

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

2022 FALL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 26, 1:00 PM (MDT)

NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Fairfield Ambulance Center, 24 1st St SW, Fairfield, MT

Meeting preceded by lunch at 12:30 and SRWG Water Management Working Group at 10 am

Welcome

Roll call

Linda Berger
John Chase
Dave Martin
Perk Perkins (by phone)
Jessica Ramirez
Tanner Tompkins
Tracy Wendt

Changes to board and committee chairs

Steve Leathe has elected to leave the board. The full board received his email and many of his comments were constructive; we will be discussing some of his suggestions in the Project Committee item later on this agenda. Tanner will be taking over as chair of the project committee when Dave leaves (Steve was set to chair this committee). Erling and Tracy had a final conversation with Steve and thanked him for his time and contributions to SRWG.

During exit interview with Steve, he mentioned that communications between the board, committees, and Executive Director were not satisfactory. Communications have followed the board recommendations made last year and at this time there were no requests for a change to current procedures. Tracy reminded the board that non-response to emails is assumed as approval, though on major issues she does follow up with at least one member of the executive committee before proceeding with a major action. As new members join the board, there will be discussion to learn their individual communication style and to work that into board operations.

Review/approve 2022Q3 meeting summary

Linda moved to accept; Tanner seconded. Unanimously approved.

It was noted that the Augusta Youth Center was not an ideal meeting location. If SRWG meets in Augusta again, we will try to find a better spot.

The public project update portion of the meeting was a good idea, but needs some refining before we try that again. Better define the purpose of the presentation next time.

Committee Updates

Financial Committee – Chair: Perk Perkins

- Quarterly Reports (emailed; no discussion)
- 2022 Budget YTD; year-end cash-flow
- Reviewed 2022 Actual vs 2023 Budget: Anticipating good cash-flow between now and going into 2023, which will be useful in covering 2023 budget shortages, if any.

- 2023 budget: Negative totals are largely due to timing between funding being spent and grant reimbursement coming in – some grantors have been especially slow with reimbursements this year and there isn't anything we can do about that. 2022 cash will be adequate to cover shortfalls.
- 2023 budget shows hire of second staff person in Q3. This could happen sooner or later – timing is estimated, but depends on when the Reclamation grant is executed (delays on grantor side). Board will be consulted and fully involved in any decisions about hiring staff.
- Dave moved to approve 2023 budget; Linda seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Accounting update status – Tracy is working with the accountant to implement accounting changes discussed at the July meeting. It's taking longer than expected, but should be fully changed over January 1.

Executive Committee – Chair: Erling Juel

- Executive Director Review Overview – As Erling was out sick for this meeting, this discussion will occur over phone and email in the next few months. Board should each expect to hear from Erling to discuss.

Project Committee – Chair: Dave Martin & Tanner Tompkins

- Thanks to Tanner for taking lead of this committee when Dave departs. Thank you to Dave for his service to SRWG and this committee.
- Project process – There has been some confusion about how SRWG projects are identified and prioritized, and how SRWG decides which grants to apply for. In general, the board would like to stay informed, but Project Committee and Executive Director should be making recommendations.
- Board likes the written project update provided at this meeting. Some members expressed they are satisfied with current levels of communication and involvement.
- There was some confusion about whether or not all board members were involved in this process at the levels they'd like to be. To resolve, the project committee will hold a workshop prior to the January board meeting to present recommendations, current steps for project selection and prioritization, overview of current tools, and to get feedback from the board.
- Procurement for interactive mapping project – Tracy to create a memo for the board to review and to keep on file describing procurement steps taken to avoid conflict of interest.
- Next steps for committee: make recommendations to board regarding project/grant application approval levels for Executive Director, committee, and board; organize a project workshop to precede the January meeting

Governance Committee – Chair: Linda Berger

- Thank you to Linda for stepping up to chair this committee.
- There have been several parties interested in joining the SRWG board, however some have not ever been to a SRWG meeting. They were invited to attend this meeting, but are not here. Committee recommends potential board members attend a meeting prior to election. Linda and Tracy have followed up on a few potential candidates:
 - Doug Haberman – attended July meeting, has a cabin in the canyon and experience as a nonprofit executive director. Will follow up to gage interest.
 - Two Fort Shaw area producers – will invite to January board meeting then follow up to gage interest
 - Bill Madden – attended July meeting, has a home up Elk Creek and has long been engaged with SRWG, especially pertaining to weed control. Has another obligation, but would like to get more involved in 2023 and possibly join in

2024. Has financial planning experience – would be a great addition to finance committee.

- Tracy and Linda to keep working on this. May have candidates for January election, but may have to also hold special election to add board members at a later date.

Executive Director Update (see attached)

- Request to join MWCC board of directors: Dave Martin moved to approve Tracy to join MWCC board; John seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Recap 2022 fundraising; 2023 fundraising plan presented; board appreciated the overview.
- SRWG Events and Activities – Board is ok with whatever events ED has capacity for
- Grants/project status – Board appreciated the overview and liked the format

BSWC Update (see attached)

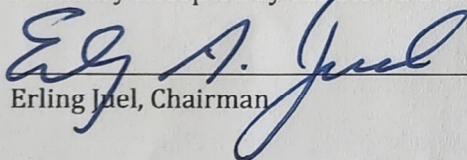
- Jessica presented an overview of tasks completed this year and thanked the board and staff for their support. This was her final meeting with SRWG. Her performance was excellent and her help was much appreciated.

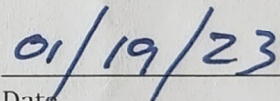
Other / Public Comment – none.

EVENTS and MEETINGS

October 28 – Nov 8	Tracy Vacation (back in office November 9)
November 9	Cascade CD/NRCS Resource Concern Public Meeting (location and time TBD)
January 18	SRWG Board Meeting and Board Election, Great Falls (TBD)
February 18	Winter RiverFest at the Newberry

Summary Accepted by the SRWG Board of Directors


Erling Juell, Chairman


Date

Executive Director Update - Fundraising

Campaign	Raised 2022	Goal 2023
End of Year	\$7,000 (previous \$4,766)	\$10,000
Winter RiverFest	\$5,000	\$7,000
Give Great Falls	\$10,094.45	\$10,000
Rainbarrel Workshop	\$1,482.62	\$1,200
Suds for the Sun	\$247	\$250
TOTAL	\$23,824.07	\$28,450

Other:

AmazonSmile: \$15-20/yr

Voyagers: \$300-400/yr

Recurring donation: \$50/mo

Memorial:\$700 in 2022

Organic donations: \$800 in 2022

Executive Director Update

2023 Events

- YE Fundraising – Nov 2022-Jan 2023
- Winter RiverFest – Feb 18
- Give Great Falls- 1st Week May
- *Spent Ammo Pickup – May/June*
- Suds for the Sun – June 19
- Weed Whacker Rodeo – 2nd Sat July
- *Voyagers Outreach – date TBD*
- Bashin' Trash – 3rd Sat August
- *Rainbarrel with TCD?*
- Year-End 2023 – Nov - Jan



Photo: Trash and ammo collected at Freezeout Lake Spent Ammo pickup event

Executive Director Update

Grant Updates

- IDG 2021 – Awarded, in progress (end Sept 2023)
- MWCC LT-PBR – Awarded, in progress (end Oct 2023)
- WMG 2022, capacity building – Awarded, in progress (end 12/23)
- Reclamation WaterSMART Muddy Creek – Awarded. Waiting on admin.
- RDG Planning through Teton CD – Applied. Award not announced yet.
- RDG Project Muddy Creek – Applied. Award not announced yet.
- Reclamation WaterSMART Capacity –Denied. Reapply 2023
- MWCC Capacity Grant – Apply by December 2.

BSWC update – Jessica Ramirez

- Attended wetland plant ID training in August
- Doing awesome social media posts
- Helped plan Bashin' Trash river clean up
- Recruited volunteers for SRWG events
- Wetland delineation at Tunnel Lake project (with BLM)
- Helping communication between SRWG and LCCD
- Completed Weed Whacker Rodeo Storymap

Board Administration

- Future meetings and proposed locations
 - January 18, 2023
Great Falls
 - April 19, 2023 (WMWG at 10 am)
Fairfield
 - July 19, 2023
Augusta? Fort Shaw? Need internet
 - October 18, 2023 (WMWG at 10 am)
Fairfield

SRWG board meetings are at 1 pm

Water Quality Working Group this winter

Fish Working Group in the fall/winter



Photo: Fishing on Spring Coulee Creek; auction trip donated at Winter RiverFest 2022 by Marc Lee