

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	MISC AIS Grant Hearings		
Date of Meeting:	April 9, 2020	Time:	8:00-11:55 am
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Criswell	Location:	Remotely through skype
Attendees			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (Missoula County Weed District – Chair), Bob Cloninger (MDT), Tom Woolf (FWP), Steve Wanderaas (CDs), Jasmine Reimer (MDA Representative), Jane Mangold (MSU-Ext.), Andy Welch (Northwestern Energy), Jan Stoddard (DOC Representative), David Brooks (Montana Trout Unlimited), Steve Tyrrel (Ag. Industry)</p> <p>MISC Federal Partners: Wendy Velman (BLM), Michelle Cox (USFS)</p> <p>Other Attendees: Kim Bergstrom (Sanders Co.), Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute), Gordon Luikart (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Bryce Maxell (MT Natural Heritage Program), Peter Rice (University of MT), Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council), Wendy Jones (Lower Musselshell CD), Jennifer Mohler (Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance), Brant Dupree (Missoula Co. Weed District), Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Kate Wilson (DNRC, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Cassidy Bender (DNRC), Terri Nichols (MT Watershed Coordinating Coalition)</p>			
Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome	<p>Bryce opened the meeting at 8:00. Roll call.</p> <p>Quorum confirmed</p>		
AIS Grant Proposals	<p>Stephanie provided an overview of the review process and ranking process and discussed the format for the hearings today.</p> <p>She noted this is the first cycle of the new AIS grant hearings and would like feedback from applicants and the Council to improve the program as it matures.</p> <p>Discussed funding – The recommendations provided by the review committee are less than the available amount. Stephanie explained that the remaining funds could roll over to the next year or there could be another cycle.</p> <p>Conflict of Interest – Per the program guidelines, council members that are involved in a proposed project cannot advocate for that project during funding deliberations.</p> <p>Rankings – Explanation that rankings were only based on quantitative evaluation based on ranking criteria. Funding recommendations also considered qualitative evaluation during the committee’s review meeting.</p> <p>Tom provided a summary of each proposal followed by discussion and Q&A with council members and the applicant:</p> <p>Sanders County-Sanders County 2020 Invasive Milfoil Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended reduction in funding would limit scope by reducing area treated • Task force trying to determine how to measure success • Science advisory panel guides what and how to treat <p>Missoula County Weed District-Fragrant water lily survey and treatment trials</p>		

- Review committee removed treatment trials based on knowledge that research and best practices are well established for this species.
 - Treatments have not been done in MT, so intention was to see how different applications behave in MT
- Debate about FWL nativity. MCWD has received petition from Flathead National Forest to list species as noxious weed in that county.

Whitefish Lake Institute-Protecting Montana’s Waters from AIS through Local Leadership in Whitefish

- Provides on-site decontamination
- One and done project. Will be self-sustainable after this funding
- Station has long-term staffing plan through city. Staffing will be easier and more efficient at permanent station

Clearwater Resource Council-Multi-taxa Monitoring Blackfoot Clearwater Lakes

- Discussion about request for funding for BSWC. DNRC provided \$2,500 in funding from another source. Request for another \$5,042. Cost share is \$12,500
 - Applicant noted that the funding request is to back-fill the cost-share CRC paid for member. Explained that if BSWC member doesn’t do work they would have to hire a tech.
- FWP recommendation to expand program to monitor macrophytes, which is why CRC proposed the workshops

Flathead Lake Biological Station-Dreissenid eDNA qPCR Methods and Reporting Standardization

- Furthers MISC’s science advisory panel recommendations

Flathead Lake Biological Station-Dreissenid eDNA qPCR Methods and Reporting Standardization AIS Early Detection Monitoring in Two High-Risk Montana Waterbodies; and eDNA Communications and Decision-Making Workshop

- FLBS working closely with FWP to figure out what is going on at Tiber
- Using every technology available to figure out issue
- Review committee removed workshop because felt it would be better for agency or regional organization (WRP) to conduct workshop
- Request from applicant to use funding cut from proposal to purchase nets. Would be helpful to prevent cross-contamination. The cost per net is about \$325. Would like to purchase 6 nets for strict use at Tiber and if at all possible 4 nets for use in the Flathead Basin (Flathead Lake sampling and equipment loan to watershed groups). Total cost for nets = \$3,250
- Council needs to have broader discussion about scope changes.

Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team: Outreach and resource coordination to prevent the spread of AIS in Central and Eastern Montana

- Proposal lacked detail necessary to properly evaluate application
- Coordination (salary) budgeted for 18 months—travel time and coordination 1 day/week

Angler and River User Outreach

- Need repetition to get message through to anglers. Experienced this with “Catch and Release” message

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be at access points to emphasize message with anglers • Enhances existing TU Clean.Drain.Dry program. Uses 13 chapters to get earned media • <p>Curly-leaf Pondweed Poster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of project changed after application deadline to change species and location. • Review committee felt scope change was too significant • Need to have a larger discussion with full Council on scope changes <p>CleanDrainDry in the Upper Gallatin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to remove a couple of tasks due to Covid-19. Not sure how many camps and events will take place this summer due to current conditions • Has been working with FWP to coordinate CDD projects in past • High-tourism area. 814 million tourists in Gallatin. More than any other county • Chose Outside Bozeman and Explore Big Sky after coordinating with Liz Lodman to feel gaps. <p>AIS Data Centralization, Exchange, and Updates to Support Rapid Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review committee felt data centralization is important but didn't see the need to fund other components of grant • Bryce explained importance of rapid response mapping of access points. Review committee thought task was to fund the ICS response tool. \$1,685 would cover critical pieces of response task <p>Swan Valley AIS Education & Outreach Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced funding request because more detail was needed, brochures already exist that could be customized. High overhead • Good info. about reach but overall lack of detail in proposal • Applicant expressed that customizing brochure would have more impact with locals than using existing materials <p>Year 2 Flowering Rush Genotype 1 and White Smut Biocontrol Agent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium feels great potential for this biocontrol agent. • Would lose investment by abandoning research project • Lots of match funding from other states and federal agencies to support research
Funding Deliberations	<p>Need to discuss changes to scope of work after applications are submitted. Decided to focus on recommendations for this cycle and hold a separate meeting to discuss overall program and larger items identified above.</p> <p>Review committee plans to provide recommendations to full MISC to improve grant guidelines based on information garnered through first cycle.</p> <p>Through the deliberations, it was decided to hold another grant cycle to award remaining funds. There was consensus that rather than approve out-of-scope requests or work with applicants on updating/improving scopes of work that aren't up to par, applicants will be encouraged to reapply. The program is a competitive grant program, so this is the most consistent and equitable decision.</p> <p><u>Deliberations</u></p>

Sanders County 2020 Invasive Milfoil Management

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

Fragrant water lily survey and treatment trials

- Treatment trials task was removed in review committee recommendation because committee felt there were already best practices in place for control of fragrant water lily
- Discussion and support from members that efficacy of treatment is site specific and there is value in trying local treatment demonstrations.
- Consensus to fully fund project.

Protecting Montana's Waters from AIS through Local Leadership in Whitefish

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

Multi-taxa Monitoring Blackfoot Clearwater Lakes

- Review committee reduced funding for BSWC staff funding and reducing 3 monitoring workshops to 1
- Discussion about BSWC staff funding request
 - BSWC is a cost-share program. \$12,500 to host a BSWC member. Request is to fund BSWC time at \$27.50/hr. for a total of \$5,142.50
 - Applicant suggested that if BSWC didn't do work, CRC would hire monitoring tech. It was noted that FWP monitoring tech. hourly wage (including benefits) is much less than \$27.50.
 - DNRC, through another funding source, already provided \$2,500 in cost-share to CRC BSWC member
 - Grant program cannot reimburse expenses that were paid prior to contract execution. It was noted that final payment for cost-share for CRC member is \$3,125 due April 15.
 - Reviewers felt overall staff time funding request in proposal seemed excessive. E.g. 8 hrs. at \$30/hr. to write article for local paper.
- Discussion on reducing workshops from 3 to 1
 - UC3 has monitoring contract in place and is doing workshops--may be overlap.
 - FWP is hosting workshop in Helena to cover similar material. FWP needs to be involved in workshops to provide statewide consistency and expertise. Difficult for FWP to be involved in spring/summer when CRC workshops are proposed.
 - Consensus that workshops need to be coordinated to provide efficiencies and that one in the Seeley Swan Valley should be sufficient with other training opportunities being provided
- Consensus to increase funding award to \$13,500 (additional \$2,500 above review committee recommendation) to help with BSWC cost-share not already expended.

Dreissenid eDNA qPCR Methods and Reporting Standardization

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

AIS Early Detection Monitoring in Two High-Risk Montana Waterbodies; and eDNA Communications and Decision-Making Workshop

- During hearings applicant requested that funding cut for eDNA workshop be reallocated to purchasing nets. Applicant assumed FWP would supply nets, but FWP does not have budget for this expense

- Applicant suggested they have potential to get funding from private source
- Discussion on changing scope (adding tasks) after application submitted.
- Request has merit, but approving an out-of-scope tasks would not set a good precedence
- Consensus to be consistent and to not accept significant scope changes after application deadline

Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team: Outreach and resource coordination to prevent the spread of AIS in Central and Eastern Montana

- Discussion about increasing recommendation and working with applicant to update scope of work with adequate detail to justify funding request
- Consensus that this project is important for AIS education and outreach in Montana and would like to support, but that this is a competitive program. Applicant needs to reapply for funding
- Review committee recommendation holds

Angler and River User Outreach

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

Curly-leaf Pondweed Poster

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

CleanDrainDry in the Upper Gallatin

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

AIS Data Centralization, Exchange, and Updates to Support Rapid Response

- Applicant provided additional information about the purpose of the rapid response task that the review committee recommended cutting from the award.
- Consensus to provide \$1,683 in funding to accomplish that work.

Swan Valley AIS Education & Outreach Project

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

Year 2 Flowering Rush Genotype 1 and White Smut Biocontrol Agent

- Consensus on approving review committee recommendation

Based on deliberations, updated recommendations can be found on the last page of this document.

Motion: Andy motioned to approve proposals as discussed and described in meeting notes awarding \$222,651 and to open a new cycle to award the remaining funds of \$28,071 allocated to the program for FY20.

Jane Mangold seconded the motion

Discussion: none

Public Comment: none

Vote: unanimous approval

The approved list of approved projects will go to Director Tubbs as DNRC for final approval.

Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned to adjourn at 11:55.

	Jane Mangold seconded. Discussion: none Public Comment: none Vote: unanimous approval
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**AIS Grant Program
2020 Ranking and Funding Recommendations**

	Applicant	Project	Request	Review Committee Rec.	MISC Adjusted Amount
1	Clearwater Resource Council	Multi-taxa Monitoring Blackfoot Clearwater Lakes	\$16,885	\$11,000	\$13,500
2	Whitefish Lake Institute	Protecting Montana's Waters from AIS through Local Leadership in Whitefish	\$36,162	\$36,162	\$36,162
3	University of Montana-Flathead Lake Biological Station	Dreissenid eDNA Methods and Reporting Standards	\$49,800	\$49,800	\$49,800
4	University of Montana-Flathead Lake Biological Station	AIS Early Detection Monitoring in Two High-Risk Montana Waterbodies: and eDNA Communications and Decision-Making Workshop	\$40,747	\$29,747	\$29,747
5	Montana Natural Heritage Program	AIS Data Centralization, Exchange, Update	\$21,876	\$16,827	\$18,510
6	University of Montana	Year 2 Flowering Rush Genotype 1 and White Smut Biocontrol Agent	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
7	Sanders County	Sanders County 2020 Invasive Milfoil Management	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
8	Lower Musselshell Conservation District	Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST): Outreach and resource coordination to prevent the spread of AIS in Central and Eastern Montana	\$46,112	\$6,600	\$6,600
9	Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance	CleanDrainDry in the Upper Gallatin	\$20,233	\$13,682	\$13,682
10	Rosebud Conservation District-withdrawn	CEMIST Coordinator Education and Prevention of AIS	\$47,025	\$0	\$0
11	Swan Valley Connections	Swan Valley AIS Education & Outreach Project	\$5,465	\$2,200	\$2,200
12	Missoula County Weed District	Fragrant water lily survey and treatment trials	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
13	Montana Trout Unlimited	Angler and River User Outreach	\$7,500	\$7,450	\$7,450
14	Missoula County Weed District	Flowering Rush Invasive Species Signage-Flathead Lake	\$500	\$0	\$0
Totals			\$357,305	\$217,468	\$222,651

Available funding

\$250,722

Remaining

\$28,071