

# FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION

Flathead Electric Cooperative (2510 US Hwy 2 East, Kalispell)

June 20, 2018

## AGENDA

9:30 AM	Welcome & Introductions	Rich Janssen, CSKT (Chair)
9:45 AM	Discussion/approval of April 25 <i>DRAFT</i> Minutes	Kate Wilson
9:50 AM	Staff update: work plan, financials/budget, website	Kate Wilson
10:10 AM	Action items: Change to by-laws; Letter to Flathead Lake Protection Fund members; USFS AIS funding	Rich Janssen, CSKT (Chair)
10:25 AM	Overview & Update on Flathead Lake TMDL	Tim Davis, DEQ
10:50 AM	BREAK	
11:10 AM	Flathead River Management Plan	Chris Prew/Chip Weber, USFS
11:35 AM	Historical perspective: FBC Monitoring Committee	Jack Potter/Dean Sirucek, FBC Monitoring Committee
11:55 PM	Action item: Septic Leachate Study Bill – Consideration by Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC)	Mark Bostrom, DNRC Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute , Ed Lieser, FBC
12:15 PM	Working lunch (provided): Strategic Planning Session – introduction and plan	Kate Wilson
1:00 PM	Strategic Planning Session	All
2:30 PM	BREAK	
2:50 PM	Strategic Planning Session (cont.)	All
3:30 PM	Action Plan/Strategic Plan drafting discussion	All
4:00 PM	Next steps	Rich Janssen, CSKT
4:15 PM	Public comment	
4:30 PM	Wrap up and discuss/set next meeting date	Rich Janssen, CSKT

*All Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) meetings are open to the public. The FBC will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson ([kate.wilson@mt.gov](mailto:kate.wilson@mt.gov) or 406-542-4282) as soon as possible before the meeting date.*

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>Flathead Basin Commission (FBC)</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>June 20, 2018</b>	<b>Time:</b>	9:30 AM – 3:15 PM
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Kate Wilson</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Flathead Electric Cooperative (2510 Hwy 2), Kalispell, MT
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>			
Rich Janssen	Welcome. Rich opened at 9:30 AM. Overview of agenda.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
<b>2. Attendees</b>			
Commissioners/staff: Rich Janssen (CSKT), Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute/Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Ed Lieser (citizen- appointed member), Kathy Olsen (DNRC), Steve Frye (citizen member), Gary Krueger (Flathead County Commission), Dean Sirucek (Flathead Conservation District), Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Chip Weber (USFS, Flathead National Forest), Dave Stipe (Lake County Commission), Jack Potter (citizen-appointed member), Kate Wilson (DNRC)			
Commissioners (by phone): Tim Davis (DEQ)			
Public/Other: Patrick Reilly (Missoulian), Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers), Lamont Kinkaide (public), Nicky Ouellet (Montana Public Radio), Stephanie Hester (DNRC), Bill Baum (wildlife & wilderness), Onno Wieringa (public), Tom Bansak (FLBS), Mary Cloud-Taylor (Daily InterLake)			
<b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Topic/Discussion</b>		
Rich Janssen	<b>Welcome/introductions (all)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Called meeting to order at 9:40</li> <li>• Confirmed quorum present for voting matters (8 voting Commissioners required)</li> </ul>		
Kate Wilson	<b>Discussion &amp; approval of draft Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 25, 2018 (Pablo): Quorum and notetaker; official Minutes). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Motion</u> to approve as official minutes (Dean Sirucek). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Chip Weber). All in favor. None opposed. <i>Motion Passes.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Kate Wilson	<b>Staff Update work plan, financials/budget, website</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff update/work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Has been researching and reviewing FBC work to get better understanding of structure, process and accomplishments to date</li> <li>○ Established regular Executive Committee calls (every 2 weeks)</li> <li>○ Attend Pend Oreille Basin Commission meeting (appointed to board as upstream Montana ex-officio member). She was the first program director for the Commission from 2005-2010 based in Sandpoint, ID. They are a very similarly structured Commission, working on water quality and quantity issues in the Pend Oreille Basin. They have recently had a statue change that provides them with a mandate to also work on representing Pend Oreille interests in the Columbia River Treaty process.</li> <li>○ FBC logo updated (\$195) – Mike Koopal led the charge on updating.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget update/discussion: FY18 (\$13,105 remaining) and FY19 (projected at \$17,155)</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FY19 funds should probably be used for operational costs such as website, annual report, outreach materials, member travel, meeting costs, etc., but can be decided at next meeting.</li> <li>○ As decided at the April meeting, operating costs were covered, but minimal. Funds to be transferred from operations to personnel for June/July.</li> <li>○ Discussion on potential for funds to be restored. No direction from the budget office at this time. The issue won't be resolved before the end of the fiscal year (June 30). FBC will need to budget for personnel in future years – that request should be made soon to ensure it is included in the DNRC budget request.</li> <li>○ <u>Motion</u> to direct Executive Committee to work with DNRC to develop budget proposal (Ed Lieser). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Chip Weber). All in favor. None opposed. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>● Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Old website being shut down but new one will be stood up (<a href="http://www.flatheadbasincommission.mt.gov">www.flatheadbasincommission.mt.gov</a>). RFP process resulted in vendor selection (Windfall, Missoula-based firm). October – should be stood up.</li> <li>○ Contract to include design this as well as another website for the Montana Invasive Species Council and the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (<a href="http://www.MTInvasives.mt.gov">www.MTInvasives.mt.gov</a>).</li> <li>○ DNRC/FBC staff to maintain content. <b>Will request assistance with populating and structuring site when the time comes.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rich Janssen & Kate Wilson	<p><b>Amendments to the By-Laws (Action Item)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amendments made to the By-Laws per discussion at April meeting. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> member of large to the Executive Committee; change of reference to staff from 'executive director' to 'Commission Administrator' (reflects statute better as ED only exists in bylaws, clearer); and removal of language on MOU between FBC and DNRC (has never been executed).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The changes were reviewed on screen. Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Executive Director reference changed to Commission Administrator: stems from a 1999 statue change to HB 139. All references to Executive Director were pulled out of state statute. The only place it remained was in FBC by-laws. When DNRC requested a reclassification when Kate was assigned to the FBC. The reclass included her responsibility as 'Commission Administrator' to reflect current statute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DNRC is statutorily bound to provide staff to FBC and that FBC has the option to hire staff (in statute)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Officers of the Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request for clarification as to whether the Commission Administrator is also an Officer/on Executive Committee. Clarified in the bylaws that the administrator is commission support not an officer (change made in language).</li> <li>▪ Commission administrator role is to provide support services for: finance, operations, legal, technical/logistics</li> <li>▪ Add: Chair shall appoint one of the Executive Committee members to serve as financial liaison between DNRC and Commission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <u>Motion</u> to approve the By-Laws as amended (Dave Stipe). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Ed Lieser). All in favor. None opposed. <i>Motion Passes.</i></li> </ul>

Chip Weber & Kate Wilson

### USFS AIS Funding (Action Item)

- Discussion on USFS grant funds (for AIS specifically).
  - Balance remaining: \$17,157. Potential for additional \$25,000 allocation.
  - Chip Weber: As FBC started to work on AIS, the USFS had an appropriate available funding source and saw this as an immediate need and an opportunity to provide seed money to get it started.
  - The funding has been used for inspection and education in the past
  - Need to revisit this funding sourced based on the strategic planning outcomes
- Ideas for remaining funds
  - Augment FWP AIS outreach/advertising in the Basin
    - Use existing FWP created materials to augment outreach campaign in the Flathead Basin – Kate to get media plan from FWP
    - Map for new rules (Region 1 has already done this, so probably not necessary)
  - Inspection stations (not getting state funding): Elmo, Whitefish, Blackfeet (?)
  - Transfer to UC<sup>3</sup> or FWP to implement AIS high-priority activities
  - All MOUs are expired, so would need a new one depending on where funds go (e.g. between partners).
- No deadline per se, but FS would like to know where funds will be applied and if FBC plans to continue this work in some capacity
- Kate: FWP has media plan in place that includes the Flathead Basin – PIO is going to send media plan and cost estimate for augmenting (haven't received yet)
- Discussion: critical needs identified by UC<sup>3</sup>?
  - Border stations are difficult to staff. Staffing issue not funding issue
  - Ramping up education for 4<sup>th</sup> of July might be good—not sure how effective? That is a tight timeline too (next weekend)
  - More education/outreach on rules in the Flathead
- Gary: Private boat launches—they get here before June, winter in south (next spring)
  - Outreach to these individuals that inspection is required
  - Need to worry about people coming from south. Getting to be a big population of snowbirds with boats
- Kate: UC<sup>3</sup> working on Bureau of Reclamation funding for marina program. Could potentially expand program to this audience (private launches)
  - Also working on geographic response plan that maps out all access points. That will help us identify any private launches
- Robin: Flathead Lakers have an inventory of access points: Since 2007. Posted signs.
  - Working with company that does videos at gas stations—Be a MT Superhero
  - Got a couple of weeks free. If more money, could do it all summer
- Mike: What is the status on resource advisory committee funding? Can groups apply for AIS assistance? Chip: In process of getting new members of resource advisory committee. Anything with nexus to federal lands and waters within federal lands, something within parameters for spending these funds. Time to bring proposal. Janet Turk is contact. Funds can go to state or NGO (Chip to send info to Kate to send out).
- Need small group to make recommendations on existing money
- Suggestion/discussion: Executive committee to entertain UC3 recommendations—up to \$10k. Needs to be available between meetings (e.g. can't wait until fall meeting).
- Motion to authorize FBC Executive Committee to spend up to \$10k for AIS high priorities (Jack Potter). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Steve Frye). All in favor. None opposed. *Motion Passes.*

<p>Kate Wilson &amp; Executive Committee</p>	<p><b>FBC Letter to the Watershed Protection Advocates of NW Montana</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee discussed and requested Kate draft a letter requesting status of what was previously known as the 'Flathead Basin Protection Fund' (name now changed, website taken down)</li> <li>• Mission of fund was originally stated to 'carry out activities of FBC'</li> <li>• Concern may be implicated since status of funds is unknown and were solicited under the auspices of carrying out FBC work (this is no longer the case)</li> <li>• No current FBC Commissioners are on the board of the other group or have access to information regarding the current status</li> <li>• Kate Hunt registered agent</li> <li>• Discussion: Letter is comprehensive and succinct. Suggestion to <b>send letter via email and copy to all board of directors that are known</b></li> <li>• <u>Motion</u> to approve and send the letter as written (Jack Potter). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Steve Frye). All in favor (Dave Stipe abstained). None opposed. <i>Motion Passes.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Tim Davis, DEQ (by phone)</p>	<p><b>Flathead Lake TMDL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TMDL: Water quality plan where water quality is analyzed for pollutants (impairments), allocate impairments to those sources</li> <li>• History of Flathead Lake and tributary TMDLs</li> <li>• DEQ adopted TMDL phase 1 in 2001</li> <li>• Two nutrients in impairment: total phosphorus and total nitrogen</li> <li>• Working on phase 2 now</li> <li>• 2003 Big Creek TMDL-sediment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lots of restoration to address sediment. Success story. Monitoring will be ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2004 Swan Lake: impaired for watershed-sediment, dissolved organic carbon</li> <li>• 2004 Flathead-sediment</li> <li>• 2014: Flathead/Stillwater -7 streams with impairment temp, sediment, nutrients</li> <li>• Is there a role for the Commission re: TMDL Phase II/Implementation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, as we move into phase 2 flathead Lake focused on idea of adopting total phosphorus, total nitrogen. Need to coordinate and adopt identical standards with CSKT. If Commission is interested, could provide more detailed presentation at next meeting</li> <li>○ Plan to work with CSKT on results of monitoring and implementation of standards</li> <li>○ The more coordination with partners, the better</li> <li>○ Timeline-work completed this summer, implementation this fall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Chris Prew, USFS</p>	<p><b>Three Forks of the Flathead Wild &amp; Scenic River Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of river designation and existing plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1953-Hungry Horse Dam completed</li> <li>○ 1956- Exploration and drilling to determine suitability of building a dam in the Spruce Park. Craighead article about value of protecting rivers for wildlife and habitat</li> <li>○ 1966-Exploration for dam</li> <li>○ LBJ signed Wild and Scenic River Act 1968 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designated 27 rivers under act including 3 forks of Flathead</li> <li>▪ FS assigned responsibility for study report and EIS on how to protect Flathead</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1976 Metcalf sponsors legislation in omnibus act that passes for full protection of Flathead corridor               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tenants of act: Protect free flowing conditions, water quality and recreation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Original plan signed in 1980       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 components: Study report, Environmental Impact Statement, management plan, Recreation Management Direction (set monitoring standards— monitoring for recreation)</li> <li>○ Need for change came in 1986 due to new statutory requirements           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Act amended. Requirement for agencies to put together Comprehensive River Management Plans (CRMP). Section 3 (d)(1)</li> <li>▪ Flathead has pieces but not all together in one place</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• CRMP requires:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outstanding Remarkable Values (OHVs)—unique characteristics of a particular river. Can include fisheries, geologic, water quality, wildlife, botanic, recreation, scenic, historic, ethnographic elements</li> <li>○ Land/facility development</li> <li>○ User capacities</li> <li>○ Water quality and instream flow</li> <li>○ Collaborative approach</li> <li>○ Regulatory authorities</li> <li>○ Monitoring</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work to date includes:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2013 ORVs assessment</li> <li>○ 2012-2014 visitor use survey</li> <li>○ 2015 Flathead Headwater Ethnographic Resources Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Next steps:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete Gap Analysis: January-October 2018</li> <li>○ Learning and Listening Session with Public: May-October 2018 (focused on ORVs)</li> <li>○ Develop Proposed Action: October 2018 (likely November now)</li> <li>○ Scoping: November 2018</li> <li>○ Develop NEPA: Jan-March 2020</li> <li>○ Draft Decision Notice/Process: June 2020</li> <li>○ Signed Decision: August 2020</li> <li>○ CRMP complete: December 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need to share information with Canada, particularly B.C.</li> <li>• Discussion: What has the participation been so far? Pretty engaged, lots of written comments and a fair amount of people attending meetings. What water quality feedback did you get? All across board (not doing enough to doing too much).       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Written comments will be posted on Flathead USFS website</li> <li>○ Will climate change and increased development addressed? Yes, in each category</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What can FBC do to help process? Participate and engage in process</li> </ul>
Dean Sirucek & Jack Potter	<p><b>Historical Perspective: FBC Monitoring Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of FBC’s involvement in basin water quality monitoring:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1980s-early 90s-biannual report included overview of what state/federal agencies were doing within Basin (DEQ, FS, NPS, DNRC)</li> <li>○ As TMDL process began in mid-1990s. FBC changed direction           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worked with Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) on ideal coordinated monitoring plan for Basin</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At same time federal funding decreased</li> <li>▪ Late 1990s-early 2000s-monitoring efforts decline</li> <li>▪ 1993-FBC led effort to begin volunteer monitoring program</li> <li>▪ FBC relinquished program to Whitefish Lake Institute about ~5 years ago (Northwestern Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network)</li> <li>○ FBC revisited monitoring plan to overlap with TMDL plan (2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack and Dean looked at state/federal monitoring efforts, what they were monitoring for and developed 2012 water quality plan</li> <li>▪ Issue: no money to implement comprehensive program, what does monitoring mean? (water quality, AIS, etc.), what is FBC's role, what are the holes?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2012 Water Quality Plan exists, cannot find updated plan/report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Known gaps: Swan River, South Fork of Flathead, Ashley Creek, Stoner Creek</li> <li>○ FBC provided recommendations to Forest Service for management plan (2015)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Most of the pieces for water quality monitoring plan that fit with entire stream network in Flathead Basin are existing or can be addressed, but specifics (monitoring priorities) need to be discussed with federal/state agencies</li> <li>• If monitoring becomes FBC priority, we can address this complex issue by coordinating with federal/state agencies.</li> <li>• FBC role would be to coordinate and fundraising, not implementation</li> <li>• Discussion: As aquatic invasive species became the primary focus for FBC, time and resources were drawn away from this area. This is a big project. Need capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Top priority for Basin in enabling legislation</li> <li>○ How does this fit in with existing larger strategic plan? Fits in, but major commitment on everyone's part</li> <li>○ DEQ is data limited. Results in stricter standards being applied to effluent of discharge. If you don't have data, you take a conservative approach and assign a lower limit</li> <li>○ DEQ has resources for lab capacity contract, 319 funding for volunteer assistance</li> <li>○ Another issue to look at is water quantity as a driver of everything</li> <li>○ IS it that monitoring is happening or no repository of information? It's the synthesis to understand big picture. Need synthesize to analyze and look at trends</li> <li>○ UC<sup>3</sup> is compiling information for AIS monitoring as well</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Mike Koopal, Mark Bostrom &amp; Ed Lieser</p>	<p><b>Septic Leachate Study Bill (Action Item)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-point source water quality issue—Flathead, Whitefish Lake</li> <li>• Unsuccessful on local level after 6 years of study--Reluctance by homeowners to address issue</li> <li>• Issue that FBC could occupy niche—champion issue at state level</li> <li>• Need to work closely with DEQ on this issue/proposal</li> <li>• Draft language for study bill that Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC), a legislative interim committee, would conduct to inform Flathead Basin on issues and alternatives to address septic waste system impact</li> <li>• Study proposal for consideration by Commission</li> <li>• Ed: This issue has been around a long time and no regulatory framework has been developed, Important to be persistent</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate: Spoke with WPIC lead staff and there is a possibility to get on July agenda. He suggested fleshing out a proposal at the meeting today and following up with him if the Commission chooses to move forward.</li> <li>• Ed suggested a commissioner approach WPIC Chair, and volunteered himself to <b>discuss issue and proposal with committee chair</b></li> <li>• Tom Bansak: FLBS supports study. Suggests inspection upon property transfer</li> <li>• Dean: suggestion to add Echo Lake. While there isn't a lot of data, there is a noticeable impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FLBS has done studies on Flathead, Whitefish, McDonald and Echo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Steve suggested new language for engaging residents (remove non-point source)</li> <li>• Discussion about narrow vs. broad</li> <li>• Concept was to look at a few select lakes that have sufficient data and then apply to other waterbodies</li> <li>• <u>Motion</u> to adopt the study bill proposal with agreed-upon edits and move forward with process, including efforts to engage WPIC (Chip Weber). 2<sup>nd</sup> (Ed Lieser). All in favor. None opposed. <i>Motion Passes</i>.</li> <li>• <b>Kate to reach out to WPIC for consideration of addition of topic to July meeting.</b></li> </ul>
Kate Wilson	<p><b>Strategic Planning Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Purpose</i>: 'Develop two-year work plan with specific areas of focus given recent changes and limited resources (e.g. new action plan)' – agreement on purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strategic plan in effect until 2020</li> <li>○ Prioritize strategic plan issues and create 2-year work plan</li> <li>○ Using action plan as starting point for conversation—plan is too broad and unfocused</li> <li>○ Doesn't limit FBC from taking on emerging issues/opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Process</i>: Kate outlined options for how to structure the afternoon – discussion of a 'SWOT Analysis' (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats') and then moving into prioritization exercise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commission agreed that would require more time than we have today – move to prioritization exercise. Consensus to list issues/topics and discuss each one (issue, who is working on, role of commission) to arrive at priority level. Looking to capture broad concepts. <b>Kate will take priorities and draft into more detailed work plan.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Content</i>: Narrow down on top 3-5 areas of focus moving forward. Issues for consideration (in order of prioritization): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Monitoring/water quality/trends: HIGH PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WHAT: Point and non-point source pollution - TMDL nutrient impairments; septic leachate; stormwater; surface/sub-surface water; pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs)</li> <li>▪ WHO: DEQ, WPIC, FLBS, CSKT, MDA (groundwater), landowners in basin, Mt Bureau of Mines &amp; Geology</li> <li>▪ ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Create panel on methodology; introduce study bill; work with partners to advocate; assist DEQ with Flathead Lake TMDL phase 2; public engage on issue (esp. septic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Take leadership role via coordination in nutrient water quality monitoring in basin. <b>Invite DEQ to provide more in-depth information/presentation to next meeting (data, trends, monitoring results and gaps, etc.). Check with</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



EPA and Lake/Flathead Conservation Districts (have watershed restoration plans to address TMDLs).

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): HIGH PRIORITY**
  - WHAT: AIS prevention and management in the Flathead Basin
  - WHO: FWP, UC<sup>3</sup>, CSKT, Blackfeet Nation, Whitefish
  - ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Coordinate with UC<sup>3</sup> and FWP; USFS AIS funding allocation; advocate for protection and continuation of programs; all AIS (not just mussels); public outreach & engagement.
  - Discussion: Role in AIS has changed from leadership perspective to a coordination role with UC<sup>3</sup>. Already in game with Forest Service money, help advocate for AIS programs. Take on aquatic plant issues in basin (e.g. flowering rush, curlyleaf pondweed, EWM). Report out from UC<sup>3</sup> on gaps and priorities will help inform role that FBC can play (e.g. help address gaps).
- **River Management Plan: HIGH PRIORITY**
  - WHAT: Protect major rivers of basin/drainage.
  - WHO: Flathead USFS, Glacier National Park, Lake County, Columbia River EIS team, Bureau of Reclamation (Hungry Horse)
  - ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Follow process and provide input to each step of the process. Assist with public engagement and comment as process moves forward.
  - Discussion: Columbia River EIS potentially will affect plan (temp controls at Hungry Horse for salmon downstream) – Lake County has a seat at the table.
- **Orphan Issues: HIGH PRIORITY**
  - WHAT: cutting edge of emerging issues that haven't been championed. Potential opportunities/emerging issues. Gravel pit issues, proposed ski resort on glacier, etc.
  - WHO: Various (depends on issue)
  - ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY:
  - Discussion: Issues such as non-mining transboundary issues. Jumbo Ski Resort (on glacier). Gravel pit is a water quality issue – many in the valley/basin/headwaters.
- **Rail safety/spill prevention & response: MED PRIORITY**
  - WHAT: Prevention and response preparedness in the event of a rail spill into waters of the basin.
  - WHO: Rail companies, state and federal agencies, Conservation Districts, FLBS
  - ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Advocate for protection; coordinate with response agencies/entities; bring community concerns to the conversation; become 'go to clearinghouse'; determine effects of rail spill (work with FLBS).
  - Discussion: Take leadership in rail safety issue. Characterize as 'natural resource emergency preparedness' or stick with just railways? Pre-mitigation and preparation for natural disaster response (e.g. fire, flood, spills). Decision to keep it focused on rails for the time being (otherwise quite nebulous).
- **Columbia River Treaty: MED PRIORITY**
  - WHAT: Renegotiation of long term Columbia River Treaty agreement between the US and Canada. Implications for the

	<p>basin: operation of Libby/Hungry Horse, mitigation. Process initiated (renegotiation), Tribes not invited to the table yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WHO: State Dept., Northwest Power &amp; Conservation Council MT reps; DNRC; Legislature; 15 Tribes of the Columbia River Basin.</li> <li>▪ ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Probably not a leadership role – monitor activities. <b>Request update from MT reps.</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Transboundary issues/headwaters protection: MED PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WHAT: Implementation and monitoring of MT/BC MOU (moratorium on mining in the headwaters), logging/clear-cutting, land use issues, etc.</li> <li>▪ WHO: NPCA, CMP, CANFOR, Canadian provinces, CSKT.</li> <li>▪ ROLE OF COMMISSION/PRIORITY: Monitor activities; advocate protection of headwaters with Canadian partners that manage lands; public engagement; be prepared to respond.</li> <li>▪ DISCUSSION: <b>Fill BC vacancy on FBC to increase communication and advocacy opportunities.</b> Elk River mining concerns (but outside of Flathead Basin). Selenium issue/Teck Coal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Climate change: MED PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion: changes to hydrology in basin already being seen. Engage the public in the issue. Carbon sequestration credit system</li> <li>▪ Explore potential for developing coordinated Adaptive management Plan development: work with Whitefish, Glacier, FLBS, USGS, NPS, UM, EPA</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Congressional/legislative coordination: REGULAR BUSINESS</b></li> <li>○ <b>Local and regional coordination: REGULAR BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WHAT: Ensure coordination with local and regional efforts/organizations that work on natural resource issues.</li> <li>▪ WHO: FLBS, Flathead Lakers, Clark Fork Kootenai River Working Group, Swan Lakers, Clearwater Resource Council, Counties, Conservation Districts, Crown Managers Partnership, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, North American Lake Management Society, Lakes Commission, Trout Unlimited, Montana Wilderness Association, Tribes, state and federal agencies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Other/emerging issues: AS NEEDED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Growth policies</li> <li>▪ Fisheries</li> <li>▪ Large Lakes Conference/Symposiums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ WLI is hosting Montana Lakes Conference March 2019. FBC can assist with planning/implementation and potentially financial assistance.</li> <li>✓ Be a forum for public engagement on basin natural resource issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rich Janssen	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tom Bansak (FLBS): The more water quality monitoring the better, agrees AIS is covered by other orgs at this point. Swan Lake water quality - Swan Lake Conservation Group doing volunteer monitoring. South basin of has heard zero dissolved oxygen. Three year trends.</li> <li>▪ Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers): Wants to continue to partner and work on common goals. FBC has important role in deliberating on new issues and has</li> </ul>

	<p>powerful voice. In unique position with federal and state agencies at the table with local partners. Doesn't want to lose commissions voice re: AIS. Stay engaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bill Baum- Is there interest in having experts coming in to inform on topics? Yes. Dr. David Trexlar, Dinosaur Museum</li> <li>• Chip Weber: Will send Kate info on Resource Advisory Committee (soliciting members).</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting: <b>Kate to doodle for early to mid-October.</b></li> <li>• Location: Polson (CSKT to host at KwaTaqNuk Resort)</li> </ul>
Wrap up	<u>Motion</u> to adjourn (Ed Lieser). 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Dean Sirucek). <i>Motion passes.</i> Adjourned at 3:18 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out draft minutes and updates	Kate Wilson	6/25/18	Completed
2	Next meeting date (doodle poll), location and logistics – mid-October	Kate Wilson & Executive Committee	8/1/18	Completed
3	Send Watershed Protection Advocates of NW Montana letter via email and copy to all board of directors that are known	Kate Wilson & Rich Janssen	6/22/18	Completed
4	Reach out to other groups in basin for discussion on priority issues and potential partnerships	Kate Wilson	12/31/18	On-going
5	Invite CSKT to present on priority water issues at future meeting	Kate Wilson	6/15/18	In Progress – focus on compact at Oct mtg
6	Invite DEQ to provide more in-depth information/presentation to next meeting (data, trends, monitoring results and gaps, etc.). Check with EPA and Lake/Flathead Conservation Districts (have watershed restoration plans to address TMDLs).	Kate Wilson	8/15/18	Completed
7	Invite MT reps in Columbia River Treaty to next meeting for update on process/MT position	Kate Wilson	8/15/18	Completed – conflict for Oct mtg
8	Take priorities identified in strategic planning session and draft into more detailed work plan.	Kate Wilson	10/10/18	Completed
9	Kate to reach out to WPIC for consideration of addition of topic to July meeting	Kate Wilson & Mark Bostrom	6/25/18	Completed
10	Discuss septic leachate issue and proposal with WPIC committee chair	Ed Lieser	6/30/18	Completed
11	Request assistance from Commissioners with website development when necessary	Kate Wilson	On-going	In progress
12	Vacancies on FBC – one citizen, Gov appointed member; one EPA ex-officio position; BC representative	Kate Wilson	On-going	In progress