

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday Jan 29 th , 2020	Time:	(11am orientation) 12pm-5pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Cassidy Bender	Location:	Flathead Electric Cooperative (Kalispell)
List of Acronyms			
AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	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	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel
1. New Commissioner Orientation, Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Lori opened New Commissioner Orientation at 11 AM.		
Lori Curtis	<p>Welcome and introduction of new commissioners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larry Lack (Sanders County, USFS Lolo Resource Advisory Council) • Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections) • Andrew Gorder (Clark Fork Coalition) • Paul Bradford (Libby Rod & Gun Club, Retired Kootenai National Forest) 		
Lori Curtis	<p>Provided overview of UC³ including establishment, statutory duties, and accomplishments to date. Key element of the Commission is coordinating with all the partners in the Upper Columbia Basin. The UC³ issued a contract in 2019 to Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) to expand citizen science AIS monitoring in the Basin; the contract is funded by a BOR grant.</p>		
Tom Woolf	<p>Provided brief history and overview of UC³ from agency perspective. After initial outbreak of dreissenid mussel larvae in two reservoirs in 2016, FWP expanded early detection monitoring, boat inspection stations, and started working with more partners (including the creation of UC³). UC³ helps with engaging partners, education and outreach and advises/identifies solutions alongside FWP to help the program operate better statewide.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of monitoring is conducted by citizen scientists? Citizen scientist volunteers do annual sampling for AIS and water quality. Handout has partner agencies and what they are sampling for. WLI issues annual report summarizing lakes and any changes that have been seen. Lake associations are involved with meetings letting citizen scientists inform what they are finding. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Fern: Public and partners are interested in septic leachate issues and water quality, possibly something to add to monitoring efforts? • ACTION: Sen Janet Ellis: Request for information: commissioner name/contact list.
Lori Curtis	Lori called official UC ³ meeting to order at 12:30pm.
Welcome & Agenda Overview (Working Lunch)	Welcome, meeting rules, mission statement. Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission position. All other participants introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.
2. Attendees	
<p>UC³ (voting members underlined): <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Sen. Janet Ellis, Rep. Neil Duram, Rep. Dave Fern, Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park), Heidi McMaster (BOR), <u>Larry Lack</u> (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), <u>Rob Rich</u> (Swan Valley Connections), <u>Andrew Gorder</u> (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute, member at large), <u>Stacey Schnebel</u> (/Flathead Electric Cooperative, Electric Cooperatives), <u>Paul Bradford</u> (Libby Rod & Gun Club, Kootenai River Basin), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Support Staff)</p> <p>Phone: <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista, hydropower)</p> <p>Public/Other: Erik Hanson (CSKT), Brant Dupree (UC³/Missoula County Weed District BSWC), Bryce Christiaens (Montana Invasive Species Council/MCWD), Liz Lodman (FWP AIS Information Officer), Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council), Onno Wieringa (Resident of Flathead, Flathead Lakers), Kate Sheridan (Flathead Lakers), Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute), Ron Catlet (Representing Senator Steve Daines), Natalie Poremba (Crown Managers Partnership), Lindsey Bona-Eggmen (MCWD), Tom Bansack (FLBS), Nate Muhn (FWP Game Warden, Kalispell), Tim Shea (Echo Lake HOA), Gwen Shea (Echo Lake HOA), Jim Fagan (Public), Abby Schmeichel (FLBS BSWC), Sarah Klaus (Lake Co. Conservation District BSWC), Holly Church (FLBS), Wade Schott (Echo Lake HOA, Alpine Acres HOA), Barbara Schott (Echo Lake HOA, Alpine Acres HOA), Jayden Duckworth (FWP AIS Monitoring), Stacy Schmidt (FWP AIS Monitoring), Craig McLane (FWP AIS Monitoring), Mark Reller (Bonneville Power Administration), Dee Brown (State Senate District 2)</p>	
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues	
Presenter	Topic/Discussion
Lori Curtis Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: to approve minutes from October 7, 2019 meeting (Phil). Seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • ACTION: Phil Matson requested final report from the 2019 Industry Outreach project.
Kate Wilson Staff updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/Chair reports on activities and events: Exec Committee mtgs; action item follow up; industry outreach project; Western Regional Panel (annual meeting held in Missoula Oct 2019); Crown Managers Partnership; North American Invasive Species Management Association (conference in Whitefish Oct 2020); Pacific Northwest Economic Region (Summit in Big Sky July 2020); Annual Report and EQC Reporting; Gov Office Reporting; grant & budget management; meeting attendance and tracking AIS in Columbia River Basin. • UC³ New Website RFP out with Missoula based contractor at UC3.MT.GOV it's also built into a new landing page for all Montana Invasive Species (multi-taxa, multi-agency). Anything to share, add, photos let Kate or Cassidy know. • 2019 Annual Report is available: presenting to EQC in March

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Status: FY20 operating budget (July 1-June 30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY19 Budget: \$5,000 Operating. Expended on: member travel, meetings and UC³ materials ○ FY20 Budget: \$40,000 Operating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$15,734 expended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,274 Member/staff travel • \$2,246 Meetings/Trainings: facilities, meals, name plates, • \$1,812 Staff Office Expenses • \$2,312 Education/Outreach Materials • \$4,990 NAISMA Sponsorship • \$100 MWCC Partner Sponsorship ▪ \$24,271 remaining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000 UC³ Member travel/Spring meeting • \$3,000 PNWER sponsorship • \$500 staff support/supplies • Still awaiting BOR Grant Amendments for BSWC • \$11,188 BSWC Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UC³/Missoula County Weed District, 75/25 split - \$9,188 Member Fee/\$2,500 Travel & Supplies • \$7,083 Education & Outreach (w/o BOR grant: PLAN B) • \$18,271 Education & Outreach (w/BOR grant: PLAN A) • Awaiting confirmation on modifications requested for BOR grant (blue text). • Discussion on budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do the UC³ operating funds come from the legislature? Yes. \$40,000 in operating funds are set through 2021 ○ We do not get to carryover unused funds. Can only spend budget up to June 30. BOR Grant Amendments (awarded in 2018 and is good for 5 years so doesn't have to be spent this year). Work with Liz and Tom to spend the E&O funds.
<p>Tom Woolf</p> <p>AIS Summit Review & Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 4-5th 2019 Helena AIS Summit was a great opportunity to get everyone from the state together to see how far we've come and what else needs to happen to make the best program possible. • 120 people from over 50 different organizations and agencies. • Discussion at summit acknowledged successes, identified where more work needs to be done, how to engage partners, developed relationships between professionals on AIS issues across the state. • Topics: Program updates; regional efforts, prevention program (watercraft inspection), early detection, outreach, budget overview, legislative panel, breakout with law review to identify gaps and needs. • Recommendations from AIS Law Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AIS list needs to include plants and animals and be consistent with other agency listing processes. FWP lists prohibited species but not management practices or certain species (such as aquarium trade). ○ Define AIS authority and leadership (collectively or individually). How roles and responsibilities are defined are currently in an MOU between agencies. Potential for codifying responsibilities/authority. ○ Discussion of functionality of the AIS Trust Fund. ○ Concerns that failure to stop at boat inspections penalties are too low. ○ Need for a pull the plug rule.

- Concern about the out of state boat fee (prevention pass)- receipt only, no visible indication on the watercraft. Canoes are exempt. No in state boat fee.
- Expand partner involvement in AIS prevention, early detection and outreach. Only one supervisor in Eastern MT to oversee all inspection stations. Working with conservation districts to take over stations, we are also working with Missoula County, CSKT, and Blackfeet Nation.
- Quality control and enforcement. Seasonal staff in remote locations, could use more onsite supervision; making sure they follow protocols and don't miss anything.
- Continue engagement and communication on AIS program activities and progress including expanding targeted outreach and communicate successes to partners and public.
- AIS Strategic Plan: 2020 Draft to circulate for input.
- Next Steps for 2020:
 - Stations begin operating in March, longer hours and longer season.
 - Over 30 partner and FWP operated stations. Continue to cultivate partnerships with Tribes, Counties, Cities, Conservation Districts, and Park Service. Utilizing same trainings and protocols for everyone.
 - Delisting Canyon Ferry as suspect mussel detection site after 3 years of no detections. Public comment is closed and almost all in support of removing restrictions. Expect the director of FWP to make decision in coming weeks. Removing watercraft inspection for boats that are leaving reservoir, drastically reduced inspection operations but will continue presence in a roving format.
 - Funds from Canyon Ferry will now be reallocated to help enhance other inspection stations with longer hours, more staff, and longer seasons along the borders and continental divide.
 - Address quality control issues- expanded partner contracted station management, increased oversight, updated trainings, roving refresher trainings (reallocating Canyon Ferry staff for this), data app development (hiring seasonal QA staff member), secret shopper visits, staff incentives, increased pay (\$.50 an hour pay bump as well as working with more partner agencies that can pay more), expand enforcement at stations with wardens, county/state police, questionnaire to boating public on their experience at the stations, and improve signage.
 - Continue early detection monitoring with expanded partner involvement, additional focus on Tiber Reservoir, expand hatchery inspection protocols.
 - Treat new AIS detections where possible: Milfoil, NZ mudsnails, Asian clams, curlyleaf pondweed.
 - FWP working with USFS on curlyleaf pondweed, Asian Clams in Billings at Lake Elmo, Whitefish Lake Institute on Eurasian Milfoil, and the successful eradication of NZ mudsnails at the hatchery.
 - Expanded outreach efforts by targeting specific user groups and geographical areas, out of state boaters, and Don't Let It Loose campaign.
 - Draft AIS Strategic Plan to drive all the actions forward.
- DISCUSSION
 - When boats are stopped what are they looking for? Clean Drain Dry principles - mud, plants, standing water, any attached materials, mussels.
 - In relation to the bar chart of numbers of boats inspected increasing each year, is that reaching the goal we are aiming for? We are doing as much with our

	<p>resources as we can, not trying to open more stations necessarily but addressing current issues (boats in the middle of the night, quality control, boats not stopping, corridors to the state, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does this work at the border with Canada? We have inspection stations but are trying to work more with Border Patrol agencies. ○ Boaters need to know that this is their responsibility and requirement to seek out inspection stations and additionally should be clean and dry. Trying to cultivate this boating culture. ○ Where is closest mussel infested lake? Closest infected area in South Dakota. Lake Powell/Havasu are high traffic areas of concern as well. ○ Can UC³ pressure South Dakota to do more to address movement of potentially infested boats? SD inspection program is currently extremely limited. We are working with Wyoming to align protocols and attend their trainings. If UC³ wanted to send a letter encouraging SD to take more action it would require our Governor's office reaching out to SD Governor's office to improve SD's program. ○ Why is Idaho not using the Colorado data app that other western states are? Idaho's program keeps their inspection data on their own database, and it does not extend to other states. If they catch contaminated boats coming in our direction, they call us and let us know so we can check again and act, but we can't see inspection data from them. ○ Where does the funding for conservation districts come from, burden falls completely on the CD? FWP identifies locations that would work and then creates a contract with CD's and provides an administrative fee coverage. Turn-key type contract so the local entity is empowered to operate the site. FWP trains, starts, provides hot water unit, station necessities. Not just CDs but other partners too. ○ Apart from TIP-MONT is there protocol that FWP follows in the off season to ensure out-of-state boats/equipment are inspected prior to launch? FWP: No crime until we see them launch, run plates but cannot make traffic stop just to talk with them, will try to chat with boaters that we encounter, most wardens are cued in and pretty good about it but no specific off-season protocol.
<p>Lori Curtis; Tom Woolf; Kate Wilson</p> <p>Planning Session- Part I Focus & Strategic Direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Options for UC³ Strategic Direction (Outcome: Draft Two- year Strategic Work Plan based on planning discussions) ● Discuss/Approve Options (What do you want to see UC³ doing in the next few years?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop citizen science project to supplement sampling in other locations to aide in early detection and be able to monitor year-round. ○ WLI to address merit of UCLN contract, see what direction to take (FLBS is a subcontractor). Supply training and experience of network to help partners with monitoring support. ○ Better science is needed in the decision-making process of veliger survivability in ballast water. ○ Heidi McMaster: Could ask BOR staff performing studies to possibly represent at this meeting in the future. ○ ACTION: Provide an update at future meeting on the BOR veliger survivability studies. ○ Joanne: When Tiber hit, we already had AIS in UC Basin, 5 species of aquatic invasive plants and whirling disease: prevent introduction of invasive mussels to the Upper Columbia is our overarching goal. How can we measure success?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to get an inventory of all the waters west of the divide and do a risk assessment on them, which waters are being monitored, how much and where to identify on the monitoring locations. Craig passed around a list that includes this inventory that FWP plans on reworking this year to add parameters (temperature for when we sample). Risk matrix also available. ○ Low hanging fruit in the AIS gaps and challenges that we can knock off easily that will have a big impact (legislative changes). ○ Work on messaging for South Dakota. Possibly through FWP or Governor's Office. ○ Look at state of our protection from mussels and address the gaps to make sure FWP has the funding and support to address and solve. CSKT responded with increased season, hours, and enforcement. ○ Create one-page briefings for legislators and public (about UC³). ○ Onno: Need good report systems for public to tell us when things don't look right, people take pride in the status of their water. Also need to thank the eastern side of the state helping prevent the invasion of mussels in the west. ○ Heidi: Appreciation is necessary. Awards of recognition named after people that were important to the organization. Other states, annual award of recognition voted on and presented by the commission. ○ Holly Church: AIS Curriculum funded by DNRC grant out into the middle schools in the FLBS region, would UC³ be interested in getting that curriculum out into the state to every middle school? ○ Paths for donations needed so we aren't reliant on grants/agency funding.
<p>Kate Wilson; Bryce Christiaens; Legislators & Representatives</p> <p>Planning Session- Part II Legislative Involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of MISC law review: Scan of statute currently in for invasive species; identified gaps and challenges, many for AIS. Bringing to UC³ as uniquely positioned to take on if some of these if desired. One idea would be creating a subcommittee to engage in specifically addressing each of these gaps and challenges to work on solutions between meetings. ● Present/discuss specific AIS-related issues for UC³ consideration, with potential resolutions being legislative or other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AIS Species List: Currently list of prohibited AIS are in interagency MOU (not regulatory). FWP listing process is inconsistent with other agencies listing (e.g. Dept. of Ag) and unclear to many partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rep. Fern: Why can't this be done right now? Lacking authority in statute. Must go through/to the legislature to do this. ▪ Sen. Ellis: Legislature frowns upon giving agencies additional authority. Craft it to make sure both of those pieces work and then UC³ could possibly do the AIS part of that before it gets to legislative session. Making sure we have a clear purpose of explaining why we need to do what we are doing before we bring to the legislature. ▪ Rep. Duram: Legislators are not experts but could come up with a list/process, get it approved with UC³ board and then the legislators can carry it through in the 2021 session. ▪ UC³ could be the best avenue because of tie to the legislators; this could move forward as a committee bill or agency bill. ▪ Paul Bradford: Who would the likely opponents to this be? There is not a lot of opposition to have management authority clearly defined for an AIS Species list. There is a lot of ambiguity on which species we are focusing on. There won't be opponents to the idea, but hurdles would be within the legislature.

- Sen. Ellis & Rep. Duram: Challenge is not who the opponents will be, but some legislators may oppose giving the agency more regulatory authority. We value the privacy of our citizens, want to minimize authority of the gov. agency.
- Agency roles & responsibilities: Defined 'collectively or individually' in statute for AIS, which is only currently defined in an interagency MOU). Legislative option to take the MOU language and get it into statute.
- AIS Trust Fund: Currently capped at \$100M (can't utilize funds until reach this amount). Concern that this is too high to be able to utilize in timely manner. Was modeled after Noxious Weed Trust Fund (capped at \$10M), interest is used to fund local projects. Could follow that model or use it for AIS program, emergency fund, etc. Legislative option to lower the amount in statute and better define what the funds can be used for.
 - How are we currently funding and what is the investment strategy on this money? Federal funding that was matched by the state was put into the fund. Capitalizing in the future would be a conversation for the legislators. Investment strategy is through the board of investors. Suggestion to look through the methods of how that would apply to this industry, investment strategy should be investigated at more than the 3.5 average to get this thing moving.
 - What percent of the \$10M would go to the local projects? Noxious weed trust fund grants out 2 million every year for projects, if it is the same model then about that much. Right now, it is \$250k. We must figure out how we divert what will be capitalized versus what we would put out on the ground.
 - There is also the option to add language to include emergency response options to the use of the trust fund.
- AIS Enforcement and Penalties- Pull the Plug: Implement a pull the plug rule in Montana. Concept: Watercraft being transported must have the drain plug pulled.
 - Why don't we have that rule? We used to have and then it was taken away... reason unknown (un-pullable plugs?). Idaho does not have this rule, but many other western states/provinces do.
 - Possible issues are liability, issues can be fixed with language.
 - What are the penalties right now, deterrents that are more effective, what are other states using that are effective? Failure to stop \$85 fine, overall penalties are minor with about 80 citations through FWP Wardens from the last year.
 - Sen. Ellis: There is no guarantee that it will pass using the legislative process, we must think about what we will do when it is defeated.
- AIS Enforcement and Penalties- Drive-Bys: Legislative fix to raise minimum to higher amount (from current \$85).
 - There is a higher fee for knowingly driving by a station, but very difficult to prove.
 - Comments on taking this issue to the legislature- We need to get the message out more to the public and the sheriffs on why this is important so they can do a better job of enforcing.
 - Rep. Fern: Considering how catastrophic the effects could be \$125 minimum fine is not out of line.

- Grizzly bear shooting for endangered species is \$10,000. \$85 fine is too low considering the possible damage from invasive species.
 - Trucking industry says truckers wouldn't dare drive by because consequences are too high, is now built into trucking culture. How do we get that started for boating?
 - Perspective: \$5,000 for illegally shooting white tail deer. Only \$85 for infesting our waters?
 - Keep message clear that we are spending less money to prevent than we would be to control in the event of an outbreak.
 - Real issue is the officer enforcements at the station. Getting wardens to write the tickets, what is going to get us there- more money for fines or more money for enforcement?
 - Transportation trucking model is effective because they factor in degradation to the roads if the vehicle is overweight. Make case for the impact/consequence of not stopping.
- Non-Resident Fees as Stickers or Stamps: Currently only an online receipt (not a visible sticker like in other states). Difficult to enforce if nobody can see it. Could result in less revenue as well. Options for fix are to advocate to FWP (who has rule-making authority already to change it) or to specify in statute that it must be a sticker/decal.
 - Sen. Ellis: Sat on EQC that considered stickers and turned down, unsure of the reasons why.
 - How do out of state boaters know where and when to get the stickers? Targeted messaging but limited so far.
 - Non-Motorized Watercraft: Currently excluding canoes but not kayaks, SUPs, drift boats, etc. Legislative fix: Correct language to create better definitions.
 - The design of the boat, canoes do not hold standing water. Not accurate – while lower risk, canoes can transport AIS as well. Similar risk to SUPs or kayaks. Need to better educate legislators about the risk canoes, and all watercraft, can pose to spreading AIS.
 - Excluding canoers creates the issue that they aren't part of the solution (ownership).
 - Education & Outreach: Discussion on some of the topics highlighted at the AIS summit where we can target E&O more. Good role for UC³.
 - **ACTION: Work with FWP and other partners in the basin to create and update E&O plan/schedule for 2020.**
 - Watercraft Inspection Stations: Discussion on some of the topics highlighted at the AIS summit included quality control, increasing supervision on site, enhancing data app, etc.
- Discuss/Approve commission involvement in legislative issues/direction for 2021 Legislation Session
 - Ad hoc legislative committee could be possible standing committee in the future.
 - Discussion:
 - Timeline: February 2020 for the end of the session March 2021.
 - Committee meets, discusses list and options in more detail and comes up with recommendations on how/which issues to address; come back

	<p>to full Commission for decision on when and how to move forward on the recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could call special meeting via conference call for this if we needed to (prior to next meeting in April). ○ Motion: Create legislative committee with timeline of February 2020 - May 2021 to the UC³ (Phil) seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteers for the ad hoc committee: Andrew (Chair), Lori, Bryce, Phil, Erik, Rob, Tom, Kate
<p>Planning Session- Part III Committee Activities</p> <p>Lori Curtis; Tom Woolf; Kate Wilson; Committee Chairs;</p> <p>Lori Curtis, Chair Liz Lodman, FWP Kate Wilson</p> <p>Tom Woolf, Chair Chris Downs, Chair</p> <p>Erik Hansen, Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss relevance, direction and deliverables of all committees. • Consider disbanding committees and approving subsequent bylaw modifications • Watercraft Inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tom: People that are working in watercraft inspection are coordinating and communicating with trainings and updates so the need for a committee is no longer needed. However, updates and communications within the commission is needed and necessary. ○ Any issues with disbanding this as a formal committee? No • Early Detection & Monitoring- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erik: Committee would come in handy if there is an AIS detection. ○ Joanne: Defines dollars allocated to do the monitoring. Vote to keep. ○ Tied to statutory duty to develop annual AIS monitoring plan for Upper Columbia Basin. ○ Monitoring Workshop is tomorrow, and we will be going through the Draft Plan for 2020 and feedback on how to finalize it. ○ Members in favor of keeping this standing committee. • Response & Preparedness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erik: More of an agency action so that responsibility does not lie with the committee. ○ Any issues for disbanding the committee? No • Motion: Disband Response & Preparedness and Watercraft Inspections committees (Stacey); seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Motion: Andrew Gorder to be the chair of the legislative committee (Mike); seconded (Rob). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Education & Outreach updates from Liz Lodman: Overview of 2019 season. Included TV, radio, social media and print ads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placed an ad in the Flathead Beacon’s Border Crossing publication to inform Canadians about the Vessel AIS Prevention Pass. ○ Adding info and working regionally with tourism offices to educate and invite people to recreate and inform visitors about the rules when bringing a watercraft into Montana. ○ Education and Outreach summary of 2019 and efforts for 2020 including event presence, media advertising, signage, school education, displays, swag, and website cleandraindry.mt.gov ○ Goal of outreach is to increase public awareness and change behaviors. ○ FWP created materials and UC³ augmented reach and scheduling – mostly in the spring/beginning of the summer (~ \$13k from UC3).

Tom Woolf, Contract
Review Committee
Cynthia Ingelfinger,
Contractor
Phil Matson,
Subcontractor

- Media:
 - Radio- MT & Yellowstone public radio, Northern News Network, and Montana Outdoor Radio show.
 - Newspapers- 65 daily & weekly papers.
 - Included in FWP Regulations, fishing, hunting, and boating.
 - Television- MT TV network (30 second ads in the summer). Six different tv ads with messages focusing on, homeowners, anglers, PWC owners and boaters, irrigators, and hydropower industry.
 - Social media - internet ads and native content that links back to the website to learn more about AIS. Added videos to native content in 2019 (Five Things You May Not Have Known About Aquatic Invasive Species and 10 Must Do's After Boating and Fishing).
 - UC³ funded Gas Station TV, newspaper and radio advertisements west of the divide.
- Geo Targeting: Used geo fencing methods around Flathead Lake, Tiber, Canyon Ferry and Fort Peck.
- Southwest US Campaign: extra money last year to target Lake Powell, Lake Mead, etc., and snow birds returning to Montana. Efforts included: Social Media, bloggers via 'native articles,' (look like articles but actually paid ads), geotargeting and gas station TV.
- Signs - Billboards, road and boat ramp signs.
- Don't Let It Loose campaign is aimed at pet owners who have aquarium tanks. Inform public if no longer able to care for pet, they do not let it loose. Correct action is to find a suitable owner, donate to humane society, or humanely euthanize. Targeting pet shops and schools to teach kids at a young age.
- Motorboat validation decal expires this year. Boaters will need to get the free validation decal and a receipt with the Clean Drain Dry message.
- Middle school science teachers attended training at Montana Learning Center to learn activities to educate on AIS... Another training will be offered in October 2020.
- BSWC Members will be trained in March (Liz & Kate) even if their terms do not particularly deal with AIS, they will now be able to inform others and entertain conversation on preventing AIS.
 - Annual Budget for last year \$260,000, will not be as much this time around.
 - Brand awareness and recognition across the state is incredible. Kudos to everyone doing all the work. Looking at the numbers before and it seemed impossible, but you did it.
 - Geo fencing is a great way to get to the out of state boaters, if there is any way to get to the analytics of it.
- Add to the Education and Outreach Committee: Michelle Cox.
 - If you are on that committee, expect more work this year, we will update the E&O plan annually and include a schedule with all partners in basin.
- UC³ Monitoring Contract: Issued to WLI/FLBS in 2019.
 - FLBS as a subcontractor.
 - Working with FWP to do trainings for volunteers (citizen scientists).
 - Identified data gaps: where we are sampling, who is sampling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trainings include water quality monitoring, AIS identification, and plankton sampling. ○ Developing a new website in the coming weeks with links to FWP and map to track monitoring efforts throughout the basin. ○ Possibly tweak the grant to reach out to the west side more. ○ Contract is through the BOR grant. About \$21,000 is awarded to the two-year contract.
Tom Woolf Monitoring Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Meeting starts at 8:30am and goes until 2pm, January 30th.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: to adjourn (Phil). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> <p>Adjourned at 4:35 PM</p>

4. Action Items				
Action: Need to be updated		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes sent to members	Kate Wilson	2/10	Completed
2	Send final report from Industry Outreach project to members and post on UC ³ website	Kate Wilson	3/1	In progress
2	Provide an update at future meeting on the BOR veliger survivability studies.	Tom Woolf/Heidi McMaster	4/22	In progress
3	Work with new legislative committee to address AIS gaps and come up with recommendations for UC3 consideration (likely call special meeting prior to next April meeting)	Kate Wilson/Committee Members	3/15	In progress
4	Set up quarterly meeting on doodle poll (yearly schedule).	Kate Wilson	2/10	Completed
5	Amend 2020 Monitoring Draft plan to present at next meeting			
6	Send contact list of UC3 members out to Commission	Kate Wilson	2/15	In progress
7	Work with FWP and other partners in the basin to create and update E&O plan/schedule for 2020			
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
10	If you need materials or info contact Liz Lodman with FWP	All	On-going	
11	Tom W. to update everyone on AIS Advisory Group happenings. Include UC ³ members in communications.	Tom Woolf	On-going	
12	Plan for future EDRR response exercises	Tom Woolf	On-going	
13	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		
14	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman (Kate to follow up)		
15	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrot	2/15	Completed
16	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp. at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		
17	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC ³ website (i.e. photos) to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, June 10th, 2020
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Via Zoom

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER	PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE	PREPARATION
10:00 AM	Welcome & Agenda Overview Meeting Rules Introductions Zoom/virtual meeting etiquette	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Conservation Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute Tom Woolf, UC ³ Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator	Welcome Online Meeting Rules	Review agenda and meeting materials provided in advance
10:10 AM	Staff Report <i>Minutes, Staff Report</i> Items for staff to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY20 Budget status; FY21 Budget approval • BOR grant update • Annual E&O Plan • Strategic Work Plan • UCLN Contract update • By-law review/officer discussion ACTIONS: Approve Minutes Approve Budget	Kate Wilson Cassidy Bender, Commission Coordinator	Approve Minutes from 1/29; Discuss and Approve Budget	Review 1/29 Minutes; existing by-laws;
10:45 AM	Legislative Committee & Environmental Quality Council Status/Discussion	Kate Wilson Tom Woolf Andrew Gorder, Legislative Committee Chair		Review EQC talking points with five priority actions
10:55 AM	Industry Outreach Project	Brant Dupree, Big Sky Watershed Corps member Cassidy Bender, Commission Coordinator		If your organization is conducting AIS E&O, please help populate Upper Columbia plan

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER	PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE	PREPARATION
11:10 AM	FWP AIS Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercraft inspection stations • Monitoring • Education & Outreach • SeaGrant Midwest activity 	Tom Woolf	Learn about early season activity and Covid-19 response protocols Q&A	Review May AIS program newsletter
11:25	Partner AIS Program Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercraft inspection stations • Monitoring • Education & Outreach 	Partner Programs in the Upper Columbia		Prepare short update on program if applicable
11:45 AM	Public Comment			
12:00 PM	ADJOURN			

The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) prior to the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday Jun 10 th , 2020	Time:	10am-12pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Cassidy Bender	Location:	Zoom/Call In

List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	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	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome & Agenda Overview

Lori Curtis,
Chair UC³,
Conservation
Districts Rep.,
Science &
Education Director,
Whitefish Lake
Institute

Kate Wilson,
UC³ Administrator

- Lori called to order at 10:03am.
- Welcome, meeting rules (Zoom/Virtual Etiquette), mission statement.
- ***The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.***
- Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission representation. All other participants introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.
- Agenda overview: Staff Report, Legislative Committee and EQC status, BSWC Industry Outreach Project update, FWP AIS report, AIS reports from partners, next meeting dates/topics, public comment and adjourn.

2. Attendees

UC³ (voting members underlined): Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), Tom Woolf (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), Chris Parrott (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Larry Lack (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Jeremy Anderson (Bitterroot River Basin), BJ Johnson (Flathead River Basin), Andrew Gorder (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute, member at large), Stacey Schnebel (/Flathead Electric Cooperative, Electric Cooperatives), Paul Bradford (Libby Rod & Gun Club, Kootenai River Basin), Paul Kusnierz (Avista, Hydropower), Sen. Janet Ellis (Helena), Sen. Mike Cuffe (Eureka), Rep. Neil Duram (Libby), Rep. David Fern (Whitefish), Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park), Heidi McMaster (BOR), Joanne Grady (USFWS), Monica Pokorny (NRCS), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Coordinator)

Public/Other: Erik Hanson (CSKT), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Craig McLane (FWP), Liz Lodman (FWP), Brant Dupree (UC³/MCWD BSWC), Hope Stockwell (MT Legislative Services), Sue Mills (Yellowstone NP),

Clayton Elliott (Montana Trout Unlimited), Jeff Mow (GNP Superintendent), Jeremy Varley (Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture), Jim Elser (FLBS Director), Mike Hensler (FWP Fisheries), Ron Catlett (Representing Steve Daines), Abby Schmeichel (FLBS BSWC), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Gerald Wagner (Blackfoot Nation), Kurt Steele (USFS Flathead National Forest Superintendent)

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
<p>Approval of Minutes Kate Wilson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: to approve minutes from January 29, 2020 meeting (Phil). Seconded (Andrew). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Staff Report Kate Wilson Cassidy Bender, UC³ Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff reports on activities and events: Bi-weekly Executive Committee meetings; action item follow up and meeting planning; BSWC member supervision- industry outreach project; finalization of UC³ Annual Monitoring Plan, UC³ Education & Outreach Strategy, EQC/Agency/Gov Office Reporting, Grant and Budget management, Legislative Committee meetings/follow up, Tracking AIS in CRB/West, Crown Managers Partnership (steering committee member); North American Invasive Species Management Association virtual conference planning (board member); Pacific Northwest Economic Region (co-chair of invasive species working group); Western Regional Panel (chair of Fire AIS protocol committee), BC Columbia River Basin Steering Committee, fire/natural disaster and COVID-19 response as Public Information Officer and Liaison Officer. • FY20 Budget Breakdown: \$40,000 Operating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expended on: member travel, meetings, UC³ materials, projects (outreach, events, advertising, Clean Drain Dry materials), BSWC member, staff/office supplies, ○ \$36,550 Expended ○ <u>\$3,450 Balance:</u> allocated (E&O through the end of June) • BOR Grant & Modifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bureau of Reclamation AIS Funding- \$120,000 ○ Funding timeline: 2017-2021 (All modifications have now been approved) ○ Balance remaining: <u>\$45,229</u> (projects & indirect) ○ Themes/Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Education & Outreach</u> (\$75,000)- on-going (bal. ~\$36,000): Dev. Of materials; engagement of public, stakeholders & partners; webpage dev. & maintenance; augment AIS advertising in basin ▪ <u>Expansion of Monitoring Network</u> (\$25,000)- nearly complete (bal. ~\$5,500): NW MT Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network expansion; monitoring plan & mapping; protocol dev.; data app for partners ▪ <u>Marina/Boat & Angling Shop Pilot</u> (\$20,000)- complete: Dev. & disseminate outreach materials; engage business owners; pilot transferrable to high risk locations nation-wide. • Upper Columbia Lakes Network Monitoring Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awarded contract through Competitive RFP process- spring of 2019 ○ Contract issued to Whitefish Lake Institute subcontractor: FLBS ○ Coordinator: Cynthia Ingelffinger ○ Contract amount (total): \$20,300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$16,325 Expended ▪ \$3,975 Balance ○ Objectives: Increasing monitoring partners in Upper Columbia; Engaging new partners in AIS issue; Maintaining network over time

- Strategies: Outreach to watershed/conservation/outdoor groups, providing in-person training and materials, oversight, website development, regular AIS reporting
- **UC³ Education & Outreach**
 - UC³ E&O Strategy in development: document housing E&O goals, objectives, target audiences and communication strategies.
 - Media Plan will be updated annually
 - Include data/plans from partners within the basin each year
 - Work with FWP and partners to plan outreach; address gaps
 - Advertising (print, social media, TV, radio, gas station TV, billboards)
 - Events/ activities
 - Industry Outreach Project (Marina/Boat & Angling Pilot)
 - Currently working on gathering E&O plans from partners to assess exposure/mediums/timing in Upper Columbia Basin
 - Overview of UC³ FY20 Media Plan: ads in newspapers throughout the basin, video PSA's on gas station tv throughout the basin, video PSA's on ABC & FOX television stations, billboard near Polson, Industry Outreach Project, etc.
- **FY20 Budget for Approval: \$40,000 Operating**
 - \$10,000 UCLN continuance & training video production
 - \$8,000 AIS Education & Outreach*
 - Augment FWP. Partner AIS advertising in basin
 - Coordinate/fill gaps in annual E&O media plan
 - Targeted (wade) anglers' outreach (PSA, events, publications)
 - Invasive Species Legislative Rotunda event
 - *\$16,000 in BOR funds available for E&O
 - \$8,000 BSWC Project 2021*
 - *Dependent on partnership (e.g. MCWD)
 - \$8,000 Member travel/meetings
 - \$4,000 Annual Report, E&O plan, Additional Projects, Misc.
 - \$2,000 Staff supplies/travel/office
- **Strategic Work Plan: Coming Soon**
 - Two+ year strategic work plan (2020-2023). Based on planning session held at January 2020 meeting; guide our work in coming years.
 - Specific tasks with timeline, responsible party, status
 - Narrative and table/graphics that can be used in other publications, website, annual plan, etc.
 - Tasks specific to statutory duties, general objectives, areas that we would like to have more of a presence/focus
 - Components: Education & Outreach, Monitoring & Citizen Science, Coordination & Collaboration, Policy & Legislation, Business & Admin, Other
- **By-law review/officer discussion**
 - Article II, Section 5 –Membership: Staggered 4 years terms (pg3)
 - *Now have more 'staggered terms' (2021-2024)*
 - *Legislators are selected by Senate President/Speaker of the House*
 - Article II, Section 6 –New Appointments: Term limits (pg3)
 - *Term limits removed*
 - Article II, Section 8 –Incomplete Terms: Recommendations for new members (pg4)
 - *Gov Office Appointment process –recommendation optional*
 - Article III, Sections 3-4: Presiding Office/Chair & Vice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Two-year terms (election held every two years for both positions – would be rec. to Governor if voted for a new presiding officer</i> ▪ <i>Term limits removed: not necessary, every member still must be appointed. If they no longer want to serve, position is advertised. If they resign or do not complete their term, we hold election and provide a recommendation to the governor’s office for appointee. Vice Chair is not a governor appointed officer (election required).</i> ○ Article IV, Section 1 –Meetings: Locations (pg5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>With size of basin, makes sense to meet throughout basin as needed/desired</i> ▪ <i>Opportunity to engage new partners/citizens</i> ○ Article V, Section 2 –Proxy Voting: Currently allowed (pg6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Must be existing (voting) member; equires prior notice to chair</i> ○ Article VI –Committees (pg6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Commission or Exec Committee can create new ‘committee, working group or network’ as needed</i> ○ Article VI, Section 2 –Committee Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Letters of Interest required; Chairs by majority vote</i> • Questions/discussion on above items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High quality training video- on AIS identification, monitoring, eDNA, etc. Would work with FWP and could be used statewide. Video idea receives support from multiple commissioners. Suggestion of using CRC contractor or Flathead Beacon’s video production capabilities. If don’t have time or resources to hold a training, can be used as an alternative. Could be distributed to partners and groups across state, on the web to share for folks who want to do monitoring. Great for transboundary partners, and possibly UCLN website. Video has longevity and makes our funding go further. ○ \$16k from BOR is not shown on budget to be approved slide but is shown in the previous slide budget because it is federally grant (already allocated). Plans for the \$16k from BOR: education & outreach for AIS in basin. ○ Does the UCLN \$4,500 maintenance include travel funds for Cynthia? Yes, can include any maintenance costs associated with network. There is also \$1700 in BOR grant for monitoring supplies. • Motion: to approve FY21 Budget (Stacey). Seconded (Mike). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Motion: to approve by-law changes (Phil). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Legislative Committee & Environmental Quality Council Status/Discussion</p> <p>Andrew Gorder, Legislative Committee Chair</p> <p>Kate Wilson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Committee: Andrew Gorder (Chair), Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Erik Hanson, Rob Rich, and Phil Matson • All Committee recommendations were born out of MISC invasive species law review, discussed at the 2019 AIS Summit and presented at multiple UC³ meetings. • Committee came up with five priority recommendations and sent letter to FWP/DNRC Directors, which resulted in subsequent staff meeting. • Updated EQC last week on committee progress as well. • Top Five Priority issues to resolve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic Invasive Species List: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rulemaking authority to FWP to develop list/process ▪ Provide for management authority ▪ Need legislative action 2. AIS Trust Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower cap from \$100M to \$10M (or other lower amount)

- We would not be able to access funds until reach \$100M. Only \$1.5-2M annually has been deposited past two years and it would take 50-60 years to reach the cap of \$100M. See current balance below:

Invasive Species Trust Fund (09084) Ending Fund Balance		
	Actual FY 2019	YTD 6/10 FY 2020
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$1,648,154
Nominal Revenues		
STIP Participant Earnings	\$25,215	\$29,585
MBOI Investment Appr/Depr	231	(231)
Transfers-Nonbudgeted	1,622,708	307,084
Total Revenues	\$1,648,154	\$336,438
Nominal Disbursements		
Distrib Of Investment Earnings	-	(25,215)
Total Disbursements	\$0	(\$25,215)
Ending Fund Balance		
Cash In Bank	-	-
Interest Receivable	3,294	-
Participant's Stip Investment	1,644,629	1,959,377
STIP Investment Appr/Depr	231	-
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$1,648,154</u>	<u>\$1,959,377</u>

- Interest can support program, response, AIS grants (once cap reached)
 - Provide for more timely use of funds
 - Need legislative action to lower cap
- 3. Higher penalty for drive-bys:**
 - Currently only \$85
 - Concern that is not enough of deterrent for boaters to stop
 - Fouled boat could cost state much more
 - Options: Change in statute or approach the bonding committee to reassess their decision of the fee.
 - 4. Pull the Plug Rule:**
 - Model rule in western jurisdictions
 - Easier enforcement/compliance & no standing water
 - Enhanced boater inspection experience (less delays)
 - Can be completed internally through FWP rule-making
 - 5. Sticker/decals for non-resident prevention pass:**
 - Current 'receipt system' –lack of visibility on the watercraft/vehicle
 - Enforcement –require physically detaining/pulling over (not associated with license plate or hull ID)
 - Misses opportunity for partners to assist/engage
 - Potential loss in revenue and lack of compliance
 - Can be completed internally through FWP rule-making
- Discussion:
 - Sen. Mike Cuffe: Concerns regarding changes to the AIS Trust Fund- The cap was created in this way due to concern that a future legislature could cut funding to AIS program. We spend ~ \$5.5M/year, \$11M/biennium. \$10M will not cover full AIS program in a biennium. Source of money is federal matching money, you must spend that amount, spend a dollar to get a dollar. State funds saved with fed dollars are deposited in fund. But no guarantee that fed funds will continue to flow (esp at the rate we've had, \$1.5-2M/year).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intent of the trust fund will stay the same. If we are spending more money, than we can make the cap \$15M, but must cover program costs for at least the biennium to come up with alternative sources of funds (original intent). ▪ Hope Stockwell: Trust Fund summary (see table above as well): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2015: Legislature created the invasive species trust fund (80-7-1016, MCA) to fund an AIS grant program administered by the DNRC (House Bill 525) ▪ 2017: SB 363 disconnected the trust fund from the grant program and rerouted its interest and income for deposit into the state special revenue account (80-7-1004, MCA) that funds the AIS programs at FWP and DNRC. Unreserved funds remaining in the AIS account at the end of a fiscal year are swept back into the trust fund. ▪ According to the Legislative Fiscal Division, the balance of the trust fund was \$1,943,244 as of Nov 2019. The corpus of the trust may not be used until it reaches \$100 million or unless appropriated by a three-fourths vote of each house of the legislature. ▪ The DNRC, who still may administer the trust fund, distributed \$25,215 in earnings from the trust to the AIS account in 2019 (for eastern watercraft inspection stations). ▪ Sen. Janet Ellis: Are there opportunities for compromise? Of course. These are recommendations. ▪ Both FWP and DNRC Directors were supportive of lowering the cap to a level that may be utilized in a more timely manner. ▪ ACTION: Invite interested parties to meet concerning the trust fund (Cuffe, Ellis) ▪ Cap only allows use of interest. Seems to follow the protocol of the Coal Trust. ▪ Joann W: Regarding bonding committee and drive by fee: the legislature took away all the mechanisms to force people to pay the fines. It doesn't matter what the fines are if we cannot collect them. We need to approach the legislature to reimplement those mechanisms. ACTION: Explore what mechanisms for levying fines have changed. ▪ Clarification: The \$10,000 fee (proposed by Cuffe at the 2019 Summit) would be for hauling mussels into the state, not just drive bys.
<p>Cassidy Bender</p> <p>Brant Dupree, BSWC Member</p> <p>Industry Outreach Project Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 Industry Outreach Project is a continuation of the 2019 Marina/Boat and Fishing Shop Pilot Program. We have a joint Big Sky Watershed Corps Member with the Missoula County Weed District, Brant Dupree. The goal of the program is the spread the Clean Drain Dry (CDD) message and ensure that businesses have all the correct information, materials, and resources to inform their staff and customers. • Businesses get a one-on-one visit and they are asked to sign a pledge to become a 'Clean Drain Dry Partner,' a commitment that they will spread their knowledge to customers and staff in dedication to protecting Montana's waters. We have been featuring these partners on the FWP Protect Our Waters Montana Facebook Page. • There are 120+ locations we are planning to visit this season. Broken down into four categories: Marinas, Boat Shops, Angling/Fly Shops, and Outdoor Retailers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At Marinas we focus on discussing moored vessels, out of state/high risk visitors, and seasonal traffic. We inform about inspection stations, AIS concerns and updates in the state. ○ At Boat Shops/Rentals we focus on inspection station information, why boats are required to stop, what inspectors look for, and educating new boat owners. ○ At Angling/Fly Shops we focus on out of state visitors and educating during the licensing process and angler's role on preventing AIS (cleaning equipment).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At Outdoor Retailers we focus on educating staff on AIS in Montana, provide opportunity to include informational materials in purchase and licensing packets, familiarize employees on MT regulations and AIS status. ● A big part of the project includes data collection with goals to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish connection and familiarity with AIS program ○ Identify barriers for companies and customers ○ Develop more effective marketing and advertising campaigns ○ Identify common misconceptions about AIS in Montana ○ Build a Community of CDD partners and foster future CDD Boaters ● If your organization is conducting AIS E&O, please help populate Upper Columbia plan by contacting Cassidy Bender (cassidy.bender@mt.gov). Brant sending survey.
<p>Tom Woolf, UC³ Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>FWP AIS Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2019 Season Review: 113,000 inspections, 16 mussel fouled vessels, 300 with weeds, over 50% of inspections conducted by partners, over 2,300 early detection samples analyzed, no Dreissenid detections, and restrictions lifted from Canyon Ferry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mussel fouled boats intercepted at inspection stations from 2017-2019: 1 from TX, 8 from AZ, 1 from CA, 2 from NV, 4 from MN, 1 from IA, 3 from IL, 6 from WS, 1 from IN, 4 from OH, 13 from MI, 4 from NY, and 1 from Quebec. ● 2020 Season: All stations are now open (except Eureka and some Blackfeet Nation stations) Over 20k inspections so far. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contracted partner stations: CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula County, Conservation Districts (mostly in east). Other partner stations: Glacier NP, Whitefish Lake. ○ COVID-19 Response and 2020 Protocols: mask enforcement in Phase 1 of reopening, social distancing, minimal material exchange with boaters. ○ Quality control for inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roving quality assurance teams and reporting between stations ▪ Expanded partner contracted station management and oversight ▪ Updated training ○ 2020 Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanded enforcement with centralized dispatch-priority deployment ▪ Added more staff to TIPMONT for AIS calls ▪ Regular enforcement present 3-4 days a week at high drive-by locations ▪ Over 40 citations and 40 written warnings issued so far ○ Improve hatchery protocols (statewide) ○ Address Midwest boat internet sales (haulers moving fouled boats) ○ Focus on ongoing program evaluation and improvement ○ Celebrating successes of inspectors who help protect the state from AIS impacts. In the past there has been criticism when a boat is missed and that is the only time inspectors would only hear from FWP/community. Trying to change that this year by acknowledging and rewarding hard work of great inspectors and supervisors who make this program successful. ● What is the first inspection station that people would encounter coming across Divide from east right now? The Browning station opened in early April or Late May. ● 2020 Surveying Update: FWP teams are sampling state-wide with 50+ samples collected and analyzed so far. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWP will be checking in with the private ponds stocked by the NZM hatchery. ○ Tiber: 11 negative samples; Partnership with FLBS for further eDNA investigation; Shoreline survey; Mussel detection dogs ● AIS Statewide Outreach Campaign: Liz Lodman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newspaper, radio, social media, geo-targeting, inspection stations. ○ Example advertisements included in presentation.

Partner AIS Program Reports

Partner Programs in the Upper Columbia

- Clearwater Resource Council
 - Monitoring from mid-July- mid-Sept: 52 sites in the Blackfoot and Clearwater watersheds
- CSKT
 - Run Ravalli watercraft inspection station. FWP funds daytime hours, BOR funds nighttime hours, started operation March 15.
 - 3000 inspections so far. 140 drive-bys: 80 returns and 40 have been ticketed.
- FLBS
 - Awarded DNRC AIS grant to sample Flathead Lake
 - Partner with BSWC and CSKT to sample 31 sites 3 times a year
 - Sampling Tiber twice this summer with FWP and BOR
 - Also have a grant to support AIS databases on international level, funding to deploy new eDNA tracker and situate it at a fish hatchery in Mexico
 - Developed AIS curriculum- [available on FLBS website](#)
 - AIS work with the CMP- received funding from GNP to augment statewide outreach with regional advertisements
- Glacier National Park
 - Early detection monitoring starting this week
 - Only lake that is open for boating is Lake McDonald
 - Inspectors are in place and station is open
- MCWD
 - Missoula County is officially Montana's first AIS district, commissioners passed the district and the current weed board will be serving as the district board
 - Petitioned as a county to list fragrant water lily as listed noxious weed
 - Awarded DNRC grant to address fragrant water lily in Missoula county and test treatment options
 - Clearwater junction inspection station is very busy, cheap gas and social distancing is driving everyone to the lakes
 - Record setting 498 boat day last weekend
- Swan Valley Connections
 - Working with FWP to create educational brochure to distribute throughout the watershed, will mail to all landowners in the Swan Valley
- Trout Unlimited: Bitterroot
 - Focusing on education and outreach through youth Trout to Classroom program- incorporating AIS component
 - Present various AIS speakers at chapter meetings with 40-60 attendees
 - Distributing Clean Drain Dry foam pads, dry bags and brochures
 - Montana TU and all local chapters received grant to stencil CDD on boat ramps. Now identifying key locations and seeking permission and partnerships.
- WLI
 - Partnership between WLI and City of Whitefish and FWP in 4th year of comprehensive program that includes inspections and early detection monitoring
 - Build out of AIS Decontamination station at the city beach overflow parking lot funding by DNRC AIS grant
 - Whitefish AIS preparedness and rapid response plan- how do we respond, what are the partnerships, how do we communicate, process will continue this year
- Blackfeet Nation
 - Tribe has everything shut down, lakes are shut down to outsiders, all boats are supposed to be inspected

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Browning site is opened for its third week, one mussel fouled boat was found and decontaminated, a little slow but working on getting their other sites hired up and opened ○ Monitoring grant with EPA in the works
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Elser (FLBS): Thank you for your diligence and want to congratulate everyone on hard work, let's keep this going. • Lori Curtis: I want to leave us all with an intent to individually come up with one action each of us can do to bridge a communication gap, reach out to someone from the meeting, give information, and/or collaborate. • Stacey: Thank you. Impressed with how far we have come since we started in 2017. Thank you Tom, Lori, Kate and all.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: to adjourn (Stacey). Seconded (Rob). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> <p>Adjourned at 12:11 PM</p>

4. Action Items				
Action: Need to be updated		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes and send to members	Kate Wilson	6/30/20	Complete
2	Invite interested parties to Legislative Committee meeting (Cuffe, Ellis)	Kate Wilson	7/5/20	Complete
3	Explore potential issue(s) with penalty collection mechanisms in Montana	Kate Wilson, Legislative Committee	On-going; no info on specific issue mentioned at meeting was able to be verified	In progress; on-going
4	Send survey/ask about comfort of potential in-person meeting in the fall vs. in person (August 19 th)	Kate Wilson	6/30/20	Complete
5	Solicit information from partners to assess AIS E&O exposure in basin. Work with FWP and other partners in the basin to create and update E&O plan/schedule for 2020	Cassidy Bender, Brant Dupree, Kate Wilson, all	7/15/20	Complete
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
6	If you need materials or info contact Liz Lodman with FWP	All	On-going	
7	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC ³ website (i.e. photos) to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	
8	Plan for future EDRR response exercises	Tom Woolf	On-going	
9	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		
10	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP Clean Drain Dry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman (Kate to follow up)		
11	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp. at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		



Fall Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 4th 2020

1:30pm to 4:00pm

via Zoom

Contact staff for meeting participation details

Time	Topic	Presenter	Objective	Preparation
1:30pm	<p>Welcome Agenda Overview Meeting Rules</p> <p>Zoom/virtual meeting etiquette</p> <p>Participant Introductions</p>	<p>Lori Curtis, Chair UC3, Conservation Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute</p> <p>Tom Woolf, UC3 Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>Kate Wilson, UC3 Administrator</p> <p>Cassidy Bender, UC3 Coordinator</p>	<p>Welcome Online Meeting Rules</p>	<p>Review agenda and meeting materials provided in advance</p>
1:40pm	<p>Staff Report Minutes, Staff Report Topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Update • BOR grant update • Strategic Work Plan • UCLN Contract update • Projects <p>• E&O Strategy & Media Plan</p> <p>• Industry Outreach Project/BSWC Term Summary & Recommendations</p> <p>• FWP E&O 2020 Season</p>	<p>Kate Wilson, Commission Administrator</p> <p>Cassidy Bender, Commission Coordinator</p> <p>Brant Dupree, Big Sky Watershed Corps member</p> <p>Liz Lodman, Information Officer, MTFWP</p>	<p>ACTION: Approve Minutes from 6/10</p> <p>ACTION: Approve FY21 Budget Updates</p>	<p>Review 6/10 Minutes</p> <p>Review Budget updates</p>

Time	Topic	Presenter	Objective	Preparation
2:40pm	Legislative Committee Update ACTIONS: Discuss and approve Legislative Committee's recommendations	Kate Wilson & Andrew Gorder, Legislative Committee Chair Chief Dave Loewen, FWP Enforcement Aimee Hawkaluk, FWP Legal Counsel	Discuss & seek Commission support/guidance on Legislative Committee recommendation (e.g. bills to potentially move this session)	Review Legislative Committee materials (meeting packet)
3:00pm	FWP AIS Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercraft inspection stations • Monitoring • Governor's Award • 2020 AIS Partner Summit Plan & Feedback 	Tom Woolf	Learn about this season's AIS activity & efforts; Q&A for FWP	Review summary of 2020 programs; provide feedback on draft 2021 goals/objectives & proposed changes (meeting
3:40pm	Update from Partner Programs	Avista; Blackfeet Nation; Clearwater Resource Council; Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; Glacier National Park; Flathead Lake Biological Station; Missoula-County Weed District; Swan Lakers; Trout Unlimited; Whitefish Lake Institute; etc.	Learn about this season's AIS activity & efforts; Q&A for partners	packet)
3:55pm	Public Comment			
4:00pm	Adjourn			

The mission of the [Upper Columbia Conservation Commission](#) (UC3) is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) meetings are open to the public. The UC3 will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Please contact Cassidy Bender (cassidy.bender@mt.gov) **for meeting details** (e.g. virtual meeting links/teleconference information) or to request accommodations prior to the meeting date.



**UPPER COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
PARTNERS IN MANAGING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday Nov 4 th , 2020	Time:	1:30pm-4:30pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Cassidy Bender	Location:	Zoom/Call In

List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	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	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome Agenda Overview Meeting Rules

Lori Curtis,
Chair UC³, Conservation
Districts Rep.; Science &
Education Director,
Whitefish Lake Institute

Kate Wilson,
UC³ Administrator

- Lori called meeting to order at 1:30pm.
- Welcome, meeting rules (Zoom/virtual etiquette)
- *The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.*
- Staff called on each commissioner to introduce self, including representation. First voting, then ex-officio members. All other participants introduced themselves including name, location and organization representing, if applicable. Quorum confirmed.
- Agenda overview: Staff Report, E&O updates, BSWC Industry Outreach Project update, FWP E&O season update, Legislative Committee updates, FWP AIS report, AIS reports from partners, next meeting dates/topics, public comment and adjourn.

2. Attendees

UC³ (voting members underlined): Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), Tom Woolf (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), Chris Parrott (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), Stacey Schnebel (/Flathead Electric Cooperative, Electric Cooperatives), Martin Charlo (CSKT Tribal Council), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Paul Kusnierz (Avista, Hydropower), Larry Lack (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Andrew Gorder (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), Jeremy Anderson (Bitterroot River Basin), Rep. David Fern (Whitefish), Sen. Janet Ellis (Helena), Rep. Neil Duram (Libby), Monica Pokorny (NRCS), Brian McKeon (Glacier NP), Heidi McMaster (BOR), Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Theresa Thom (USFWS), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Coordinator), Brant Dupree (UC3/MCWD BSWC)

Public/Other: Erik Hanson (CSKT), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Bryce Christiaens (MCWD), Liz Lodman (FWP), Quentin Kujala (FWP), Aimee Hawkaluk (FWP attorney), Phil Kilbreath (FWP law enforcement), Dave Loewen (FWP law enforcement), Ron Howell (FWP law enforcement), Jessi Gudgel (FWP), Stacy Schmidt (FWP), Russ Hartzell (FWP),

John O'Bannon (FWP), Stephanie Criswell (DNRC/MISC), Shawna Swanz (DNRC/MISC), Liv Holt (Missouri River Coordination Council), Rep. Willis Curdy, Sheena Pate (Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council), Kate Sheridan (Flathead Lakers), Tom Bansak (FLBS) Monica Elser (FLBS), Stephanie Hummel (FLBS), Roger Smith (Flathead Lakers), Hope Stockwell (MT Legislative Services), Bernie Azure (Char-Koosta News)

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
<p>Approval of Minutes Lori Curtis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: to approve minutes from June 10th, 2020 meeting (M. Charlo). Seconded (P. Matson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Staff Report Kate Wilson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff report on activities and events: Bi-weekly Executive Committee meetings; action item follow up and meeting planning; BSWC member supervision- industry outreach project, tabling at events & partner E&O report; three-year Strategic Work Plan development; UC³ Education & Outreach Strategy & annual media plan; grant and budget management, tracking & reporting; website management; annual UC³ monitoring plan, EQC/agency/Gov Office Reporting; legislative committee meetings/follow up; tracking AIS in CRB/West; Crown Managers Partnership (steering committee member); North American Invasive Species Management Association virtual conference (board member, President elect); Pacific Northwest Economic Region (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); Flathead Basin Commission staff (50% of the time), County Assist Team (CAT) Public Information Officer & Liaison; MPA at UM: Graduate school (Kate); CARES Act grant administrator (Cassidy). • FY21 Budget status; \$40,000 annual operating budget • State Gov Fiscal Year= July 1-June 30 (FY 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expended on member travel, meetings, UC³ materials, staff/office supplies, projects (outreach, events, advertising, CDD materials), BSWC member ○ \$14,664 Expended ○ <u>\$25,336 Balance FY21</u> (as of 11/1/20) • Previously Approved FY21 Budget <u>w/recommended modifications in blue:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>\$5,000/\$10,000 UCLN continuance & training video production</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5,500 Video production (for use statewide) ▪ \$4,500 UCLN maintenance (annual) ▪ <u>Remaining funds in contract & BOR grant</u> ○ <u>\$12,336/\$8,000 AIS Education & Outreach</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augment FWP. Partner AIS advertising in basin ▪ Coordinate/fill gaps in annual E&O media plan ▪ Targeted (wade) anglers' outreach (PSA, events) ▪ Invasive Species Legislative Rotunda event ○ \$8,000 BSWC Project 2021 ○ <u>\$2,000/\$8,500 Member travel/meetings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Virtual due to COVID-19 foreseeable future</u> ○ \$4,000 Annual Report, E&O plan, Additional Projects, Misc. ○ <u>\$2,000/\$1,500 Staff supplies/travel/office</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Slight increase to offset prof dev opportunities</u> ○ \$40,000 TOTAL • Motion: to approve budget modifications (Stacey). Seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) AIS Funding: \$120,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding timeline: 2017-2021 (4 years)

- Education & outreach; monitoring; website and materials
- \$98,748 Expended
- Balance: **\$21,252** (will go to travel, supplies & contracts: UCLN & Windfall)
- 2021-2023 Grant application: Unsuccessful
- **Upper Columbia Lakes Network Monitoring Contract Update**
 - Awarded contract through Competitive RFP process- spring of 2019
 - Contract issued to Whitefish Lake Institute subcontractor: FLBS
 - Contract amount (total): \$20,300
 - \$16,325 Expended
 - \$3,975 Balance (as of 11/1/20)
 - Objectives: Increase monitoring partners in Upper Columbia; engage new partners in AIS monitoring/issue
 - Strategies: Outreach to watershed/conservation/outdoor groups, providing in-person training and materials, oversight, website development, regular AIS reporting, regular participation (annually)
 - Modification: Training not possible with COVID, purchase kits for future volunteers/areas with remaining funds
- **DRAFT Strategic Work Plan**: feedback requested from Commission on draft
 - Two+ year strategic work plan (2020-2023). **ACTION: Provide feedback by 11/30**
 - Based on planning session held January 2020, work we do or have discussed doing, general objectives & statutory duties
 - Includes objectives with strategies, responsible parties, & deliverables
 - Will be used to guide our work in coming years
 - Separate infographic/one pager can be used in other publications, website, etc.
 - Categories of focus:
 - Education & Outreach: Increase public awareness in the Upper Columbia Basin related to AIS impacts, State AIS program rules and personal responsibilities; 8 specific strategies/actions
 - Monitoring & Citizen Science: Provide supplemental coordination, communication and resources to ensure adequate coverage of AIS monitoring in the Upper Columbia Basin; 4 specific strategies/actions
 - Coordination & Collaboration: Provide a forum in the Montana portion of the Columbia Basin to share information, improve communication and enhance partner coordination working on AIS issues; 7 specific strategies/actions
 - Policy, Legislative & Programmatic: Provide input, feedback and recommendations to the Governor and to federal, state agency directors and staff, tribal, provincial, regional and local agencies for reducing the threats from AIS and for conducting restoration and infestation control measure (per statute); Explore and seek to address AIS gaps and challenges for the enhancement of AIS prevention and management in the Upper Columbia Basin and/or the State of Montana; 2 specific strategies/actions
 - Business & Administration: Manage commission business and ensure functioning optimally; 4 specific strategies/actions
- **Website Updates**
 - UC³ website, new 'projects' page: <https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/uc3/Projects>
 - Houses Upper Columbia Lakes Network and website link: <http://ucln.net/>
 - Will house future projects including Industry Outreach project report, our Interactive E&O partner map, videos, etc.
- **UC³ Education & Outreach**

Education & Outreach Updates

Cassidy Bender,
UC³ Coordinator

- Augment FWP advertising and outreach efforts with a coordinated media plan.
- Overview of UC³ FY20 Media Plan: Clean Drain Dry ads in 8 newspapers and 2 magazines throughout the basin, ran 140+ radio PSA's on MTPR, used CRC video PSA's on 13 gas station kiosks throughout the basin, CRC video PSA's ABC & FOX 4 networks, 1 billboard near Polson, and received 80,000+ online impressions through digital advertisements that linked back to the cleandraindrymt.com site.
- Three-year UC³ E&O Strategy developed: document housing E&O goals, objectives, target audiences and communication strategies (2020-2023).
- Content to be updated annually (below), strategy in general every 3 yrs
 - Include data/plans from partners within the basin each year
 - Work with FWP and partners to plan outreach & advertising (print, social media, TV, radio, gas station TV, billboards, etc.) and events
 - Industry outreach project (previously 'marina/boating & angling pilot')
- Partner media & outreach assessment
 - FWP+UC³ media plan expanded to include partner data/outreach plans
 - Survey to assess exposure, medium, & timing of AIS ads/outreach in the basin in order to coordinate and not duplicate efforts
 - Currently developing an interactive way to show information
- Events & Activities
 - Despite COVID cancellations we were able to table at a handful of events this year including NW MT Fair & Rodeo, boat shows, and Lone Pine State Park Jr. Ranger Days featuring a mock boat inspection
- **BSWC Industry Outreach Project**
 - Cassidy (intro): The 2020 Industry Outreach Project is a continuation of the 2019 'marina/boat and fishing shop pilot project' (BOR funded)
 - Goal: spread the Clean Drain Dry message and ensure that businesses have accurate information, materials, and resources to inform their staff and customers about AIS prevention in Montana
 - Joint BSWC member w/ Missoula County Weed District, Brant Dupree
 - 70+ industry Clean Drain Dry Partners so far; 30+ AIS Partners surveyed for our partner media plan effort
 - Brant currently wrapping up 2020 term and will be back for 2nd term in 2021
 - Partnerships developed with nearly all businesses. They 'pledge' to become a Clean Drain Dry Partner. We have been featuring these partners on the [FWP Protect Our Waters Montana Facebook Page](#).
- **2020 Project Update: Brant Dupree**
 - Using [Community Based Social Marketing](#) theory, we met with industry partners throughout the basin to increase knowledge of the AIS program & regulations and promote the benefits of Clean Drain Dry behaviors
 - Discovered AIS knowledge among boat shops and fly shops is relatively high while AIS knowledge of outdoor retailers (Cabela's, REI, Sportsman's, etc.) is relatively low since 50% or less of their store is water-focused and they have a large number of employees
 - Gave an AIS presentation to entire staff of Fast Toys in Kalispell and identified a potential project to create an educational AIS video for industry employees
- Locations are broken down into four categories: Marinas, Boat Shops, Angling/Fly Shops, and Outdoor Retailers.
 - Marinas: focus on discussing risk of moored vessels, out-of-state/high risk visitors, and seasonal traffic. We inform about inspection stations, AIS concerns and general updates in the state program.

BSWC Industry Outreach Project

Brant Dupree, Big Sky Watershed Corps member

FWP E&O 2020 Season

- Boat Shops/Rentals: focus on inspection station information, why/what boats are required to stop, what inspectors look for, and ways to educate new boat owners (both motorized and non).
- Angling/Fly Shops: focus on out-of-state visitors and educating during the licensing process and angler's role on preventing AIS (cleaning waders & equipment after each use).
- Outdoor Retailers: focus on educating staff on AIS in Montana, provide opportunity to include informational materials in purchase and licensing packets, familiarize employees on MT program & regulations.
- Other elements of the program include data collection with goals to:
 - Establish connection and familiarity with AIS program
 - Identify benefits/barriers for companies and customers
 - Develop more effective marketing and advertising campaigns
 - Identify common misconceptions about AIS in Montana
 - Build a community of Clean Drain Dry partners and foster future Clean Drain Dry boaters/recreationists
- **FWP AIS E&O Program Update 2020: Liz Lodman**
 - FWP will be hosting a BSWC member in 2021 to conduct similar outreach activities as Brant has (industry focused outreach)
 - Website resources: <http://cleandraindry.mt.gov/>
 - New sampling dashboard, updated inspection stations dashboard, Clean Drain Dry information, reports, resources, and logos/graphics.
 - FWP attended a few boat/sports shows before COVID hit in spring. FWP issued Montana boat validation decal (expire every 3 years). Boaters received decal and printed receipt with AIS information. Good opportunity to talk about AIS.
 - Attended MATE (Montana Agri-trade) show in Billings partnered with Central/Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) and Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) to educate boaters and ag producers on invasive species.
 - Held a virtual workshop for natural resource educators in cooperation with Invasive Species Action Network. Usually an in-person event at 3 different location. Registered for the virtual event: 69, and 40 stayed for whole training.
 - Nonresident boaters must purchase Vessel AIS prevention pass (new this year) before using Montana waters (\$30 motorized; \$10 nonmotorized) and must be inspected before launching.
 - Radio and TV Interviews with CEMIST about what ag producers & irrigators need to know about AIS.
 - Advertising:
 - Billboards: (vessel AIS prevention pass) targeted non-resident boaters
 - TV: Five live action PSA's (CRC), whiteboard animation videos (Flathead Lakers) ran periodically on tv stations across the state
 - Print ads: With the help of UC³ we covered the entire state with print ads in newspapers and three magazines (*Tourism* targeting recreators, *Cast* targeting anglers, *Crossing Borders* target Canadians)
 - Social media/digital ads: target specific demographic: boating, fishing, or coming to visit Montana
 - Geotargeting: around Flathead Lake, Fort Peck Lake, and Canyon Ferry Lake, the three biggest boating areas in state. Using GPS location to target folks in those areas with Clean Drain Dry advertisements.
 - Airing video PSA's on streaming services to target folks that do not watch general television

<p>Liz Lodman, Information Officer, MTWP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New rack card for visitors bringing boats to Montana from out-of-state covers MT AIS regulations and vessel AIS prevention pass ○ Kids' books available: Activity book grades 3-5, coloring book k-2nd grade ○ AIS species signs development and placement at infested waterbodies to spread awareness of AIS that are present in Montana ● ACTION: Contact Liz Lodman if you would like to assist with placement and distribution of the AIS species signs at infested waterbodies ● ACTION: Contact Liz Lodman for rack cards, kids' activity books, AIS materials, etc.
<p>Legislative Committee Update</p> <p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Andrew Gorder, Legislative Committee Chair</p> <p>Aimee Hawkaluk, FWP Legal Counsel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legislative Committee Updates: Andrew Gorder (Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations generated in MISC law review, discussed at 2019 AIS Summit & subsequent UC³ meetings ○ Discussions/correspondence with FWP & DNRC agency directors & staff; monthly committee meetings; recommendations based on discussions ○ Andrew: Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis before and during the session. We are hoping to get feedback and action on these recommendations today, but also continue discussions on additional AIS bills that may be introduced during the session. ● 1. AIS List/Aquatic Invasive Plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: Create one AIS list for the state that clearly defines FWP as agency with authority for all AIS, including aquatic invasive plants, which are currently listed on the Dept. of Agriculture's (MDA) Noxious Weed List, even though MDA does not manage them. ○ Chart presented at meeting with background on recommendation, potential benefits, potential consequences, and status/notes. ○ Currently a DNRC agency bill, because UC³ is an administrative attachment to DNRC. This bill is moving forward, and MDA has agreed not to remove the aquatic plants from the Noxious Weed list until FWP can create a list through the administrative rule making (ARM) process. ○ Rep. Curdy: Potential consequence when you mention unknown additional staff time/resources. Would be beneficial to be more definite when introduce bill. ○ K. Wilson: Point taken. MDA indicated they have 1 ½ FTE that does do some inspection of nurseries that sell aquarium/aquatic plants, but it is not a priority as they do not manage aquatic plants. Also, they likely do not inspect pet stores currently. We have discussed with FWP and will continue at future meetings. ○ T. Woolf: Staff time involved would be minimal. It would be more of a reporting response where people would see a species and report it. Vision is FWP will work to educate and spread awareness with pet stores and nurseries about the changes but not necessarily going into stores and enforcing. ○ Q. Kujula: Coordination between three agencies and UC³ on this issue has been excellent and much appreciated. ● Motion to move forward with the AIS Listing (M. Charlo) seconded (A. Gorder). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> ACTION: Identify sponsor for AIS list bill. ● 2. Set Minimum Penalty for Drive-Bys (watercraft inspection stations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: Set a minimum penalty for 1st offense to trigger Bond Committee to set bond amount above the current \$85 for 1st offense of driving by a watercraft inspection station. ○ Chart presented at meeting with background on recommendation, potential benefits, potential consequences, and status/notes ○ FWP provided helpful AIS citation data from 2017-now for discussion

- Benefits: Create more of a deterrent for skipping inspection stations, generate heightened awareness of importance of AIS prevention, higher fine amount would acknowledge that a fouled boat would cost state much more than \$85
- Currently pulled as an agency bill due to lack of agreement but still potential for private bill at this time (if UC³ would like to pursue)
- Discussion: FWP believes current bond amount is fitting for the circumstance and there is concern that officers might not write a ticket if the bond amount is higher (issue a warning instead). There is some concern that this would create more issues without increasing compliance.
- FWP enforcement have suggested that they would support a higher second offense but not a higher first offense as they are reaching their goal of increasing awareness with just a warning or \$85 bond amount
- Chief D. Loewen: Typically, any violators we see don't know what the bond amount is anyway as there are hundreds of bonds. We would see benefits if the bond amount was well documented and seen by all law enforcement.
- Suggestion to present language on signage around stations: "Could be fined up to \$500 for skipping an inspection station!" (True with current bond amount) That way the bond can remain the same, but you get enhanced awareness of the potential costs for violating the law.
- There is a delicate balance between a punitive punishment and public engagement, that is why FWP is hesitant because they feel like that balance is being met here as you can go up to \$500 if necessary but most people just need that AIS educational moment (and will not be a repeat offender)
- Q. Kujula: We appreciate the collaboration and tolerance from the commission on FWP being tentative to make the commitment
- **Motion** to table the minimum penalty recommendation so that the legislative committee can further discuss and explore options (A. Gorder). Second (C. Parrott). All in favor. *Motion passes.*
- **ACTION: Provide draft language to Rep. Duram for Pull the Plug. Work on outreach to build support for bill among other organizations prior to session. Draft fact sheet.**
- **3. Pull the Plug**
 - Objective: All vessels that have a pull-able drain plugs must have the plug pulled while in transport
 - Chart presented at meeting with background on recommendation, potential benefits, potential consequences, and status/notes
 - Removed as an agency bill as FWP concerned about stakeholder opposition to concept (was previously a rule in 2016 and was repealed in 2017 when an angler groups opposed)
 - It is unknown if FWP would oppose a Pull the Plug bill at this time, but would suggest building support among additional stakeholders prior to introduction
 - Discussion: We have drafted the bill and Rep. Neil Duram is ready to carry as a private bill, but it would likely carry more weight coming from commission
 - Some concerns: you cannot tell the plug is pulled as it is driving down the road therefore you could be difficult to enforce, liability concerns, just because a plug is pulled does not mean that there is not standing water, etc.
 - One option is that it could be written as 'non-primary offense.' Violation would only be cited if the boater was pulled over for another offense (e.g. skipping a station, speeding, etc.) like seat belt violations in MT.
 - Q. Kujula: Would like to make it clear that these concerns are meant to accomplish due diligence and not stymie consistency across western states

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rep. D. Fern: It should be a primary objective to keep this on the front burner. This is best practice to have boaters & anglers drain their boats, and to leave the plug out and put it back in when they reach a new waterbody. ○ T. Thom: Agreed this would be consistent with many western states with “pull the plug” rules in place right now. It can help with consistency and messaging. ○ C. Parrott: This is incredibly important, and I want to support but I am not sure of the best way to move forward. This is important environmentally, from other perspectives beyond AIS (oil, dirty water, etc.). ● Motion to fully support the pull the plug draft legislation (S. Schnebel) Seconded (C. Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> ● 4. Sticker for Non-Resident AIS Prevention Pass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: Non-Resident AIS Prevention Pass is currently sold as an online receipt, suggested to turn in a decal/sticker to increase visibility of compliance with MT law and knowledge of AIS issue that comes with purchase of pass ○ Chart presented at meeting with background on recommendation, potential benefits, potential consequences, and status/notes ○ Removed from recommendation as initial discussions with FWP indicated they were interested in moving forward with sticker, but new legal opinion from FWP is that current statute/language does not allow for the pass to be a mandatory sticker (could only be voluntary). To make it mandatory would require a statutory amendment. ○ Since we’re already over time and this is new information, suggest that the legislative committee takes this up and explore options (ACTION) ○ Discussion: With the legislative session coming up and ‘National Invasive Species Awareness Week’ opportunity to reach out to legislators. If you are interested in helping, let Kate or Cassidy know we can get together an Education and Outreach Committee meeting. ○ Strategic letter previously drafted for recommendations to South Dakota governor was not sent, Director Tubbs reviewed before COVID lock down and determined it was not appropriate timing. South Dakota passed the law that we were trying to endorse anyway. If we see another/more of a reason to push the issue, we can draft new recommendation letter. ● ACTION: Add discussion of drafting a new letter from Montana Governor to South Dakota AIS program and AIS prevention pass for vessels (sticker) to the agenda of the next legislative committee meeting
<p>Tom Woolf, UC³ Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>FWP AIS Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FWP AIS Program 2020 Report: Tom Woolf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWP AIS staff were recognized for the 2020 Governor’s Award. ○ Thank you to everyone working hard to make this program the best it can be and the best in the nation! ○ Biggest season highlight: no mussel detections! ○ 133,000 interviews broken down into multiple boats being inspected in the same season, we get up to about 175,000 inspections this year! ○ Plan to do the same monitoring next year; with no mussel detections we are hoping to remove exit inspections at Tiber in 2021. ○ NZM were found in the Blue Water hatchery, staff decontaminated, and we are following up with locations that received fish out of that hatchery and no snails have been detected. We are also following up with the Bitterroot hatchery as they are now sending fish out of that hatchery, with none detected this year. ○ AIS Virtual Summit November 18th – all welcome ○ Montana’s AIS Strategic Plan was written in 2002 and needs to be updated. FWP is currently improving and updating, will be asking for feedback, then will

<p>Partner AIS Program Reports</p> <p>Partner Programs in the Upper Columbia</p>	<p>have available summer 2021 for review, going through the formal process of feedback and review. ACTION: Provide feedback on draft AIS plan by Dec. 18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trout Unlimited - Jeremy Anderson: It has been quieter with COVID, but we got some volunteers out to install Clean Drain Dry stencils on a few fishing access boat ramps. Education and outreach has largely been on hold this year. • CSKT - Martin Charlo & Erik Hanson: We are thankful for all of our “water protectors”. Great partnership with FWP this year and really saw quality control improve across the state. We have benefited from BOR funding that allowed us to operate 24 hours a day and implement more enforcement. Installed a camera system to record the inspections at the end of the season, it was a great tool to provide security for non-compliant boaters, also a great tool for quality control. Observed improved quality inspections from other stations as well. • Swan Valley Connections - Rob Rich: We have done good outreach through our organization’s newsletter and working with FWP on an AIS mailing to over 1400 people in the Swan Valley. Have applied for a DNRC grant to do a video series based on the Swan Valley Almanac info focused around AIS next summer (find that on SVC website). • Avista Corporation- Paul Kusnierz: Sampled bays of Cabinet Gorge and Noxon reservoirs. Working with Columbia Falls to conduct more sampling in late July-August 2021. Question to consider for our next meeting: AIS program coordination across western states are improving as time goes on, but is there more we can do to look at the risks and fill/identify gaps in state to state and federal collaboration/coordination? Should we investigate seeking more federal support to improve state-to-state AIS management? ACTION: Add topic of enhancing interagency & federal coordination and consistency in AIS management to next meeting agenda. ACTION: On state/federal AIS management consistency topic, Tom will provide an overview of FWP’s discussed areas of concerns. • Glacier National Park - Brian McKeon: Monitored five park lakes for mussels (eDNA) in the spring and fall. We expect to do the same thing next year and have funds to continue the detection dogs program shared with Blackfeet and CSKT. We only had one body of water open in the park this summer, but it was busy. Conducted ~10,000 non-motorized inspections which is similar to what we do in regular years when all waterbodies are open. We are currently working on our database; through a combo of IT people leaving and DOI increasing security regulations we may move into another database platform. We are steering away from a database like Colorado’s because we include law enforcement and personal info (PII). ACTION: Brian and Tom to meet/discuss FWP inspection station database. • Missoula County Weed District - Bryce Christiaens: Missoula County Commission approved a county-wide AIS district in which we can develop an operation plan for AIS in Missoula County. Will be soliciting district board members for new district in coming weeks. Great season at the inspection station and exceeded many records. Also were able to conduct macrophyte and riparian monitoring in many areas this season. Shared Big Sky Watershed Corps with UC³ and will do again next year. • Flathead Lake Biological Station - Phil Matson: Successful outreach to 70+ individuals. Sampling of Flathead Lake for invasive mussels using both plankton tow and eDNA methods. Conducted some eDNA sampling on Tiber with FWP as well. • Montana Invasive Species Council - Stephanie Criswell: Big project in the last few months is the 3rd science advisory panel on the eastern heath snail taking place the second week of December. Info will be sent on the MISC bulletin. Also reviewing AIS grants right now for the application cycle that closed in mid-October. We had less
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	<p>requests than we had funding so there will be another cycle. Working with UC³ and FWP on creating an all taxa invasive species video for legislative session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanders County Task Force - Larry Lack: Boat check station has returned to Thompson Falls and will be back in 2021, good news! Continuing to treat and monitor EWM in reservoirs but decreased some services/treatment due to decreased funding (including bottom barrier program). Task force still meeting regularly. • US Forest Service - Michelle Cox: Initiated an agreement with FWP to help support the inspection stations, monitoring program and education & outreach. Working with North American Invasive Species Management Association and recreation.gov on including 'Play Clean Go' and AIS prevention information on the reservations that are printed out for the USFS cabins and campgrounds. • Whitefish Lake Institute - Lori Curtis: partnered with Flathead National Forest on a resource advisory committee grant to sample some lakes that have not been previously sampled with eDNA, 96 microscopy and 49 samples outside of the immediate Whitefish area. 1700 watercraft inspected at inspection station, DNRC AIS grant assisted in completing the decontamination at Whitefish City Beach. • US Fish & Wildlife Service - Theresa Thom: USFWS and Dept. of Interior (DOI) Invasive Species Strategic Plan was out for public comment, many comments received and addressed, now going through approval process. Received several proposals for QZAP funding and hopefully there will be an announcement for that at the beginning of 2021. Planning for state ANS plans and there has been additional funding for Asian Carp. PNW regional horizon project looking at what invasive species we want to focus on that are coming internationally or domestically and are not currently established; a big part of this is looking at climate modeling and individual species screening.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting date is February 10th will be virtual and there will be an election (ACTION). • Motion: to adjourn (L. Lack). Seconded (P. Matson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Adjourned at 4:28 PM

4. Action Items				
Action: Need to be updated		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes and send to members	Kate Wilson/Cassidy Bender	Nov 25	Complete
2	Provide feedback on UC ³ Strategic Work Plan	All	Nov 30	Complete
4	Identify sponsor for AIS list bill. Build support among other organizations and draft fact sheet for session outreach.	Kate Wilson, Legislative Committee	Dec 15	Complete
5	Provide draft language to Rep. Duram for Pull the Plug. Work on outreach to build support for bill among other organizations. Draft fact sheet/talking points.	Kate Wilson, Legislative Committee	Dec-Jan	Complete
6	Add discussion of drafting a new letter from Montana Governor to South Dakota AIS program and AIS prevention pass for vessels (sticker) to the agenda of the next legislative committee meeting	Kate Wilson, Legislative Committee	2021 after session	Not initiated
6	Provide feedback to FWP on draft AIS strategic plan (and register for summit 11/18).	All	Dec 18	Complete
7	Request from Paul Kusnierz to add topic of enhancing interstate & federal coordination and consistency in AIS management to next meeting agenda	Staff, ExComm	Jan 15	Complete – on 2/10 agenda

8	On state/federal AIS management consistency topic, Tom will provide an overview of FWP's areas of concerns	Tom Woolf	Jan 15	Complete – on 2/10 agenda
9	Brian McKeon and Tom Woolf to meet/discuss FWP inspection station database	Tom Woolf/Brian McKeon	Over winter	Unknown
10	Hold election at next UC ³ meeting	Staff, ExComm	Jan 15	On 2/10 agenda
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
11	Contact Liz Lodman for Clean Drain Dry rack cards, kids' activity books, AIS materials, etc. OR to assist with the distribution of AIS species-specific signs for infested areas	All	On-going	
12	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC ³ website (i.e. photos) and/or listserv to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	
13	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		