

Flathead Reservation Water Management Board

Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2022; 2:00-3:00 PM

Virtual at Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/FRWMB-Mtg-Jun30>

Board Members Present: Kenneth Pitt (virtual), Roger Noble (virtual), Georgia Smies (virtual), Teresa Wall-McDonald (virtual)

1. Call to Order (Board Chair)

- 1.1. Opening Prayer by Teresa Wall McDonald
- 1.2. Attendance

2. Board Business (Board Chair)

2.1. Adopt agenda

Motion by T. Wall-McDonald to adopt agenda

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.2. Approve minutes for June 9, 2022

Motion by T. Wall-McDonald to approve minutes

Second by R. Noble

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.3. Review of complete domestic allowance applications (Board-Anna Butterfield and DNRC-Ethan Mace)

- 2.3.1. Application recommendations: E. Mace, C. Ryan and A. Butterfield have reviewed the following applications and recommend that they be approved by the board.

Anna:

- Presents the domestic allowance applications:

Motion by R. Noble to approve the following domestic allowance applications: Jasinsky, Boogerd, Windham, Salomon, Evans, Hegger, Beierle, Campbell, and Turley Investments LLC.

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

- Presents the Individual's domestic allowance applications that have accessory dwellings or secondary homes on the property.

R. Noble would like to view the applications and in the future he would prefer to have the applications uploaded. P. Hoyt: Offers to pull up the Sanchez application for the board to review. After reviewing R. Noble agrees that it look correct and goes to approve the application.

2.3.2. Board Action on domestic allowance applications

Motion by R. Noble to approve the following domestic allowance applications with accessory dwelling units: Sanchez and Shultz Estate.

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4. Office of the Engineer Operations

2.4.1. Administrative Assistant/Compliance Tech: M. Schlichting: this is a combined position. The Compliance Tech position is what A. Butterfield is currently doing. We are hoping to get an Administrative Assistant that can be trained to do both positions. We had the technical team review the position description as well. M. Schlichting: recommends to approve the position so it can be advertised and start receiving applications.

2.4.1.1. Approve job description:

Motion by R. Noble to approve

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4.1.2. Approve announcement and application review plan (T. Wall-McDonald): P. Hoyt: We were hoping that the board would decide on a plan to approve applications and reviewing them. K. Pitt: What are you looking for exactly? P. Hoyt: We were hoping for a discussion on advertising the positions and when the review can start? Who will be on the committee to review? M. Schlichting: The hope was for our HR subcommittee to continue to be available to review applications and to ask T. Wall-McDonald to help spear head and create review criteria or guidelines for reviewing each application. We could then move forward with that plan. T. Wall-McDonald: I will remain available and will continue to help in that area. K. Pitt: It appears that the subcommittee has met twice, and we need to give an update. M. Schlichting – We will move the review plan to the next meeting, this will give Teresa time to get a plan ready for review.

- T. McDonald – Motion to revise the agenda to include the discussion on the HR subcommittee who has done a preliminary screen for the applications that have been received for the water engineer.
- Second by R. Noble.

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4.1.3 Update on the discussion HR Subcommittee

- T. McDonald – We have met and completed an initial screening of the 5 submitted applications and have made an initial determination of suitable candidates. We want to know where the job announcement was advertised. Who was it sent to? Where was it posted? Can we get a report on this at the next meeting? P. Hoyt – I will get this report put together ready for next meeting.

2.4.2. Technology Request (Board-Anna Butterfield)

2.4.2.1. ArcGIS \$700 – A. Butterfield: The office is in of office equipment in order to do zoom meetings etc. ArcGIS is \$700 a year, this does not include the extensions or plug in's.

Motion by T. Wall-McDonald to purchase ArcGIS

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

- 2.4.2.2. Owl with expansion mic \$1200: A. Butterfield: It's been expressed that we need an OWL and expansion mic so we are no longer using the Tribal Councils equipment. The OWL is the best way to go for holding the meetings. M. Schlichting: We do have the budget to purchase the technology items. G. Smies: I just want to thank everyone for putting this office together and day to day operations.

Motion by G. Smies to purchase an OWL

Second by R. Noble

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4.3. Water Rights Database Access for Board and Enhancements:

- P. Hoyt: The DNRC has two request for the board related to the Water Rights database, this is the records management system for water rights in Mt. The DNRC manages this system. The ordinance specifies that this is the system we will use on the reservation for the water rights that the board administers. The board will need access to this system and the DNRC is currently working on getting access. We are also wanting to do enhancements or modifications to the database so it will be more functional. DNRC is requesting Anna assistance with the enhancements and to help build the database. Could be 5 to 10 hrs. A week, maybe more. K. Pitt – Who will pay for Anna's time if she were to help with the enhancements. A. Butterfield – I am currently busy but will be happy to help. We will need to talk about potential over time if needed. P. Hoyt – the funding does come from the State and the Tribe. M. Schlichting – If Anna was to work overtime, she will need to get approval from Clayton, and we do have the budget to cover it. We don't want Anna to become burnt out and that her primary job duties is to continue to process to the interim forms. R. Noble – I think we need to separate the two requests and see how much time Anna has available for this assistance. A. Butter field – I haven't done a time analysis but I can tell you that majority of my time is spent in meetings discussing applications and processing applications start to end. R. Noble – I think we should go forward with separating the two requests and Anna can give us her time analysis at the next meeting. K. Pitt – I have one question, how will the enhancements of the database benefit the board? Ethan – The database enhancements will bring unique functions for the water board and the office of engineers.

2.4.3.1. Board letter requesting A. Butterfield's assistance in enhancement development

- R. Noble – The staff will need to draft a letter for the chairman to sign, stating the board will need access the DNRC database.
- The board went ahead and moved this to the next meeting. Anna will be giving the board her time analysis at the next meeting.

2.4.4. Public Comment on operations items – No public comment

2.4.5. Board Action on operations items

2.5. Board discussion of unfiled pre-Effective Date existing water uses (Roger Noble)

R. Noble – Coming up after July 1 we will be accepting applications that were filed in the interim but after that there will be all the other wells. M. Schlichting – When the board adopted and the tech team developed the interim forms. It was anticipated that a category of people did not file their preexisting use water use. We are getting request on how to handle applications that were not filed before the deadline that was given.

3. Other Updates

- 3.1. Board member updates (for board members to share relevant information about items not on the agenda) Pelah - I added this to the agenda for the board to update the public on events or to share information to the other board members.

4. Next steps

- 4.1. Confirm dates of next in-person and virtual meetings (possibly postpone in-person to July 14)
K. Pitt – Next board meeting will be live July 7th at the Flathead Reservation Water Management board office. Pelah – Several members of the Tech Team will be out the week of July 7th, we are wondering if you would like to postpone the in person meeting to July 14th? We do have one item to put on the agenda, Rob McDonald is ready to share some of the logos from the contest. We will also have the report on the engineer job announcement. Anna – We do have applications for the hydrologist position, I will have to talk with Ethan, Seth, and Casey to see if they will be able to review. K. Pitt – I do think we should have public in person meeting. R. Noble –I think with Rob having the logo ready, and other action items, I think we should have the in person meeting. G. Smies – I'm good with the in person meeting as well, if the logo is ready, we may be able to move forward with the website development. M. Schlichting – I will not be available for in person but will be available on zoom.

4.2 Choose Meeting Topics

1. Logo design
2. Report on the Engineer Job Announcement
3. Anna's Work Study Analysis

5. Public Comment

- Announced email address where members of the public can provide comment.
- Virtual comment - T. Stockton – Started process of the boundary line adjustment over 9 months ago, and it now has morphed into a DNRC denial, that we even had water. We had water all the way back to 1977. The attorney at DNRC is aware of the situation and is working on this. Why did we have water back in 1977 and now we have being told we don't? We cannot sell the property till we get the water rights transferred back. K. Pitt – Please get in touch with Ethan and Anna to see what we can get resolved. Thank you for your comment. D. Smith – We are in desperation to sell this property and we keep getting the run around from DNRC to the water compact. We want this to get this resolved.

6. End meeting (Board Chair)