

NOTES
Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council
Executive Committee Meeting
University Center Rm 215
University of Montanan - Missoula
Thursday, December 19, 2019, 10 AM-12 PM

Attending:

CFKRBC Executive Committee members:

Meg Casey (TU), Tom Cox (Flathead Lakers), Molly Davidson (MT Assoc Dam & Canal Systems), Bonnie Pace (UM), Michael Howell (Bitterroot River Protection Assoc), Verdell Jackson (Flathead CD), Susan Lake (Agric. Producer), Travis Ross (Missoula Valley Water Quality District), Jennifer Schoonen (Blackfoot Challenge), Dave Shively (UM)

Visitors:

Valerie Kurth (Regional Water Planner, Water Resources Division, DNRC), Michael Downey (Water Planning Section Supervisor, DNRC), Ethan Mace (Hydrologist, DNRC), Viki Watson (UM and Nat. Systems Work Group Lead)

- Welcome Valerie Kurth!
 - Introductions were made. Kurth provided information about her background (academic, work with the Flathead Conservation District) and current activities (meeting with watershed groups, helping to plan DNRC's 2nd Biennial Water Summit, State Water Plan implementation). Jackson provided some background on the Clark Fork Task Force's activities prior to the formation of the Council. Howell presented information on the Bitterroot Front Project being initiated by the Bitterroot National Forest ("Pre-Pre-Scoping Phase").
- Overview of the CFKRBC:
 - ExComm provided brief history of CFKRBC formation, MWCC relationship, funding, Working Groups, activities (Annual Meetings, sub-awards, Working Groups, engagement with WPIC & MT Legislature on SB 47 – A bill to revise the State Water Plan statute. ExComm and DNRC attendees discussed factors related to failure of SB 47 to advance beyond House Natural Resources Committee.
- Need for stronger working relationship with DNRC:
 - State's and basins' water plan implementation & monitoring still a priority.
 - Drought resiliency planning – as opportunity develops and capacity improves for engagement with Upper Clark Fork Basin drought management planning, CFKRBC would like to be of service.
- Next Annual Meeting – potential dates still need to be determined.

- Potential dates (Spring 2020?)
- Format & Scope?
- Other:
 - MWCC Symposium, October 2020, Butte
 - Vicki Watson proposing a half-day Clark Fork Symposium in conjunction with the MWCC Event.
 - DNRC's 2nd Biennial Water Summit, March 3-4, 2020, Helena:
 - Kurth - Great Conversation proposal submittal closes December 20th, but a proposal submitted a couple of days later can still be considered.
 - Considering Breakout Sessions, one or more of which might focus on State Water Plan and implementation.
 - Mace will share updated USFS Reserved Water Rights Compact Instream Flow report when completed after close of year.
 - Downey can add CFKRBC ExComm members to the Governor's Drought Water Supply Outlook Listserv.
 - Mace can share a RRGL Report that describes potential seasonal water storage benefits associated with stream restoration projects – this can be of use in assessing water plan implementation.