4-2018

Second annual meeting of the Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council
2018 Annual Meeting
April 16-17th, 2018
University of Montana, University Center (3rd Floor)

Monday, April 16th

9:00 am Field Trip to Lolo Creek (Optional – Meet at Travelers Rest State Park)

North Ballroom

1:00 pm Welcome & Overview of the Council and Annual Meeting

1:30 pm Story Map Presentation by the Communications Work Group

2:00 pm Outstanding Water Quality/Water Quantity Project Awards by the Natural Systems/Water Availability Work Group
A. Project 1 – Fred Burr Creek (Granite Creek Headwaters Association)
B. Project 2 – Mud Creek (Lincoln County Conservation District)
C. Project 3 – Nevada Creek (Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited)

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Bitterroot River Health Project by the Data Work Group

3:45 pm Work Group Sessions – Meeting participants will have the opportunity to join focused discussions on current and future Work Group activities and projects. Work groups need to learn how their work can provide benefits to local watershed groups.

5:00 pm Reception- Appetizers and No-Host Bar with short presentations from Watershed Groups sharing their current work

Tuesday, April 17th

8:30 am Coffee Served

9:00 am Break Out Sessions

Session A: Discussion of State & Basin Water Plans, Integrated Water Quality Report, and watershed/basin organizations and their role in water and watershed management (*UC 326/327*)

Session B: AIS Panel to discuss first year activities and what to expect for 2018 (*UC 332/333*)

10:15 am *Break*

10:30 am Break Out Sessions

Session A: Update on Milltown Water Right distinctions from the CSKT Water Compact (*UC 326/327*)

Session B: MBMG Project Overview of studies in the Clark Fork including Flathead Lake, Bitterroot, and Blackfoot (*UC 332/333*)

12:00 pm *Lunch*

University Center Theatre

1:00 pm Executive Committee Elections

2:00 pm Facilitated Work Plan Approval

3:00 pm DEPART

3:00 pm Field Trip to Smurfit Stone Container Plant Overlook Site (Optional)

Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council

Summary of the Second Annual Meeting (April 16-17th, 2018)
University of Montana, University Center (3rd Floor)

Objectives:

The Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council invited all basin citizens interested in water resource management to the Council's Annual Meeting at the University of Montana, Missoula Campus for a two-day meeting that included updates on progress made by the Council's three working groups (Data, Communications, and Natural Systems Health & Water Availability). Panels and presentations on water quantity and quality planning, aquatic invasive species management, the Milltown water right and CSKT Compact, and groundwater studies in the basin were offered. An election of Executive Committee members for the coming year was followed by adoption of the Council work plan.

Registrants/Participants:

- Randy Arnold
- Heather Barber
- David Brooks
- Chris Carparelli
- Meg Casey
- Maureen Connor
- Thomas Cox
- John Crowley
- Molly Davidson
- Kierra Davis
- Michael Downey
- Elena Evans
- Erin Farris-Olsen
- Irma Gomez
- Casey Hackathorn
- Gregory Hoffman
- Bonnie Holzworth
- Michael Howell
- Verdell Jackson
- Amy Jensen
- Susan Lake
- Alex Leone
- Ethan Mace
- Kaitlin Mccafferty
- Paul Parson
- Rick Potts
- Mary Price
- James Rokosch
- Travis Ross
- Pat Saffel
- Jennifer Schoonen
- Dave Shively
- Brian Sugden
- Michael Sweet
- Samantha Tappenbeck
- Eric Trum
- Joann Wallenburn
- Robert Warren
- Vicki Watson
- Kaeli Wells
- Laura Zanolli

Day 1- Monday, April 16th

Optional Field Trip to Lolo Creek

Welcome & Overview of the Council and Annual Meeting

David Shively, Ex Comm member, welcomed everyone to Missoula and the U of M campus. He reminded everyone of the background relating to the creation of the Council and what its mission and goals are. He directed people's attention to the Charter and the Working Groups. He introduced the Ex Comm members and had them introduce themselves. Dave thanked the funders, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and its representative Robert Warren, and the

Cinnabar Foundation. Thanks Erin Farris-Olsen from MWCC for her work to support the Council.

Story Map Presentation by the Communications Work Group

Meg Casey introduced the Communications Working Group and the need for the projects that the group is working on. She introduced Laura Zanolli who is working on the Story Map. Laura gave an overview of the information that will be available on the map about groups such as a group's contact information. She then asked everyone to fill out a short questionnaire that was left at the table about their organization and their watershed. She then showed two Story Maps from other organizations to give an idea of what the Story Map might look like when it's done.

Outstanding Water Quality/Water Quantity Project Awards by the Natural Systems Health and Water Availability Work Group

Vicki Watson introduced the reason behind the creation of the working group as well as the members in the group as well as the Award sub-committee.

A. Project 1 – Fred Burr Creek (Granite Headwaters Association)

Rumsey Mining site is likely leaching mercury into the creek. 2014-16 secured funding for studies. 2017 DNRC gave project a grant for clean-up. 2018 will be doing more surveys. Will be in the Watershed Stories campaign from MWCC to help get their story out.

B. Project 2 – Mud Creek (Lincoln County Conservation District)

The project started with an interested landowner who wanted to do some restoration. There was some logging on his land. Will be looking into a fish barrier to keep out pike and increase population of westslope cutthroat. Channelization and road encroachment on the stream that causes sedimentation, erosion, increased temperature, and runoff issues. Will have a QR code on the new sign at the site to have visitors participate in crowd source data collection of pictures from a photopoint.

C. Project 3 – Nevada Creek (Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited)

Major bank erosion and multiple phases; used on site sod and willows to create better fish habitat and had an increase in number and size of multiple species of fish. Award to highlight local ranchers that help out, create a social media presence and update their 13-year-old website. Had a set-back in the first phase where the water exceeded the bank for over 150 days in 2011 in their project site but when water receded the channel stayed which was noticed by area residents. Farmers are getting interested because they are losing land to bank erosion.

Bitterroot River Health Project by the Data Work Group

Picked out several creeks along the river to monitor. Currently partnering with several other organizations and businesses that support the Health Check Program. The program is creating baseline data for the area and will be uploaded to supplement the data already out there by other organizations. The

Data Group is creating a landing page that will then list all the organizations that supply data for these areas and where to find it. So, when you click on an area on the map, a list of links will then pop up of data for that area from different organizations. This will serve as an example for other basins to create a program like this.

Work Group Sessions

Attendees of the meeting split themselves into which Working Groups they were interested in. Working Group leaders led a discussion on possible new projects and ways to be involved with the group on the current projects. There was some discussion to form a fourth Working Group that would focus on funding but no motion was set.

Reception

There were short presentations from watershed groups sharing their current work including their great accomplishments and challenges. The presentations were accompanied by appetizers and a no-host bar.

Day 2-Tuesday, April 17th

Break Out Sessions

Session A: Discussion of State & Basin Water Plans, Integrated Water Quality Report, and watershed/basin organizations and their role in water and watershed management

Panel: Eric Trum (MT DEQ), Tim Davis (MT DEQ), Michael Downey (MT DNRC), David Shively (CFKRBC), Erin Farris-Olsen (MWCC).

Tim Davis: Wants to bring all data collection groups together and see where we want to be in 20 years in terms of quality and quantity. Looking at strategic plans and where are highest priorities. Wants to be able to point to watersheds where improvements are seen due to 319 funding. Asked staff to link up plans and establish baselines to be able to show the improvements made with that funding at a large scale. Need to gauge partners like sister state agencies, national agencies, and local groups and their contributions. Can also prove to the public why we exist and why water quality is important.

Michael Downey: Goal of the Water Plans was to create more of a vision document and not like other states which list specific plans and budgets. There will be another process soon to start creating another water plan. It is important that these plans are started and supported from the local level because they are implemented without as much push back that way. Local groups should try to help provide funding for monitoring programs like stream gauges because the state and federal governments see that and are more likely to try and keep those gauges open because it shows that gauges are important.

Erin Farris-Olsen: MWCC is working on story-telling of local watershed groups to advocate for more funding for these groups and show the importance of their work.

Also, will work on growing the pass-through funding for watershed group projects and capacity. While it can be tough to work together as nonprofit local groups when competing for funding, it's imperative that all groups stay working.

David Shively: The Clark Fork Basin Task Force was the organization that started off the Water Plan for the basin but then created the CFKRBC to be able to function without provided funding but still support the Water Plan. The Council can change as needed and function with different funding avenues. Also brings together many different stakeholders like landowners, state agencies, and local watershed organizations. Council can help coordinate all of these stakeholders efforts to make the most difference.

Session B: AIS Panel to discuss first year activities and what to expect for 2018

Lori Curtis: Reported information for other individuals and organizations that could not be there due to a conflicting conference on AIS. Gave an overview on the different types of aquatic invasive species and how they spread. Biggest concern right now for Montana is zebra and quagga mussels. Impacts they have are on everything we know; decrease property values, tourism, damage boats and docks, hydroelectric facilities, agriculture facilities, pumps, etc. Some of the biggest risks in terms of transportation of AIS in moored boats that are then moved and then wake boats that hold ballast water that cannot be completely emptied. No current way to kill the mussels without killing everything else in the water so that is one reason why prevention is so important. DNRC and FWP have partnered on the issue and are leading the charge. Many ways to survey for AIS species including mussel sniffing dogs, several different types of chemical assays, and surveys. Mussel sniffing dogs prove to be a great form of education due to people's responses to the dogs. Not as much money coming in for AIS as you might think. Some people have issues with the boat inspections because of it being a "privacy issue" which can be problematic to keeping AIS out of Montana. The water craft inspectors are updating their system from paper to a tablet to give real time data to other stations and limit amount of time inputting data. Tablets have been used in other states and have worked well. They also are putting out a "passport" where people can get stamped that they have been inspected and get them through faster at other stations. cleandraindry.mt.gov has lots of information. csktnomussels.org has a great campaign and program! Problems with all check stations are boaters purposely traveling at times outside of inspection stations running. Many organizations are using seals that connect the boat to the trailer so know if it must be inspected again or not. Whitefish Lake Institute has created a program where people can take test to allow for hassle-free launches and many people have taken them and enjoy it.

Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council): Has used artificial substrate stations with landowners which is basically a PVC pipe that hangs off the dock. All the owner has to do is pull up the pipe and run their finger over the pipe to test for the mussels. If present, the pipe will feel like sandpaper. While she has not continued this program, she has found out that there are still individuals who are doing this. Have started a citizen science program on their 6 lakes which samples for eDNA of several organisms.

2nd Break Out Sessions

Session A: Update on Milltown Water Right distinctions from the CSKT Water Compact

Mary Price (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes): Milltown Water Right is a co-ownership agreement. Read the abstracts to find out about the elements and restrictions of the water right. Everyone agreed the original water right 200,000 cfs below the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. Split into two water rights, one for Clark Fork and one for Blackfoot with flow rates set for each. Also sets the terms on how a call can be made; must be 4 consecutive days fall below the minimum flow and can only be made to certain individuals. The priority date will be 1904 in 2025. Tribes are not yet co-owner of the Milltown water right until everyone has ratified the agreement and so far only one government has. MT FWP will work with tribes to reach out to affected stakeholders in the basins on how to make this work. The Milltown water right requires drought planning for the entire Upper Clark Fork watershed.

Mike McLane (MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks): Hard to move from a hydropower right that is well defined to an instream flow right for fisheries, which have a different uses and different needs. Has an enforceable hydrograph and enforceable limitations but not against everyone.

Jennifer Schoonen (Blackfoot Challenge): The Blackfoot watershed had lots of community interest in what the compact meant so the Challenge has conducted public outreach and will continue to do so to discuss its impacts. Many landowners still don't fully understand the details of the Milltown instream flow water right. The Blackfoot has an existing drought response plan with many participants and will work with MT FWP to support new drought response participants who will be impacted by the Milltown water right..

Session B: Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology (MBMG) Project Overview of studies in the Clark Fork including Flathead Lake, Bitterroot, and Blackfoot

John : Giving an overview of WHIP projects that MBMG has started/completed. The first project was in the Flathead. He spoke on how the area was created by glaciation and how that has affected the creation and recharge of the deep aquifer. The gradient/steepness of the flow of the water affects how fast the groundwater is recharged. That makes it hard to determine how much water goes through the system. They have looked at several models to try and determine the numbers and have some estimates. The second project was in Lolo Creek. The problem that brought them there was that lower reaches of the stream have been drying up the last couple years. The channel has been filled in with gravel and so the water is forced underground, flow must be greater to flow above the gravel. They have compiled a list of several reasons for this problem and only fixing multiple/all of the problem will fix the flow issue.

Kirk Waren: Kirk spoke on the Blackfoot project. The stream has many channels. The problem that has attracted MBMG to this area is the migration of the old channel which causes landowners to divert more and more water. To do this, they must dredge other channels over and over to get more water. The channels here leak water into the aquifer. MBMG have modeled the groundwater is this area and

how irrigation affects the groundwater levels. MBMG is also looking into creating a website where people could possibly go in and see how a new well could affect groundwater. They are basing it off a tool created down in Utah.

Executive Committee Elections

All nominees were elected into the Executive Committee:
Meg Casey- Trout Unlimited
Maureen Connor- Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee
Thomas Cox- Flathead Lakers
Molly Davidson- MT Assoc. of Dams and Canal Systems
Verdell Jackson- Flathead Conservation District
Bonnie Holzworth- U of M
Michael Howell- Bitterroot River Protection Association
Susan Lake- Producer in Mission Valley
Evan Norman- Clark Fork Watershed Education Program
Travis Ross- Missoula Water Quality District
Jennifer Schoonen- Blackfoot Challenge
David Shively- U of M

Facilitated Work Plan Approval

Erin Farris-Olsen facilitated the discussion with the meeting attendees and Executive Committee Members on changes to the Work Plan for 2018-2019. The work plan will be refined at the upcoming summer quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee and posted to the Council's webpage.

Optional Field Trip to Smurfit Stone Container Plant Overlook Site

Last Name	First Name	Working Group	E-mail Address	E-mail 2 Address
Lihme	Becky		lincolncd@interbel.net	
Peterson	Karen		karen.petersen@mt.nacdnet.net	
Casey	Meg		mcasey@tu.org	
Connor	Maureen		connor@blackfoot.net>;	
Montgomery	Ben			
Edlund	Eric			
McLane	Michael			
Wallenburn	Joann	Data Group	joann@crcmt.org	
Mace	Ethan		emace@mt.gov	
Schoonen	Jennifer	Communications, NS, Data	jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org	
Price	Mary		maryp@cskt.org	mary.price@cskt.org
Cox	Thomas	Ex Comm, NS	tomcoxmt@gmail.com	
Jensen	Amy		amyajensen@fs.fed.us	
Sugden	Brian		Brian.Sugden@weyerhaeuser.com	
Hackathorn	Casey		chackathorn@tu.org	
Barber	Heather Mullee		heather@brwaterforum.org	
Catron	Brad		brad.catron@mt.gov	
Curtis	Lori			
Davidson	Molly		mdavidson@m-m.net	mollyskorpik@hotmail.cor
Dawson	Jim		jdawson@swca.com	
DeArment	John			
Downing	Neau			
Goodwin	Zachary		zachary.goodwin@umontana.edu	
Holzworth	Bonnie		bonnie.holzworth@umontana.edu	

Howell	Michael	Ex Com, Data	bitterrootriverprotection@gmail.com	
Hutchins	Michelle		mhutchins@missoulacounty.us	
Hyde	Kevin			
Jackson	Verdell	Ex Comm, Water Availability, Planning	vjack@centurytel.net	
Lake	Susan		jlake@ronan.net	
Miller	Michael	Ex Comm, Data		
Parwana	Noorjahan		nparwana@hotmail.com	
Rokosch	James	Data	jrokosch@cybernet1.com	
Ross	Travis	Ex Comm, Communications, NS, Data	tross@co.missoula.mt.us	
Schwend	Ann		aschwend@mt.gov	
Shively	Dave	Ex Comm, Planning	david.shively@umontana.edu	
Sleeper	Kristin		kristin.sleeper@umontana.edu	
Trum	Eric	Natural Systems	ETrum@mt.gov	
Warren	Robert		rwarren@b-e-f.org	
Watson	Vicki	Planning, Natural Systems	vicki.watson@mso.umt.edu	
Wilcox	Andrew		andrew.wilcox@umontana.edu	
Zanolli	Laura	Ex Comm, Planning, Data, NS, Communications	laura.zanolli@umontana.edu	
Waren	Kirk		kwaren@mtech.edu	
Kuehl	Marea		marea.kuehl@umontana.edu	
Heron	Kascie		kascie.herron@gmail.com	
Leone	Alex		alex@clarkfork.org	
Siphers	Craig		Craig@exitrealtybv.com	
Hurley	Patrick		hurleypatrick9@gmail.com	

Biehl	Holly		holly@clarkfork.org	
Sankar-gorton	Jedd		jedd.sankar-gorton@umconnect.umt.edu	
Osher	Josh		josh@westernwatersheds.org	
Norman	Evan	Ex Comm, Communicaitons	enorman@mtech.edu	
Saffel	Patrick		psaffel@mt.gov	
Iman	JR		calljriman@yahoo.com	
Harrington	Jennifer		jennifer.harrington@umontana.edu	
Davis	Anglea		bswc@mtcorps.org	
Scanlon	Tess		teresa.scanlon@tu.org	
Tappenbeck	Samantha		stappenbeck@macdnet.org	

Affiliation
Lincoln CD
Granite CD
TU
Upper Clark Fork steering committee, Natural Resource Damage Advisory Council, Granitate Headwaters member, CFKRBC Ex Com.
NRCS
Ratttlesnake Creek Watershed Group
Clearwater Resource Council
Montana DNRC Water Resources
Blackfoot Challenge
CSKT
Flathead Lakers
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
Weyerhaeuser (forest private land owner)
Trout Unlimited
Bitterroot Water Forum
DNRC
MT Asso. Dams & Canal systems
SWCA Environmental Consultants
University of Montana
University of Montana

Bitterroot River Protection
Missoula Water Quality District
Climate Office
CFKRBC ExCom Member (MT Senate previously)
Mission Valley
Granite Headwaters Watershed Group
Bitterrooters for Planning
Missoula Water Quality District
MT DNRC
University of Montana
University of Montana
DEQ
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
?
University of Montana
Lolo Watershed Group
MT Bureau of Mines and Geology
University of Montana
Lolo Watershed Group
Clark Fork Coalition
Bitterroot Valley Board of Realtors
University of Montana

Clark Fork Coalition
University of Montana
Western Watersheds Project

Clark Fork Watershed Education Program
MT FWP

Painted Rocks Water Users Association BR River water right holder
(Ravelli IR District?)
University of Montana

Montana Conservation Corps
Trout Unlimited

MACD/SWCDM

Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council Work Plan 2018-2019

			Bonneville	**DNRC**				
			Administration	Contracted	Supplies	Misc	BSWC	
Tasks	*Status*	*Comments/Description/Deliverables*		*1,000*		*500*	*2,500*	*5,000*
Executive Committee								
Meetings	Summer, Fall, Winter 2018	Updated Council Work Plan for 2018-2019						
Communication and Feedback	Ongoing	Updates to Stakeholders						
Development Activities	Initiate	Development Plan-September 2018 *think about solicitation from stakeholders. Maybe a work group for this?						
Work with WPIC & EQC	Ongoing	Summary of Water Policy Interim Committee activities, which may include: draft legislation, outreach activities, and meeting summaries. Propose legislation/policy actions.						
Instigate Coordination among State Agencies		Activitites to bridg/instigate coordinate FWP, DNRC, MDT, and DEQ.						
Draft & Approve By laws	Initiated	By laws intriduced for Annual Meeting 2019. Formalize communication between work groups and ex comm.						
Active Outreach	Ongoing	Revised Council Stakeholder Outreach List- again in 2018. Develop Outreach Packet of information. Local meetings attended by Ex Comm & BSWC. Connect CFKRBC, MWCC, UC3, and other entities (for example, Columbia River Treaty). Printing of executive summary of Basin Plan. Outreach to Conservation Districts* Kootenai a priority. Continue to solicit more involvement from the tribes. Evaluate the involvement of irrigators and monitor the overall expanse of our stakeholder base.						
Annual Meeting 2019	Initiate Fall 2018							
Good governance plan		establish methods for tracking our progress and overall effectiveness						
Communications Work Group								
Communications Story Map	Near completion	Identify audience, shared vision, and finalize basin story map-July 2018						
Clark Fork Narratives	Initiate	2-3 Narrative pieces representing basin.						
Website	Initiate	Website						
Communication Plan & Infrastructure	Initiate	Promotion of stakeholder activities. Share the rationale for watershed capacity funding through state programs. Ex. Stream gages, ecnomic impacts of work. Communicate agency program updates/information to stakeholders. Social media and logo development.						
Data Work Group								
Bitterroot River Prototype for Navigation Portal	Ongoing	Assemble, assess, and evaluate beta version. Consider land owner outreach strategy. Look into and plan scalability elsewhere in the basin. Add data on federal and local projects. Coordinate with Communications group to provide links to data.						
Identify Data Gaps		data gaps and funding and technical resources to fill those gaps. Eg. Efficacy monitoring. *ties to legislative outreach						
Natural Systems Workgroup								
Support for Local Projects	Completed for 2018	Assistance to projects that exemplify water quality/quantity intersection. Work with Ex Comm for funding in 2019.	10,000					
Policy outreach	Ongoing	Draft letters to elected reps, agencies, at any level, and stakeholder groups on issues of importance within the Basin, including recommendations from the State and Basin Water Plan. *formalize policy for review/approval. Prioritize issues, including: AIS program support, co management of water quality and quantity.						
Water Plan Implementation Dashboard	Initiate	Overview of basin recommendations and progress. Coordinate with DNRC on this. May need to focus on categories or prioritized recommendations. Water Availability and Natural System Health areas as a proposed priority. Identify implmentation gaps and barriers to completing those recommendations. Recommendations may be a platform for agency coordination. Advocate for consideration of water plan recommendations in other funding programs.						