

## **MWCC Executive Director Updates September 30, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting**

### **Financial Overview**

#### **2021 Budget vs. Actuals (see attachment)**

- Revenue – Since June 15, we have brought in \$40,000, bringing our total revenue to \$101,863.48 for the fiscal year. However, \$16,500 of this was income from the canceled Watershed Tour. We are still in the middle of reimbursing sponsorship and registration fees to those requesting a refund.
- Expenditures – Since June 15, we've incurred \$34,000 in expenses, bringing our total expenses since January 1 to \$125,381.27. These expenses are generally for payroll, as well as our final BSWC host site installment for Emma's position.
- Budget deficit – At this time, our net revenue is -\$23,767.79. Between now and December 31, we expect to bring in an additional \$34,000 from secured sources (i.e., state and federal grants for which we will invoice our expenses once activities are complete).
  - At this time, we have retained \$4,125 in Watershed Tour income as donations. If we were to assume we are refunding the remaining Tour income, we then have an unsecured funding gap of \$45,000 that we need to make up by the end of the year.
  - Where are we behind?
    - State Agency Support – We have brought in \$5,000 each from FWP and DNRC (Water Resources Division), but have not secured the remaining \$10,000 we had set as our goal.
    - Members/Supporters
      - For-Profit - \$3,000 below goal
      - NGO (i.e., larger nonprofits) and Individuals are on target
      - Watershed Orgs - \$1,600 below goal
    - We have an opportunity to leverage a remaining ~\$4,000 from our challenge grant with Cinnabar Foundation before December 1.
  - By October 1, we are going to be entering into an agreement with DNRC (Forestry Division) to administer \$190,000 to the Montana Forest Collaboration Network. We will be retaining \$19,000 as an administration fee.

#### **September 1, 2021 Statement of Financial Position (see attachment)**

##### **Assets**

As of Sept. 1st, our cash on-hand balance was \$112,287.33. Additionally, we have \$51,409.56 in accounts receivable. and other assets (prepaid expenses and other fixed assets). Our total asset balance is \$170,108.17

##### **Liabilities & Equity**

Our total pass-through liabilities have a balance of \$59,057.81, all from private funding. \$40,000 of this money is held for Watershed Fund capacity grants (Keneda Fund, Cinnabar Foundation, and High

Stakes Foundation), \$10,284.76 is held for the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group's drought planning initiative (from Arthur M. Blank Foundation), and \$10,905.24 is held for the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council (from Bonneville Environmental Foundation).

Our total liabilities and equity balance is \$170,108.17. Of this, the amount currently "available" to MWCC (not held for pass-through) is \$108, 149.31.

## Fundraising Updates

We submitted a Letter of Inquiry for a multi-year grant through Mosaic, requesting a total of \$280,000 (\$180,000 for MWCC activities \$100,000 for Watershed Fund). Additionally, we also submitted a request to the Cross Charitable Foundation for \$35,000 (\$20,000 for MWCC activities and \$15,000 for Watershed Fund). We also plan to apply for a small amount of funding through DNRC's Watershed Management Grant.

## Program Updates

**Fall Watershed Tour** – At this time, we're not setting a date to reschedule the Watershed Tour. Should we consider this event for 2022, we need to consider how it would be prioritized amongst other prospective MWCC events (e.g., Annual Meeting, Spring Capacity-Building Workshop, Fall Symposium).

**MWCC Online Resources** – We are going to capitalize on Emma's remaining 2 months of service by starting to build our online resource library. The library will contain resources, trainings, templates, and guidance documents to support watershed groups in: program/project development and implementation, organizational management, and capacity-building.

**MWCC & Future West Capacity-Building Training** – Initially planned as a two-day in-person workshop, we've reformatted this into a condensed virtual exchange, now taking place over a half day on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. At this event, leaders of local conservation organizations at different stages of organizational development and from different geographies will share their experiences and responses to the changes happening locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. From this, we will then plan a follow up workshop in spring 2022 to provide resources and/or training to address the needs identified by local partners (e.g., fundraising, succession planning, communication, etc.).

**Out to Lunch: Conservation Conversations** – Given the continued trend away from in-person gatherings, we're planning to host a casual and informal lunch-time series of Zoom meetings this fall/winter. We'll invite a guest to speak for 10-15 minutes, and then allow participants to informally connect with one another. The hope is that this can provide an avenue for information sharing to continue taking place and will allow our partners to feel connected (while not requiring much of our own bandwidth to pull off). If anyone has ideas for topics/speakers let us know!

**Watershed Fund** – Emma has been working on "MWCC Impacts" stories to promote accomplishments of Watershed Fund recipients. This includes a series of blog posts on Capacity-Building projects ([click here](#)), Big Sky Watershed Corps 319 Projects, and NRCS Projects. (MFCN money). With regard to funding opportunities, we have applications open for Capacity-Building projects (\$40,000 total). The Watershed Fund Committee plans to make decisions in early November.

Also, a big thank you to Eric Trum for carrying a request through DEQ from MWCC for ARPA Sewer and Water Infrastructure funding. Although we were unsuccessful, we will continue emphasizing the importance of “watershed” infrastructure in our definition of “infrastructure”.

**Montana Forest Action Council** – We continue being involved with the Council to represent watershed management interests in the implementation of the Forest Action Plan. We recently had a presentation from the Council of Western State’s Foresters to learn about the giant windfall of money in the proposed infrastructure bill that would support forest and other natural resources management. I’ve recently joined a small work group that is focusing on state/federal funding opportunities available from this infrastructure package.

Additionally, we are getting closer to a final agreement with DNRC (Forestry Division) to administer \$190,000 of Forest Action Plan funds for capacity/planning needs of collaboratives and local organizations across Montana. Of this, there will be \$100,000 available in small grants available to forest collaboratives and/or watershed organizations working on collaborative forest management.

**Western Collaborative Conservation Network** – We continue being involved with the WCCN on the steering committee and capacity-building working group. We are assisting efforts to plan for the 2022 Confluence event scheduled for Sept. 19-22, 2022 at Chico Hot Springs. This will bring together practitioners, funders, and support organizations from the Western states to work on opportunities to improve support for community-based conservation. Also assisting with the planning of this event are the other members of the informal “Montana Working Group”.

**Collaborative Storytelling** – One of the outcomes of the “Montana Working Group” meetings last winter was the idea that we need to better tell the story of community-based conservation happening in Montana to gain bipartisan support (at the local, state, and national levels). Since then, filmmaker Lara Tomov has been developing stories for this pilot series. For year one, there will be 4 short films (10 minutes each) that feature several of our local watershed group partners: Big Hole Watershed Committee, Swan Valley Connections, Clearwater Resource Council, Musselshell Watershed Coalition, Winnett ACES, and Blackfeet Nation. So far we’ve secured \$20,000, along with a recently awarded \$30,000 challenge grant. In addition to securing sufficient funding for the project (\$65,000), we’re also hoping to show widespread and diverse funding support from a large cross-section of partners across the state. The updated concept reel with footage from local partners is available here:

<https://www.storiesforaction.org/about-3> (password: MontanaStories). Additionally, Lara will be using the full length interviews (~1 hour each) to develop a podcast series (with ~20 episodes) next spring.