



Minutes
Water Quality Advisory Council
May 10, 2016
Missoula City-County Health Department
301 West Alder 7:00 p.m.

Present:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Bruce Simms - WQAC | Chris Brick – WQAC | Ian Magruder – WQAC |
| Travis Ross – MVWQD | Don Latham – WQAC | Kali Becher – WQAC |
| Casey Ryan – WQAC | Brett Rosenberg - WQAC | |

Urban Clark Fork River– Access Improvements and Restoration – Travis Ross

Urban Clark Fork River– Access Improvements and Restoration – Public meeting and consideration of a letter of support for DNRC Renewable Resource Grant to address bank erosion and user access on the south side of the river from Madison Street to just below Higgins Ave Bridge.

This project will create 6 durable access locations and rehabilitate the South Bank of the river spanning the project length. The entire project will costs between around \$244K with approximately half coming from a Renewable Resource Grant from DNRC, if approved. The remaining funds would likely come from a grant from the Missoula Conservation District and funds from the City of Missoula. This project comes at a critical time as this stretch of the river is receiving unprecedented access that is resulting in rapidly deteriorating banks. Parks and Recreation has documented 34 individual user-created access paths that have varying levels of severe erosion. Some locations have a foot or less of surface area before hitting the river trail. There are lots of utilities in this area and vegetation is no longer able to be sustained with the amount of traffic that these paths are receiving. This project will enable parks to re-plant, re-contour in some places and close access to fragile banks. Access in this area will only increase and this project enables that to happen without further damaging the banks. The entire north side of this stretch is Corps of Engineer Certified Levee. The goal is to avoid this situation on the south side.

Council approved a letter of support toward the project unanimously. This was signed at the meeting.

Mine Reclamation Project on Ninemile Creek – Kali Becher

Missoula County Community and Planning Services (CAPS) is applying for funding through the DNRC's Reclamation Development Grant Program for a partnership reclamation project with Trout Unlimited. CAPS is requesting a letter of support from the council. This is the House Mile Reclamation Project. This is a project within the Ninemile watershed in partnership between Missoula County, Trout Unlimited and Lolo National Forest. From the 1800's through the 1940's heavy placer mining was conducted. Since 2004 these 3 agencies have worked on restoring the mining damage in this watershed. 5 full-scale mine reclamation projects have been conducted in addition to 7 planning projects. They are definitely seeing real improvements of fish habitat and macroinvertebrate numbers. This would rehabilitate 3600 feet of Ninemile Creek connecting two previously restored tributaries. If funded construction would begin 2018 and last through 2019. RDG funds would pay for

half of project costs. The county is requesting \$425,000 in RDG funds. Trout Unlimited would come up with the rest.

This is reportedly not mined with mercury but was cyanide leach mining using draglines. The deposits are left from glacier deposits.

CAPS is requesting a letter of support from the Council which was approved unanimously. Council is very supportive of this work and is interested in attending a tour in the watershed.

Submitted by: Travis Ross