law) to enable AIS district (like predator control districts) where district can collect funding through property taxes. Could pass local laws where state laws are weak. Need to spread across entire basin though – doesn't make sense for one county to do this alone.
  - Gary Krueger: Don't think we could support that. County is subdivision of the state. If we don't have authority through state legislature through code, don't do it. Have to look at what we do very carefully – not worth creating laws that we can't enforce or don't make a difference. Different approach – help people figure out how to do it the right way. Can't put a sheriff everywhere. Lack of education about program. Pilot program that had a boat sticker program in it – those things are confusing to the public. Need one message to the public and I don't think we're doing it very well.

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|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jim Williams: Challenge, yes. Education and outreach is significant. FWP has new outreach person in Kalispell. New rule meant to be as simple as can be but still protect basin.</li> <li>○ Jeff Mow: Reprinting AIS guides as an option for grant? Federal funding status? Potentially.</li> <li>○ Kate: Update on WRDA funding (\$1.8M for inspections anticipated for 2018; \$160k in monitoring funds). Very specific what funds can be used for. EQC discussing possible options how to fund state AIS program past 2019.</li> <li>● Website updates: Old website being shut down but new one will be stood up (<a href="http://www.flatheadbasincommission.mt.gov">www.flatheadbasincommission.mt.gov</a>). Currently have an RFP out to design this as well as another website for the Montana Invasive Species Council and the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (<a href="http://www.MTInvasives.mt.gov">www.MTInvasives.mt.gov</a>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DNRC/FBC staff to maintain content</li> <li>○ Chip Weber: USFS can help with website too, Flathead has a website specialist.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Recommendations on content: About Us (FBC mission, history, enabling statutes, about the basin); Annual &amp; Strategic Planning (Annual plans, strategic and action plans); Watershed Issues (priority issues for FBC/basin); Resources (relevant reports, links for more information, partner links, photos, graphics, etc.); Meetings &amp; Minutes; Contact Us, Sideboard (events, etc.).</li> <li>● Current by-law review and discussion</li> <li>● Kate to amend current by-laws to include: add 2<sup>nd</sup> member of large and Treasurer to the Executive Committee; change ‘executive director’ language to ‘FBC staff’ (reflects statute better as ED only exists in bylaws, more clear); include review of biennium report and making recommendations to the Gov Office, Agencies, etc. to the duties of the Commissioners; remove language on MOU between FBC and DNRC (has never been executed); make 2<sup>nd</sup> member at large a one year term (to stagger); consider allowing proxies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Modifications to by-laws will be discussed and potentially adopted at the next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Rich Janssen & Kate Wilson       | <p><b>Elections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nominations: no new from the floor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion that nominations be closed and that those that have identified themselves as interested in positions be elected and begin serving immediately. (Jim Simpson). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dave Stipe). Called for question. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chair: Rich Janssen</li> <li>● Vice Chair: Ed Lieser</li> <li>● Member at Large: Dean Sirucek</li> <li>● Filling in for Immediate Past Chair on EC (allowable in by-laws): Mike Koopal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion that Mike Koopal be added to EC to fill in for immediate past chair until such a time as the 2<sup>nd</sup> member of large be added (Chip Weber). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.</li> <li>○ Consider election for 2<sup>nd</sup> member at large at next meeting if modifications to by-laws pass</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Kate Wilson<br>Other AIS updates | <p><b>Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>) Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UC<sup>3</sup> active and has established four Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Watercraft Inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus on enhancing coordination among partners (FWP, CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula County, Whitefish). Increase communication and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

consistency among partners on data tablets, survey questions, notification, protocols, etc.

- Response & Preparedness
  - Provided feedback on statewide EDRR Guidelines
  - Working on tools and communication networks to increase place-based response tools and augment statewide guidelines
  - CRB regional Exercise September 2018 on Flathead Lake
- Early Detection & Monitoring
  - Working on an annual monitoring plan that will delineate who is monitoring where, using which techniques, etc. Map developed all well – increase coordination among partners
  - eDNA Science Advisory Panel April 17-18 at FLBS went really well – whitepaper coming soon
  - Enhance standard protocols and consistency among partners who are monitoring; expand network to entire Upper Columbia; increase citizen science potential for assistance
- Education & Outreach
  - Inventory of existing efforts
  - Drafting strategy for 2018 for Upper Columbia – to include planned E&O (including advertising) efforts of all partners (FWP, CSKT, local conservation groups, etc.).
  - Implement activities on the ground
  - Assist with new website development and maintenance
- Tiber containment & local boater recommendations
  - Tiber: May 11<sup>th</sup> (7 days/daylight hours): Tiber Marina, VFW West Campground
  - Tiber Certified Boater access by gate code only: N. Bootlegger, S. Bootlegger, Willow Creek
  - Certified Boater Program: East of Divide residents only
- Monitoring & Inspection coordination workshop Dec 2017
- Flathead Basin Rule: inspections mandatory for any watercraft coming from outside of the basin (and destined for waters of the Flathead Basin)
- Next meeting: JUNE 13 @ Flathead Lake Biological Station
  - Future state funding mechanisms/options for AIS Program
- Question on biggest challenges faced so far: Still getting started, but just expanding beyond Flathead Basin to entire Upper Columbia and engaging those new partners will be challenging. Monitoring – consistency in decon protocols for field equipment, protocols for taking samples, etc.
- Chip W: Sounds like a good ‘one stop shop’ for AIS. Opportunity with website rec.gov being developed (recreation outlets). Chance to emphasize AIS messaging and link people to sites. Federal but may include state rec sites.
- Jim W: Be patient as UC3 develops. Doing all the same things that FBC was doing at a larger level, but in some areas even doing more. Overlap with both groups (Mike & Kate). Ensure don’t have duplication – lots of other issues in basin.
- Jeff M: Glacier NP – motorized private vessels only allowed if pass 30-day quarantine. How much does that confuse the public? What is range of responses that provide consistency given resources trying to protect? Within NPS, having more and more discussion about response in prevention vs. response on AIS. Sharing tension of issue – if what we’re doing at GNP causes problems, I want to hear about it. I know we’re

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|                       | <p>sort of out there in terms of asking boaters to do something different. Be willing to let each other know when there are issues.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Germaine White</p> | <p><b>CSKT AIS Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIS staff are Tom McDonald (sets policy), Germaine White (runs program), Erik Hanson (AIS Coordinator), Charlene Sharlow (AIS Specialist).</li> <li>• Contract w/FWP for Ravalli station. 12 hours a day (7 am- 7 pm). March 17<sup>th</sup> opened.</li> <li>• Blue Bay opened station March 13<sup>th</sup> for spring Mack Days.</li> <li>• Jesco boats/will estimate May 15<sup>th</sup> for Sat/Sun certifications.</li> <li>• Division office staff also inspect watercraft. Work with FWP to designate as a certification station (M-TH during regular business hours).</li> <li>• FWP Officers, local government and Tribal officers meeting held recently – address ‘skippers’ at stations. CSKT Officers have built incredible good will with other officers in the area. Meeting next week with disaster emergency services coordinators and conservation officers as well. Working on seamless coordination on enforcement.</li> <li>• Partnered with FLBS and Flathead Lakers and Boys &amp; Girls club to host 2018 mussel walk. 150 kids at Salish point (Kwatuknuk). Bio station had 100 kids. Successful – were grateful to have mussel walk with 5 education stations.</li> <li>• eDNA analysis for mussels ongoing – Tiber results suggest that eDNA can be used to detect earlier.</li> <li>• BIA funding for number of projects – summer interns project (E&amp;O, target wakeboard boaters, rapid response capacity).</li> <li>• Inspected 500 boats, 100 inspections from mussel-fouled states this season. Moving to 24-hour station at Ravalli in mid-May.</li> <li>• New program brochure – part of package of materials that CSKT has produced.</li> <li>• Continue to have website, billboards, trailers for movies, brochures, mailers in local utilities (reach 20k customers).</li> </ul> |
| <p>Jim Williams</p>   | <p><b>FWP AIS Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will cover north of the lake and new rule.</li> <li>• Roll clock back to last session – multiple bills (2017). ICS was in place. Has been working with CSKT on inspections and AIS prevention – need to do something extra in the Flathead.</li> <li>• Looked at AIS as battle for hearts and minds. People really have to be engaged and care about issue.</li> <li>• West of divide: had previously issued permits on CSKT access sites for launching. Didn’t have hostile customers – people care.</li> <li>• Director Williams and CSKT created mutual rule (Legislative Rule) that passed. If you leave the basin, mandatory inspection required. Has actually been working, and worked quite well.</li> <li>• Hired inspector for FWP regional office – coordinates with CSKT, Whitefish and Glacier. Mack days required inspection prior to participation, Ham started March 1<sup>st</sup> to assist.</li> <li>• New rule – felt that it wouldn’t jeopardize public support for the program. At FWP regional office: In March, Ham checked 53 boats in March, 65 in April. ~24-30 percent are ‘rule boats’ (e.g. inspection required), the rest were primarily Mack Days participants. Some neither, they just want to do the right thing.</li> <li>• Large boats they have to inspect at the fairgrounds due to lack of room at the office parking lot. 4 SUP from Lake Powell. 2 GNP. 1 EWM contamination already (dried – came from storage). 1 boat from Tiber (stored over winter, dry).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules only work as well as people support them. But enforcement required too – Captain Lee Anderson works closely with CSKT. All of game wardens (some near water have more) have AIS minimum hours embedded in way manage time.</li> <li>• Dean S: Came from New Mexico and passed 6 different inspection stations on the way up. Quite honestly have to compliment Montana. Signage at state border much better. Idaho and MT much more apparent. Yesterday came from Missoula and recommend moving flashing sign further back. Two ideas for FBC: Flathead and Glacier and Glacier CD share building at Flathead Fair – try to get AIS display that talks about various rules/regs within basin at the 2018 fair. Display could be used at other fairs too (Aug 2018). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chip: work with staff to augment current efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dean: 2<sup>nd</sup> idea: CDs in concert with DEQ and several other WQ agencies to put together brochure on all permitting required to do work in streams. Do something similar for Flathead Basin – account for special situations. Identify on map. Rules and requirements. Inspection stations, offices, parks, visitor’s centers, etc. Use money to do that. Map with rules that apply.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> |
| Kathy Olsen | <p><b>Artesian Plant &amp; Process Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNRC Water Resources NW Office issued ‘preliminary determination’ to issue water right for ~710-acre feet of water from aquifer.</li> <li>• Received objections, went to hearing.</li> <li>• The decision was upheld at the hearing. Has been appealed – now sits in district court.</li> <li>• DEQ has issued a discharge report (before went to hearing). Is it available? Kate to check on status of DEQ discharge report.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Kathy Olsen | <p><b>East Flathead Surface/Groundwater Study Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro Specialist working with Helena office on proposal for groundwater investigation. Look at Creston area – interaction between aquifers and surface waters.</li> <li>• Have been monitoring surface flows for almost a year – now go deeper to look at interaction between surface and ground water. Good piggyback on USGS study. Timeline Sept/Oct for funding. 2-year study.</li> <li>• 6 criteria considered for issuing a water right: physical and legal availability, no adverse effect, beneficial use, possessory interest, adequate means of diversion (must all be met – no choice but to issue).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mike Koopal | <p><b>Whitefish Lake Institute – Priority issues in the basin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WLI is a 501 c3 non-profit, place based, focus on science and education.</li> <li>• A lot of WQ sampling on Whitefish Lakes, tributaries and other local streams. For a lake to have 10 years of data, not enough to draw trend conclusions but great place to start.</li> <li>• Volunteer monitoring program – used to be housed here. FWP, FBC and WLI had discussion and decided to marry all sampling programs together. Coordinating and administrating for past 5 years. 40 lakes in NW MT. Engaging 50 citizen scientists. With AIS coming onboard, program shifted to have as much emphasis on that as WQ.</li> <li>• Edu: 2009 wetland habitat on WL donated. Interpretive nature trail used for local schools (Whitefish, Col Falls, Kalispell, geo tours). Offer internships (7-8 through the years) – spend summer in field doing data collection and getting experience with non-profit. Handout on org.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

- Montana Lakes Conference: March 13-15, 2019. Streams and rivers usually the topic of discussion, lakes and reservoirs not so much. Lack of information out there about Montana Lakes. FBC sponsored Large Lakes Conference in 2008. In the absence of that not happening again, decided to host ourselves.
- AIS – worked on since 2012. Partnered with City of Whitefish on AIS management plan (annually) that includes inspections and monitoring. Leverage time out in the field with NW Lakes group.
- Septic leachate - Potential here as project for FBC. DEQ ratcheting down on point source discharge, but we're not doing a great job with non-point source pollution. 2011 septic leachate study demonstrated presence of septic leachate in Whitefish Lake. Not surprising, FLBS did studies previously on Flathead Lake as well. Site suitability for septic around whitefish Lake ranks poorly. Partial sewerage around the lake from EPA grant, but funds gone now. Formed ad hoc committee to work on issue – met for a year, came up with mang. plan advocated for neighborhood plan. Contracted engineering firms to create plans to address/investigate problems and come up with engineering solutions and cost. But issue is fairly complex – multiple jurisdictions. Funding complexities (W2ASACT) – consortium of private, state and federal funding partners). Opposition from neighborhood groups in Whitefish. Probably didn't do best job with E&O. Potential for annexation, but RSIDs, SIDs, complicated things for anyone to understand. Hit a road block. Even after working with city of Whitefish (and 20-year annexation clause).
- Today we don't have any success with any neighborhood group. Stepping back to reevaluate issue. Mark Bostrom offered idea of legislative study bill to further describe challenges of this issue/type of project for Flathead Basin.
- Working with Dave Fern and talking to Flathead Legislators on engaging. On local level, went back and talked to city of Whitefish – willing to extent further incentives (30-year annexation, etc.), looking at additional funding sources for landowners. Some closer to municipal infrastructure vs. neighborhood approach.
- Local place based orgs have 'ear to ground,' well informed on natural resource issues, who the players are. But on issues like septic and storm water, place based orgs don't have capacity to see issue to resolution. 3 septic bills introduced in legislature.
- Would like FBC to contemplate providing a voice to the issue – support study bill, further fact finding, looking at other lakes and areas (Lake McDonald, Flathead, Swan. Woods Bay). Timely issue where FBC can provide leadership because you have a few success stories in the US (like Lake Tahoe). Problem with issue is that not in people's faces – why E&O so important. If system is failing on Whitefish Lake, effluent doesn't back up into house, goes down into saturated soil, fractured bedrock, stair stepping into lake. Those individuals are polluting a shared resource – where FBC comes into play. Same with storm water. It all comes back to Non-Point Source issues and how we can positively affect change in our waterbodies. Some things we have very limited control over, but these are areas we can affect change.
- Discussion: Is resistance money/funding? Yes, and some people just have a beef with the city and don't like the idea of annexation (ever).
- Mark B: Not unique to Flathead or Whitefish. A lot of communities have seen this issue take off. City of Helena worked with DEQ to set up reduction of nutrients with trading program. Lewis & Clark County has septic maintenance program as well. Huge problem but need to start picking away at it before it's too late. If you lose amenity, you lose value of community (prop values, desire to live tied up in water quality). The things that draw this place together. Canyon Ferry example: beyond mussels, cyanobacteria bloom could compromise drinking water supply.

**Review Strategic Plan and discussion of process approving, potential focus areas moving forward, need for strategic planning session, etc.**

- Kate W: Overview of themes in 2016-2020 Strat Plan:
  - Aquatic invasive species (AIS): mussels & plants
  - Canadian/American partners: protect headwaters of FR
  - Rail safety/water quality: prevention/Emergency response plans
  - Monitoring: Water quality (long term trends)
  - Growth & development
  - Promote civil discourse and factual objective discussion of issues affecting the Flathead Basin
  - Foster cooperative work with/among agencies and partners
  - Develop ways of improving capacity and increase effectiveness of FBC
  - Address other issues and priorities that are of importance to the basin
  - Foster voluntary efforts to improve water quality in the basin
    - Wastewater management, Education & outreach, AIS
  - Work with federal, state, Tribal, and local Gov to address landscape level impacts associated with climate change
    - Adaptive management efforts, drought planning
- Discussion: Still reflect priorities of Commission or reevaluation needed?
  - AIS example – UC<sup>3</sup>/enhanced coordination in Upper Columbia
  - Prioritization of focus?
  - Water & environment/natural resources within basin?
  - Emerging issues not addressed in plan?
  - How we work with partners? Collaborative projects?
  - Non-point source pollution?
  - Follow up required? Strategic planning session next meeting? Action plan?
- Jim W: Given UC<sup>3</sup> and associated Committees, AIS can be covered by UC<sup>3</sup>. Would make sense to address other WQ issues. Those types of issues that may need a champion. For AIS and transboundary issue with Canada, maybe opportunity for group to focus on other.
- Jeff M: Landscape has changed enough worth acknowledging UC<sup>3</sup>, AIS response, that we think about what our role is. Agency perspective – worth having conversation. Good to have the bridge on thought process between UC<sup>3</sup> and FBC. Some of issues haven't changed, just need to figure out how to fit.
- Mike K: Reach out to other entities and agencies- what are key issues that you are dealing with? Suggest that Kate reach out to other groups between meetings to involve all the other regional groups in the discussion. FBC here to serve as umbrella to all groups/entities working on NR issues in the basin. Maybe hasn't happened in recent history. Valuable as we pursue this info as we move forward.
- Mark R: Rail issue and potential for spills into the system.
- Kathy O: Looking forward with moving forward and looking at issues with new eyes.
- Steve F: Agree. At pivotal point in role in galaxy in water in basin and natural resource issues. What is our role relative to those issues and objectives.
- Dean S: Strategic Plan still quite pertinent. Can take various issues that we've talked about today and all of them still fit under the umbrella. Don't need to redefine overall sideboards. However, need to spend some serious time looking at the action plan. Worked on draft in 2015-16 that wasn't finalized. I see three items that need addressed: Major partner in info and distribution in AIS issue (aid UC<sup>3</sup> in mission and be more site-specific). Septic leachate issue. TMDL processes/evaluations – Flathead Lake TMDL not finalized. In a holding pattern. Look at last data put out, models

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|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | <p>predict all of inputs over time and know there needs to be a reduction. The one part of pie growing exponentially include septic expansion and soil types in the basin. Monitoring of WQ – evolution in WQ and AIS. A lot of different agencies looking at different ways. Could be facilitator and clearing house in developing somewhat cohesive plan in basin. When look at budget – these are the priority issues I see.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark B: A lot of things in draft action plan that can be addressed by FBC, but too many currently to be effective. Monitoring is clear in duty. Would question time is best spend on eventual demise of resource or starting to look for solutions. Worked on TMDL for over a decade. A lot that can be done with that. Parallel with AIS – known national issue (NPS pollution effects everything). All of resources/weight goes toward point source discharges. CARDD state revolving funds to address wastewater – over a billion in loans out. Bozeman example: \$36M for massive plant but still can't meet standards because upstream of plant has too many NPS issues. Many watershed groups work in this realm, but there is not a collective effort on a big scale (e.g. FBC) to really take it head on. I can see that being a real worthwhile cause.</li> <li>• Chip: Strat Plan provides broad laundry list/sideboards. Step to organizational behavior question: schedule time to determine not sideboards <i>but focus</i>. Need to pick some priorities and focus efforts. We either move from AIS or target a specific niche within it that is a gap. Focusing effort – pick mission for next 3-5 years. Let's schedule that for the next meeting – determine marching orders.</li> <li>• Jim S: Suggest we recognize our abilities. As a board we meet 6 x a year. Limited budget. A lot of agencies that have taken the lead on AIS. What is role with agencies? Shouldn't be trying to take lead role. Focus on orphan issues – NPS. Septic, smoke, wastewater, fuels building up (sedimentation, etc.), other farming practices, sources of NPS. Orphan issues that don't have advocates.</li> </ul> |
| Rich Janssen | <p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clayton Matt (CSKT) – a lot of new faces. Rich does a nice job of representing us here. Followed what's happened here in the last year and a half. Has a future role but will take concerted effort. Going to take a change in some focus – really about WQ. Bigger than AIS. Coal issues hasn't gone away (Canada). All of issues you've talked about. E&amp;O – think about from multiple perspectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 'Vertical integrated communication' – increase public engagement in issues, but also greater need now than ever to increase E&amp;O with legislature, agencies, executive. Produce recommendations to address key issues (foundation, where started, strengths) and coordinating with agencies. CSKT here to participate and help. Tribal Council hear about all of these issues as well. In addition to Leg and Gov's Office, periodically, think about inviting Tribal Council/leadership to participate in meetings. Can learn from each other and work together. Also have capacity to work directly with Leg, Gov's Office to assist on bringing issues and solutions forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• James Steele Jr: Def have my support in anything CSKT can do. Developing legislative plan now – have lobbyist and can have them work on your issues. Advocate for FBC and issues during Legislative session. As you set priorities, maybe we can back you up on that effort. Refocusing is good.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Next Steps   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting: Kate to doodle for mid-late June. Meeting may start earlier/go later. Consider a working lunch.</li> <li>• Location: Kalispell (USFS or DNRC)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Wrap up      | Motion to adjourn (Chip Weber). 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). <i>Motion passes</i> . Adjourned at 3:18 PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| <b>4. Action Items</b> |                                                                                                                       |                                                                              |                 |               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Action</b>          |                                                                                                                       | <b>Assigned</b>                                                              | <b>Due Date</b> | <b>Status</b> |
| 1                      | Send out draft minutes and updates                                                                                    | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 5/7/18          | Completed     |
| 2                      | Make modifications to existing bylaws for Commissioners review                                                        | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 6/15/18         | Completed     |
| 3                      | Next meeting date, location and logistics                                                                             | Kate Wilson & Rich Janssen                                                   | 5/15/18         | Completed     |
| 4                      | Send CRB link for regional watercraft inspections and MT inspection and monitoring maps                               | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 5/7/18          | Completed     |
| 5                      | Check on status of DEQ report                                                                                         | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 6/15/18         | Completed     |
| 6                      | Reach out to other groups in basin for discussion on priority issues and potential partnerships                       | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 8/15/18         | In progress   |
| 7                      | Set regular meeting schedule for executive committee meetings                                                         | Kate Wilson, Rich Janssen, Ed Lieser, Dean Sirucek, Mike Koopal, Kathy Olsen | 5/15/18         | Completed     |
| 9                      | Invite CSKT to present on priority water issues at future meeting                                                     | Rich Janssen & Kate Wilson                                                   | 9/1/18          | In progress   |
| 10                     | Draft letter to the Flathead Basin Protection Fund to provide status update and balance of fund for FBC consideration | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 6/15/18         | Completed     |
| 11                     | Invite Dean S and Jack P to present on status of monitoring committee and findings from past study                    | Kate Wilson                                                                  | 5/15/18         | Completed     |
| 12                     | Help Kathy O figure out what to do with bottom barriers in storage (aquatic plant control)                            | Kate Wilson - FWP                                                            | 6/30/18         | In progress   |