

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

January 19, 2021

AGENDA

1:30 PM	Welcome, Introductions/Roll Call, Confirm Quorum ACTION: Approval of <i>DRAFT 9/23/20 Minutes</i> .	Rich Janssen, CSKT (Chair)
1:40 PM	Presentation: What Should We Expect in the 2021 Legislative Session? 2021 Legislative Session: Agency/Legislative Services Staff Updates re: Natural Resource Policy & Programs	Joe Kolman, Legislative Services; Mark Bostrom, DNRC; Myla Kelly, DEQ; Jim Williams, FWP
2:20 PM	Staff Report: Activities; Budget and Grants; Projects; Website DISCUSSION: Stormwater Conference 2021 – FBC Panel Stormwater Project, Phase 2 Acknowledgement of past members (Chip Weber, Dean Sirucek)	Kate Wilson; Cassidy Bender, FBC staff
2:50 PM	Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee Approach & Updates. Legislative Connections. Projects.	Ed Lieser, FBC Vice Chair; Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute/FBC; Kate Wilson; Ryan Richardson, RDG
3:00 PM	Welcome address & brief comments on policy and program priorities, role of boards & commissions, etc.	Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
3:10 PM	Presentation: East Flathead Valley Groundwater Study	Melissa Brickl, DNRC Hydrologist
3:30 PM	Education & Outreach Committee Approach & Deliverables. Projects. Next Steps.	Lech Naumovich, Casey Lewis and Kate Wilson
3:40 PM	DISCUSSION & BRAINSTORM: Commission Meeting Topics, Updating of Strategic Plan, Retreat/Planning Session Potential	Kate Wilson, Cassidy Bender
3:55 PM	Public Comment	Rich Janssen
4:00 PM	Wrap Up & Adjournment Next Meeting Dates/Locations, Doodle Poll Results 2021: March 31, August 25	Rich Janssen; Kate Wilson

***ACTION ITEMS & MEMBER DISCUSSION INDICATED IN BLUE**

We promote participation! All Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) meetings are open to the public and stakeholders. To participate in the upcoming virtual meeting, or to request special accommodations, please contact Cassidy Bender (cassidy.bender@mt.gov or 406-542-5886) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Flathead Basin Commission		
Date of Meeting:	Jan 19th, 2021	Time:	1:30pm-4:00pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Cassidy Bender	Location:	Virtual-Zoom/Call in
List of Acronyms			
AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FBC	Flathead Basin Commission
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps program)	GNP	Glacier National Park
CEMIST	Central Eastern MT Invasive Species Team	MCWD	Missoula County Weed District
CFC	Clark Fork Coalition	NPS	National Park Service
CRB	Columbia River Basin	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	UC ³	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFS	US Forest Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
E & O	Education & Outreach	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council (Interim)	WRP	Western Regional Panel
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Rich Janssen (Chair)	Welcome. Rich opened the meeting. Confirmed quorum present (for voting purposes). CSKT updates: Water Compact has been signed by Trump, National Bison Range is now back in the hands of CSKT and is tribal managed.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each participant introduced themselves including name and organization/interest that they are representing. Welcome new FBC member, Peter Brumm from EPA Reg 8 (Helena) replacing Jason Gildea. Peter is the Montana TMDL Coordinator in the Clean Water Act/TMDL program.		
2. Attendees			
<p>FBC (voting members underlined): <u>Rich Janssen</u> (CSKT), <u>Ed Lieser</u> (Flathead Basin Commission), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute/UC³), <u>Kathy Olsen</u> (DNRC Kalispell), <u>Jack Potter</u> (Governor-appointed), <u>Dave Stipe</u> (Lake County Commissioner), <u>Steve Frye</u> (Governor-appointed), <u>Casey Lewis</u> (City of Kalispell), <u>Jim Simpson</u> (Lake County Conservation District), <u>Randy Brodehl</u> (Flathead County Commission), <u>Lech Naumovich</u> (Flathead Conservation District), <u>Jeff Mow</u> (Glacier National Park), Myla Kelly (DEQ), Mark Bostrom (DNRC Helena), Jim Williams (Montana FWP), Peter Brumm (EPA), Mark Reller (BPA), Kate Wilson (DNRC/FBC & UC³ Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (DNRC/FBC & UC³ Commission Coordinator)</p> <p>Absent: <u>Jasmine Courville-Brown</u> (CSKT/Citizen), Dennis Philmon (BOR), <u>Kurt Steele</u> (USFS)</p> <p>Public/Other: Dean Sirucek (Retired FBC/FCD), Chip Weber (Retired USFS/FBC), Joe Kolman (Legislative Services), Ryan Richardson (RDG), Melissa Brickl (DNRC Hydrologist), Tom Bansak (FLBS), Emilie Henry (BSWC, City of Kalispell), Jillian Henrichon (Flathead Wastewater Partnership, BSWC), Valerie Kurth (DNRC), Anne Carlson (Wilderness Society-Choteau), Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI), Breanne Carr (Morrison-Mairele), Rachel Malison (FLBS), Rickey Schultz (HDR Inc.), Ed Meece (Polson City Manager), Mayre Flowers (Citizens for a better Flathead), Steve Rosso (Flathead Lakers), Hailey Graf (FCD), Samantha Tappenbeck (FCD), Attila Folnagy (DNRC Hydrologist), Carolyn Pardini (Polson City Commissioner), Kianna Gardner (Daily Interlake), Kristi Niemeyer (Lively Times)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
<p>Kate Wilson, Commission Administrator</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum confirmed. • Motion to approve minutes from Sept 23rd, 2020 meeting (Ed) Second (Jack). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • ‘Pull the Plug’ rule explanation UC³ supported the bill at their last meeting and it essentially means that boaters need to have their plug disengaged during transport. • Overview of Agenda: Minutes, 2021 Legislative Session Update, Staff Report (Budget, Grants, Projects), Discussion: 2021 Stormwater Conf FBC Panel, Acknowledgement of past members, Stormwater Project, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee, DNRC Director Address, E&O Committee updates, Discussion: Meeting topics & strategic planning.
<p>Myla Kelly, DEQ</p> <p>Jim Williams, FWP</p> <p>Mark Bostrom, DNRC</p> <p>Joe Kolman, Legislative Services</p> <p>Agency & Legislative Updates</p>	<p>Agency Updates and Discussion</p> <p><u>Department of Environmental Quality (Myla Kelly)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEQ Bill #1- SB 44: Subdivision bill with five primary goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide additional clarity to the sanitation act through clean up provisions. 2. Apply property protections (est. 2011-2013) to all facilities. 3. Incentive local rules of subdivisions. 4. Provide notification to buyers that purchase property that has not been reviewed, so buyers are not surprised after the purchase the property. 5. To expand the use of exemptions to reduce the number of unnecessary reviews. • DEQ Bill #2- SB 53: An act intended to reduce permitting requirements to mine decorative rock that does not produce acid or other pollutants. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define term decorative rock. 2. Provide rule making authority to the department. • Number of potential bills that could be related to water quality standards but nothing of yet, DEQ keeping tabs on those moving forward. • ACTION: Myla to send members information on SB 44 (DEQ agency bill) moving forward. <p><u>Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Jim Williams)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking HB 152: Requiring drain plugs to be disengaged in transport (UC³) & HB 42: Clarifying AIS management authority with an AIS list (UC³). • FWP inspected more than 134,000 boats in 2020, 35 of them mussel fouled (record). <p><u>Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (Mark Bostrom)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting One-Time-Only funding (\$20,000 per year) for FBC become permanent in the previous administration and has carried forward into this new administration. • Five groups of agency bills that somewhat relate to FBC in one way or another <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HB 62: Allow DNRC to have bonds that would be for water and wastewater plants, this bill frees CARDD up for having to wait for DEQ to interact with EPA to authorize the loans. Passed on third reading. ○ HB 30: CD election law changed to make it easier for CDs when a supervisor resigns to elect/nominate another. Tabled in the house. ○ HB 42: Clarifying FWP management authority over AIS with an AIS list. Tabled. ○ SB 40: Revise MISC membership, adding seats for board of livestock and UC³. ○ HB 6 & 7 for DNRC funding and loan programs. ○ HB 8 and HB 14 bonding bill to fund all projects in HB 6 & 7. <p><u>MT Legislative Services (Joe Kolman, Environmental Policy Director)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes on zoom/hybrid session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online form to sign up to testify via zoom (testimony needs to be in at noon the day before the hearing). ○ If you plan on testifying on a bill it is helpful to understand what the chair of that committee wants and how they work. Every chair and committee have their only

	<p>personalities & views. Some committees are not promoting the zoom to panelists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In person testimonies are normal, you can show up and testify in real time. ○ Another web form allows you to submit comments/questions and direct it at a particular legislator or person. Comment form can be used at any time and that goes live when it is noticed, this is the easiest way to get your questions to all legislators on the committee (some are not in Helena).
<p>Chip Weber, USFS Dean Sirucek, FCD</p> <p>Acknowledgement of past members</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of Past Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you to Chip and Dean for all of your great participation, expertise and value added to the Flathead Basin Commission over the years. Happy retirement. <p>Chip Weber- “Nice to see so many that I have gotten to work with. I tried to contribute as much as I could and developed friendships through the commission. I like that we had lots of challenges while I was on the commission. I miss you folks, really great to see you and good luck to everyone on the commission. The greatest honor was being able to work with all of you.”</p> <p>Dean Sirucek- “Really enjoyed my work on the committees, I have really enjoyed the time and the relationships and thank you all and hope to see everyone off in the future.”</p>
<p>Kate Wilson, Commission Administrator</p> <p>Staff Updates/Budgets</p>	<p>Staff Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kate and Cassidy split their time 50/50 with FBC and UC³ both working (mostly) remotely due to COVID-19. ● Executive Committee meets every other Tuesday at 10, meetings are open to everyone and if you are interested let us know and we can send information on joining. This allows us to conduct business between quarterly meetings. ● Our Biennial Report for 2019-2020 is a flip book on our website as well as featured on the MT 2021 Legislative Hub page. Commission members should all have hard copies but if you would like one, let us know. ● Notable staff activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting follow up and planning ○ Executive Committee planning and participation ○ Grant & Budget management (writing/reporting/tracking) – EPA grant ○ Monitoring Flathead Basin natural resource issues ○ Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership NEW! Big Sky Watershed Corps Member ○ Septic leachate committee and tech subcommittee support ○ Stormwater project w/ City of Kalispell- Emilie (BSWC) back for Phase III! ○ BSWC projects & planning ○ 2021 Legislative Session Bill & Committee Tracking ○ Crown Managers Partnership steering committee (represent both Commissions) ○ North American Invasive Species Management Association conference (president-elect) ○ PNWER (co-chair of invasive species working group) ○ Western Regional Panel (chair of Fire AIS protocol committee) ○ BC Columbia River Basin Steering Committee (member) ○ Pend Oreille Basin Commission (Ex-officio, MT upstream rep) ○ County Assist Team (CAT) Public Information Officer & Liaison Officer ○ Graduate School- MPA Certificate (Kate) ● Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Montana Legislative Session- Jan-April 2021 ○ UC³ Winter Meeting- Feb 10th (virtual) ○ National Association of Conservation Districts Meeting- Feb 1-10 (virtual) ○ MWCC Annual Meeting- Feb 26th (virtual) ○ Crown Managers Partnership –Fire Forum March 22-26th (virtual)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NALMS Monitoring Conf- Apr 20-22nd (virtual) ○ 2021 Stormwater Conference- May 3-5th (Missoula) ○ Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)- Annual Summit Aug '21 (Big Sky) ○ North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)- Conference Sept 27-30th '21 (Missoula) <p>Budget & Finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If OTO bill passes would be an addition of \$40,000 (replacing \$20,000) on top of the base (HB: 2). Each year of the next biennium would be closer to \$60,000. <p>Sources of Funding FY21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natural Resources Operating Fund FY21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$40,000- base budget & OTO requested to be permanent (operating budget) ○ \$77,000- personal services (staff salary, benefits- split with UC³) ● Natural Resources Operating Fund FY20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$20,000- accrual from FY20 to RDG contract ○ \$15,000- accrual from FY20 to Windfall contract ○ Accrual is a carry forward of money to the next year, the spendable amount is increased but does not change the base budget amount. ● Federal: EPA Multipurpose State & Tribal Assistance Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$51,113- EPA grant 1 (stormwater project, 2 years)- <u>\$26,152 expended</u> ○ \$26,191- EPA grant 2 (septic leachate GIS mapping; synthetic DNA) <p>Budget: State Operating Funds (FY21):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY20 Operating: \$40,000/\$40,000 spent or accrued to existing contracts ● FY21 Operating: \$33,716/\$75,000 spent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$20,000 (annual base budget) + \$20,000 (addition One-Time-Only) ○ Added \$35,000 to FY21 budget (existing contracts only) ○ \$14,370/\$20,000 accrued to RDG contract (septic leachate risk map/GIS). <u>BALANCE: \$5,630</u> ○ \$9,626/\$15,000 accrued to Windfall contract (water quality campaign, website, etc.). <u>BALANCE: \$5,374</u> ○ NO ACTION needed now (approved budget 9/23/20).
<p>Sponsorships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) – Big Sky, August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>FY20 \$2,000</i> – 2020 postponed, applied to 2021 summit ● North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) – Missoula, Sept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>FY20 \$2,500</i> – 2020 postponed, applied to 2021 annual conference ● Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) - ‘Partner’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY21 \$1,000 Summit to Stream Conference, partner (eligible for cost share) ● Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) – Steering Committee member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY21 \$3,250 annual agency/partner funded ● North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) – virtual conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY21 \$1,500 – silver sponsor, plenary speakers, 2x free registration ● Montana Stormwater Conference – ‘gold sponsor’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY21 \$2,750 – FBC panel, logo on materials ● If you are interested in attending any of these conferences, we have the funds to cover commission members so please let us know. <p>Gold Sponsors for the 2021 Stormwater Conference May 3-5th (Missoula)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FBC Non-point Source Pollution Panel Abstract Accepted! ● Casey is on the review committee, currently weighing in person/virtual options. ● Resilience conference theme: how communities can be resilient with future changes & development within a bigger watershed. ● Panel topics:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of FBC & projects ○ NPS pollution priority & goals ○ Interfacing with local/state government, organizations, agencies (<i>Rich or Kate</i>) ○ Stormwater project overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Casey & Emilie</i> will be submitting separate abstracts for the stormwater inventory and rain garden projects ○ Education & Outreach Committee (<i>Casey or Lech</i>) ○ On-site Wastewater Treatment Committee (<i>Ed or Mike and Ryan</i>) ● If you are interested in speaking or being on that panel, please let us know and we will share the agenda as soon as available.
<p>Emilie Henry, Big Sky Watershed Corps; Kate Wilson</p> <p>Big Sky Watershed Corps Member Activities & Outreach Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emilie is back for her second term! It is nice to have Emilie back so we can hit the ground running with an excellent member. ● Emilie’s 2020 Stormwater Report & One-pager summarizing her term are published and distributed (on FBC website). ● Emilie’s position is funded primarily by the EPA grant. Grant Components (2020-2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$24,961 remaining in EPA Grant ○ Big Sky Watershed Corps (partial, 2 years) ○ Stormwater Monitoring & Inventory Project ○ Education & Outreach: Rain Garden Initiative, Adopt-a-Drain program, Flathead watershed/stormwater curriculum, organize local river clean up event(s) ○ Utilize City of Kalispell as a Pilot for Dry-Weather Inspection of Outfalls ● Phase II- Gathering stormwater infrastructure data for the urban and semi urban areas in the Flathead Basin.
<p>Ed Lieser, FBC Vice Chair; Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute/FBC; Kate Wilson</p> <p>Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee updates</p>	<p>Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee Update (Ed Lieser)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participation: Agency, technical staff, contractors ● Meetings: As needed (project based) ● Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive committee to discuss/decide on structure, framework for technical committee and reach out to technical experts identified. ○ Specialty/expertise of members fitted to project(s) ○ Guide technical elements of projects (septic leachate, stormwater, monitoring) ● Our aggressive committee start was driven by the upcoming legislative session thinking we would have a bill, now we are not immediately recommending state action, we are taking more of a marathon approach. ● Flathead Wastewater Partnership was formed: partners in the basin working on these issues (DEQ, SWCDM/MACD, FBC, Flathead Lakers, etc.). With new BSWC member, Jillian Henrichon, placed at the Lake CD office, primarily working on the septic cost share program for landowners but also assisting with FBC Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee and annotated bibliography. ● Technical committee project updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finishing GIS mapping project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flathead County complete currently working on Lake County portion ○ Synthetic DNA study beginning in spring (to validate the GIS mapping project) ○ Both to inform us more thoroughly on the septic leachate issue in the basin. ● Overview of GIS mapping project goals: Identify existing septic system distribution and age of population; increase the committee’s spatial understanding of septic system pollution risk. Create layers/maps for known risk factors for septic system failure/poor performance. ● Flathead Lake and Whitefish Lake are both limited for Nitrogen and areas around Flathead Lake are of main concern.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have started using new ArcNLET GIS based model to simulate nitrogen contaminate plumes from septic systems. Model based on physical characteristics of site and physics of groundwater flow and diffusion. • Useful output from ArcNLET model to determine our sampling sites for the Synthetic DNA Tracer (taken priority because of the timeline of the project). <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for replacing existing/possibly failed systems: requesting to expand funding for DNRC in the legislature (HB 6). Would bump up private grant amount from 75k to 100k for the two-year period. • FBC plans to help publicize the grant program and how to access it with our E&O efforts. • UM graduate student doing a project on the socio-economic impacts on septic leachate and systems possibly to include existing funding sources (Marie Watson/FLBS). • Cost-share portion of FCD program will be targeted to landowners and 50% cost share program (funding for pumping and maintenance on ~200 septic systems). There is a smaller amount budgeted towards replacing systems in the Flathead Basin area. • Replacing a septic system is on average ~\$30,000. • Jim Elser has a new book published about phosphorus for a general audience with oxford publishing you can find here: https://www.amazon.com/Phosphorus-Past-Future-Jim-Elser/dp/0199916918 • We could work to try to determine what hoops a county might have to jump through to employ what Ryan at RDG is pulling together. If that is going to be used as a tool to inform local governments on decisions of where/what level of septic they would allow and if that becomes state law understanding what the issue is, is important. • HB 123- This bill is intended to ensure if there are local entities that are proposing technical standards that are more stringent than what is in 'Circular 4', those proposals have to be peer reviewed. • ACTION: Ed to share response from Legislative Services inquiring on HB 123 and we can discuss at executive committee.
<p>Welcome Address from New DNRC Director</p> <p>Amanda Kaster</p>	<p>Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director</p> <p><i>"Nice to meet everyone virtually and look forward being able to attend meetings and working with each of you. I have been working on natural resource and energy related issues for the past decade and had the opportunity to work for congressman Ryan Zinke as his Energy & Natural Resources staffer. Worked in his office of congressional legislative affairs working with BOR, BLM and other agencies. 2 years I was the acting Chief of Staff at BLM. This past spring, I was asked to serve as the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Portfolio primarily included the BLM but also included Bureau of Ocean entity and the Office of Surface Mining. Based in Helena now and excited to be working on these important issues in Montana. I am excited to work with you all. Let me know if you would like to meet or have any questions."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve: "Thank you Mark, Kate & Cassidy (as of late). Under your leadership the basin commission regained our footing and focus on our missions and mandate. Through your efforts over the last few years, we have been able to move forward always with an eye on that mission and that focus. I appreciate that as one who has watched the basin commission for a number of years and am pleased, we are moving in a direction that was intended for the basin commission." • Jim Williams, FWP: Seconded, you have done a great job. • Quick history for the Director: Both Flathead Basin Commission and Upper Columbia Conservation Commission are both administratively attached to DNRC and administered by Kate Wilson. FBC has been around for a much longer time, originally working on a mining issue in the '80s and have worked on some nonpoint source issues for the basin.

	<p>Got active in the aquatic invasive species issue and since FWP has gotten their program rolling, FBC is returning to the nonpoint source mandate.</p>
<p>East Flathead Valley Groundwater Study</p> <p>Melissa Brickl, DNRC Hydrologist</p>	<p>East Flathead Valley Investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study began back in 2017, years leading up to 2017 it was observed that the east flathead valley was facing increased pressure from development and a lot of water applications received during this time period where for subdivisions, relying on ground water, specifically water from the deep aquifer. • DNRC’s process for ground water applications requires assessment of whether the proposed new use of groundwater would deplete a surface water source. As more permanent applications came in, it became apparent that the department needed 1) stream flow data for streams in the east valley and 2) to evaluate the connection between the deep aquifer and the shallow aquifer. • Investigation focused on the Blaine Creek watershed (3 streams of focus, ~36 sq. miles) because they were near developmental areas that may sink wells and deplete surface water sources if they were developed in the future. • Goal 1: Generate median of the mean monthly flow data for Mooring Creek, Hemler Creek and Blaine Creek (data to administer water rights). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 1: Install five temporary stream gages with continuous stage recorders, develop stage-discharge ratings for each site. ○ Five Temporary Stream Gages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mooring Creek at Sampsons ▪ Mooring Creek near Blackmer Rd. ▪ Hemler Creek ▪ Blaine Creek at Lake Blaine Outlet ▪ Blaine Creek MSU-Ag Station • Goal 2: Evaluate hydraulic connection between groundwater and surface water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 1: Install piezometers (<9 ft deep) and continuous data recorders at four of the five stream gages. ○ Objective 2: Monitor deep and shallow wells to identify trends (12 wells 20.4-627 ft deep, four w/ transducers). ○ One real-time stream gage at Mill Creek below Creston USFWS Hatchery <p>East Flathead Valley Groundwater Investigation Program (MBMG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2018 East Flathead Valley Groundwater Investigation Program (GWIP) proposal submitted to Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology (MBMG), selected by MBMG in September 2018 and started collecting data in August of 2019. • GWIP Project Scope- “Will develop hydrogeologic framework, water budget, and construct a numerical groundwater model to simulate hydrologic conditions and predict the effects of pumping on the hydrogeologic system. • Established a monitoring well network of domestic and irrigation wells (86 total wells including 12 DNRC wells that were monitored). • Installed eight temporary stream gages, mostly along the Swan Range. • Drilled 10 wells and will conduct aquifer tests in 2021. Data will help them understand the connectivity between the different aquifers as well as be used to generate aquifer properties for their model. • Data collection for DNRC investigation will cease October 2021; DNRC surface water data published to MBMG SWAMP site; DNRC groundwater data published to MBMG GWIC site; Data utilized to administer water rights, support MBMG with East Valley GWIP project. • DNRC stream monitoring site should be up in March. <p>Discussion/Questions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Reller: You might consider as a comparison test to your temp stream flow gages, the USGS Survey water-supply paper (2260 by Charles Parrett and J.A. Hull). It has regression equations for estimating stream flow characteristics of mean annual discharge and flow exceedances. Paper might give you just another validating check on your water gauges and could also run stream stats application which applies the regressions that are in that document. • ACTION: Add MBMG contact and possibly have them present on their groundwater monitoring work (GWIP) to future meeting topics spreadsheet.
<p>Kate Wilson; Co-Chairs: Lech Naumovich; Casey Lewis</p> <p>Education & Outreach Committee</p>	<p>Education & Outreach Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lech: Thanks for everyone at the partner meeting, we had individuals from organizations talk about critical concerns that we want to address in the making of this project. • Casey: Great group that came together, there was a lot of representation at the partner meeting and there is always room for expansion. • Open invite for anyone to join these meetings, they are all open to the public. This is a great time to get involved even if you only have a little bit of time to check in, we would love to hear from you sooner rather than later. • FBC has previously had an E&O committee but we are revamping right now, all of our current projects will benefit from education and outreach efforts. • We have funds and a contractor who specializes in campaign development and marketing to help guide the development of a basin-wide water quality campaign that all of the partners working on water quality issues can utilize and benefit from. • Flathead Basin Water Quality Campaign: Project Concept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address multiple water quality objectives and topics ○ Increase consistency and effectiveness of messaging ○ Campaign logo/look & feel/materials would be available to all the partner to use free of charge. ○ Looking to get this project off the ground in the next year. • We have ~5 partners in the basin on the steering committee acting as the longer-term Education and Outreach Committee members who will advise on the water quality campaign project as well as some other projects like our website. • We are thinking about how to make our work accessible and widely shared through these E&O efforts. Especially with how we are bringing this septic leachate work to the public to utilize as a tool as well as an educational component. • Manifestation and utility of the septic leachate work with the education and outreach committee is going to determine how we disseminate this information.
<p>Brainstorming Session</p>	<p>Brainstorming: Big Picture Future of the Flathead Basin Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member input on future meeting topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watershed Partners Coordination Panel (2021 Priority) ○ Rail Safety Panel (tabled due to COVID) ○ Water Quality/Quantity Monitoring & Trends • Updating of Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current plan through 2021 ○ Retreat/Planning Session Potential (Fall of 2021 or as long as it is safe) <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike: Watershed partners panel: we should reach out to all groups in the basin to see their thoughts and concerns on water issues and/or topics to include in which the basin commission could assist (a survey could inform panel or culminate something bigger) • Peter Brumm: Exciting amendment to the Clean Water Act a few years ago that creates a special emphasis on the CRB that encapsulates the Flathead with grant money and attempt to pull watershed managers, stakeholders, scientists, monitoring efforts

	<p>together in the basin to look at the holistic efforts at a basin scale. Priority right now is on addressing toxics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One grant in the flathead UM grant housed at FLBS with Nanette Nelson in partnership with CSKT doing Mercury sampling for fish tissue https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program ○ EPA, CRB restoration https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/about-epas-work-columbia-river-basin#crbrp ○ ACTION: Add Peter Brumm & FLBS to future meeting topics to present on the EPA CRB restoration grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Casey: Excited about strategic planning and getting additional clarity with future priorities. Adding pollutants of emerging concerns (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) in regard to both septic leachate, wastewater, and stormwater. ● Presentation DEQ or FWP on selenium issue in the Kootenai (Jim Dunnegan or Sam from FWP to present) March 31st meeting. ● ACTION: Myla will invite Jim Dunnegan to jointly present on the selenium topic at the March 31st meeting. ● Canadian-Flathead dialogue relating to what is going on now and development/extraction plans for the future. We need to engage that part of the drainage. We have been trying to fill that vacant BC seat but are having a bit of trouble. ● Erin Sexton at the bio station keeps in touch with BC contacts and has worked with Wildsite on the Kootenai issue, if we need some names to fill that seat. ● ACTION: Kate to reach out to Erin Sexton at the FLBS on transboundary issues and filling the BC vacancy on FBC. ● ACTION: Add all future meeting topic ideas from brainstorming session to spreadsheet.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Wrap up & Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting dates (2021): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spring- March 31st (TBD/likely virtual) ○ Summer- August 25th (TBD/likely virtual) ○ Meeting dates will be updated on the website. ○ Contact us ahead of time for zoom/call in information. ○ Will keep the commission posted on the legislative session and please feel free to join any executive committee meetings in the future. ● Motion to adjourn (Randy). Seconded (Jack). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> ● Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out draft minutes	Kate Wilson Cassidy Bender	2/19/2021	Completed
2	Next meeting dates, location, and logistics	Kate Wilson	3/31/2021	Completed
3	Myla to send members information on SB 44 (DEQ agency bill) moving forward.	Myla Kelly	3/31/2021	
4	Ed to share response from Legislative Services inquiring on HB 123 and we can discuss at executive committee.	Ed Lieser ExCommittee	1/30/2021	Completed
5	Add MBMG contact and presentation on their groundwater monitoring work (GWIP) to future topics.	Cassidy Bender	2/11/2021	Completed

6	Add Peter Brumm & FLBS to future meeting topics to present on the EPA CRB restoration grant.	Cassidy Bender	2/11/2021	Completed
7	Myla will invite Jim Dunnegan to jointly present on the selenium topic at August meeting.	Myla Kelly, staff	3/31/2021	In progress
8	Kate to reach out to Erin Sexton at the FLBS on transboundary issues and filling the BC vacancy on FBC.	Kate Wilson	4/15/2021	
9	Add all future meeting topic ideas from brainstorming session to spreadsheet.	Cassidy Bender	2/11/2021	Completed
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
10	Draft joint UC ³ letter on AIS importance/partnerships. Exec Comm to approve before submitting to local papers.	Kate Wilson	2020-21 season	Unknown if warranted
11	Work with watershed staff on looking at opportunities that may work for state/federal partnerships	Agencies, Kate Wilson, Cassidy Bender	On-going	On-going
12	Reach out to other groups in basin for discussion on priority issues and potential partnerships	Kate Wilson, Cassidy Bender	On-going	On-going
13	Check with EPA and Lake/Flathead Conservation Districts (have watershed restoration plans to address TMDLs)	Kate Wilson	On-going	On-going
14	Address BC rep vacancy (ex-officio)	Kate Wilson	On-going	On-going