

Flathead Reservation Water Management Board Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022 from 2:00-4:00 PM

In-person: Flathead Reservation Water Management Board Office
400 Main Street Southwest, Ronan, MT 59864

Virtual at Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/FRWMB-Mtg-July7>

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

1. Call to Order (Board Chair)

- 1.1. Opening Prayer
- 1.2. Attendance
- 1.3. Safety procedures and Covid-19 protocols
- 1.4. Announce meeting recording & minutes on DNRC & CSKT websites

2. Board Business (Board Chair)

2.1. Adopt agenda

Motion by R. Noble to adopt agenda as modified (removing 2.4.4.1)

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.2. Approve minutes for June 21, 2022 and June 23, 2022

Motion by T. Wall-McDonald to approve June 21, 2022

Second by R. Noble

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

Motion by G. Smies to approve June 23, 2022 minutes

Second by R. Noble

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.3. Review of complete domestic allowance applications (Board-Anna Butterfield)

2.3.1. Application recommendations

2.3.2. Board Action on domestic allowance applications

- A. Butterfield: I added applications to list posted on the website and sent to board earlier in week. We have a total of 26 applications recommended for authorization. Some of these include wells that were drilled between the Effective Date and June 1, 2022.

Motion by R. Noble to authorize 24 applications: Stutzman, Eno, Zapel, Jones, Dinger, Burke/Bausch, Will Rogers Construction Inc, Johnson, Rummel, Davies, Chambers,

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Krebs/Martin, Johnston, Unruh, Wall, Reopelle, Tenas, Webster, Reilly, Ackroyd-South, Ackroyd-North, Myers, Matt, and Smith Revocable Trust.

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

- A. Butterfield: I am bringing two forward separately as requested by Board. The Miller application includes an ADU. The Moller/Selders applications has two houses on one parcel.
- R. Noble: Are both consistent with the previous guidance the board provided?
- A. Butterfield: We haven't had an apartment above a garages, but the concept is the same as an ADU.

Motion by R. Noble to approve Miller/Julie Revocable Trust and Moller/Selders

Second by G. Smies

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4. Office of the Engineer Operations

2.4.1. Water Engineer/Manager recruitment report

- T. Wall-McDonald: The board human resources committee met and did preliminary screening of applications received. We feel confident about forwarding the names of three candidates for interviews. These three are Ethan Mace, David Devine, and Jace Smith. We looked at the recruitment report and find recruitment to be adequate.

Motion by R. Noble to interview three candidates: Ethan Mace, David Devine, and Jace Smith

Second by T. Wall-McDonald

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0).

2.4.2. Admin Assistant/Compliance Tech job announcement update (CSKT-Melissa Schlichting)

- M. Schlichting: We put forward the job announcement. Pelah put it on the website. Rob Mcdonald will get it advertised in local newspapers. I also forwarded to the HR subcommittee a review form to use to make recommendations for interviews. Hopefully we get applications to go through in next couple weeks.

2.4.3. Legal RFP update (CSKT-Melissa Schlichting)

- M. Schlichting: We have received four proposals for board to review. I forwarded those on to the legal subcommittee to review. I would like to get dates from the subcommittee for times they can meet next week.

2.4.4. Water Rights Database access and enhancements (DNRC-Pelah Hoyt)

~~2.4.4.1. Board letter requesting access to database~~

2.4.4.2. DNRC request for A. Butterfield's assistance developing enhancements

- P. Hoyt: The Compact prescribed a single system of centralized records for all water uses on the Reservation and directed the Board to cause all authorized uses of water to be

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entered into the DNRC water rights database. The Compact also created 18 new water right types. The existing water rights database will need to be changed to accommodate these new water right types and for the Board to administer water rights on the Reservation. The software developers DNRC is working with call these changes “enhancements.” The software developers recommend that Board staff be involved in developing database enhancements since they will use the new system. DNRC requests Anna’s help in particular since she was involved in DNRC’s recent update to the database and understands the process.

2.4.4.3. Staff time analysis (Board-Anna Butterfield)

- A. Butterfield: Since Friday last week I worked 31 hours on the following tasks:
 - 8.5 -Administration: Spreadsheet management, bank/post office runs, errand running, prep for meetings, ordering office supplies, note making, etc.
 - 15.5 - Application Processing: Initial screen of applications, applicant contact for defect resolve, letter mailing/generating, working with hydros for approvals, money entry, etc
 - 4 - Meetings
 - 3 - Customer Service
- A. Butterfield: I think it’s doable to help with database enhancements, but there may be a need for overtime to process applications. There aren’t as many applications to process now.

Motion by R. Noble to allow Anna Butterfield to assist with developing database enhancements on the days the Ronan office is not open, so the office is fully functional when she is here. It’s to the board’s benefit to allow Anna Butterfield to help.

Second by Georgia:

Vote result: Approved (4 to 0)

2.4.5. Public Comment on operations items

- Duane Smith: I want to thank board members for expediting our application for a new well and want to thank the staff for help getting us through this today. I really appreciate it.

2.4.6. Board Action on operations items

- SEE ABOVE

2.5. Logo design presentation (CSKT-Rob McDonald)

- The Board reviewed the logos and requested they be added to the website. Members of the public can send comments on the logos to the board email address. G. Smies, R. Noble, and P. Hoyt agreed to review the logos and provide a recommendation to the board.

2.5.1. Board Action on logo

- The board did not take formal action on the logos.

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3. Other Updates

3.1. Board member updates

- R. Noble:: As of today we have processed 76 apps. All within one month so well done.
- G. Smies: Thank everyone for submitting applications

4. Next steps

4.1. Confirm next general meeting and location

- Anna does not think that we need a meeting next week. Propose meeting next July 21 and postpone the grand opening.
- P. Hoyts suggested that the tech team review grand opening plans and provide a recommendation to the Board.
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4.2. Choose meeting topics

- R. Noble: I'd like to see us revisit the policy manual. Pelah and Ethan have some ideas and I'd like them to present those and discuss how a manual might be developed.
- K. Pitt: The Board needs to keep moving forward with the engineer interviews.
- T. Wall-McDonald: I think we should identify a couple dates when the entire board is available to conduct interviews. I would like to complete these interviews in the month of July. We also need to identify benefits, because that will be a component of any offer. Most applicants will want to know what benefit package we want to offer. This will be an appropriate for discussion for the HR committee.
- A. Butterfield agreed to poll the board to find dates for interview.

5. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. End meeting (Board Chair)

- Adjourn meeting at 2:43

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