

**NorthWestern Energy Madison TAC Meeting**  
**Annual Meeting for 2021 Calendar Year**  
**December 9, 2021**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/805671381>

**MadTAC Business**

- Recognize a quorum with voting representatives from MFWP, USFS, USFWS, and NorthWestern Energy.

**Review MadTAC webpage:** A new webpage for housing documents is constructed. Expect proposals and other related information to be posted here and not just sent as emails.

<http://www.northwesternenergy.com/environment/missouri-madison-project-2188/madison-river-fisheries>

**Hebgen 10% daily flow increase limit:** Current License requirements allow only a 10% daily flow increase out of Hebgen. There was discussion about the pros and cons of this requirement and the challenges NWE faces when trying to conduct a flushing flow, managing Hebgen elevation levels in the spring, and the ability or lack thereof when reacting to spring snowmelt and storms. Need to keep a slow decrease in flow levels for fish, but want to continue discussions with agencies in 2022 regarding increasing limit.

**Powerhouse rebuild update:** Madison plant getting new generators and turbines. This work continues and has had some delays due to covid and shipping issues.

**Water Quality Monitoring**

Jordan gave an update on water quality monitoring activities which included invertebrate sampling, water temperature monitoring, sediment cores and Hebgen toxic algae monitoring. Nothing out of the ordinary for 2021, final results and write-ups are still pending.

**Review of 2020 Projects**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Agency/ Contact</b>	<b>TAC Funding Request</b>	<b>TAC Approved Cost</b>
001-20	2188 Operations and Personnel	FWP	\$196,034	\$196,034
002-20	Ennis Office Rent	FWP	\$7,200	\$7,200
003-20	Emergency/Contingency fund	NWE	\$10,000	\$10,000
004-20	Habitat Project Assistance	NWE/FWP	\$10,000	\$10,000
005-20	BH/DL FS NTE biologist	USFS	\$29,250	\$29,250
006-20	Custer/Gall NF Seasonal	USFS	\$6,020	\$6,020
007-20	Wall Creek Fish Barrier	USFS	\$60,000	\$60,000
008-20	MSU invert study	MSU/FWP/TU	\$81,191	40,000
009-20	Restoration planning WRP	TU	\$30,634	\$30,634
010-20	O'dell Creek restoration	RDG	\$15,000	\$15,000
011-20	Madison River Riparian Restoration	MRF	\$20,000	\$20,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$465,329</b>	
	<b>Budget for CY2020</b>		<b>\$420,218</b>	
	Total approved by TAC for CY2020			<b>\$424,138</b>
	Difference		<b>(\$3,920)</b>	

**001-20. FWP Operations and Personnel.** FWP reviewed annual monitoring activities. Gillnetting surveys in Hebgen and Madison Reservoirs, electrofishing, tributary monitoring, redd counts, etc.

**002-20. Ennis Office Rent.**

**003-20. Emergency Fund.** None used

**004-20. Habitat Project Assistance.** None used

**005-20. BDNF Seasonal.** Tributary sampling, physical monitoring, outreach, project implementation. Patrick gave an overview of the restoration document he is putting together.

**006-20. CGNF Seasonals.** Allison gave update on tributary sampling, physical monitoring, outreach.

**007-20. Wall Creek Barrier.** Additional funding request for this large barrier.

**008-20. MSU invert study.** Grad student (Zac) gave an update on field collection activities during the summer from the Madison River. Have been meeting with FWP and NWE to talk about design and also get existing invertebrate information from the NWE dataset.

**009-20. Restoration Planning WRP.** TU is collecting information from TMDL and other sources to look for restoration opportunities. Stalled a bit as Jeff left TU.

**010-20. O'Dell Creek Restoration.** Restoration construction completed late fall by RDG.

**011-20. Madison River Riparian Restoration.** Delayed, but planned for spring or fall when water levels allow.

**End of Year 2020 Budget and Reserve Account** \*Estimates at time of meeting

\*Reserve account balance start of 2021- \$135,012

2021 Annual Contribution- \$428,623

**Review 2021 Proposals**

There were 13 projects proposed for 2021, totaling \$656,784. In most cases there was little discussion following the brief presentations by project sponsors. There were questions or comments on a few of the proposals as follows:

**008-21. O'Dell Creek Phase 18:** Discussion around if MadTAC should fund this much of the work and the benefits or lack of benefits to fish. FWP doesn't see benefits with the monitoring they have done in O'Dell and question if there are benefits to the mainstem Madison. Limited monitoring has occurred in O'Dell and it has not been consistently sampled. Future otolith microchemistry work may help sort these questions out.

**010-21. SFK Madison Floodplain:** Jon proposed to approve this, but fund it out of the 2022 budget. Approved but moved to 2022.

**011-21. Indian Creek Irrigation:** Decision to reduce this funding quantity to \$33,316 to focus on phase 1 data collection and looking at preliminary options.

Jon H. (NWE) made a motion to approve the 2021 Project Proposals as shown below, and all present voting members (FWP, USFS, FWS, NWE) unanimously voted to approve the projects for 2021. The TAC approved costs up to \$548,515 for 2021.

## 2021 MadTAC Proposals

ID	Project Title	Agency/ Contact	TAC Funding Request	TAC Approved Cost
2021-1	2188 Operations and Personnel	FWP	\$199,599	\$199,599
2021-2	Ennis Office Rent	FWP/NWE	\$7,200	\$7,200
2021-3	CGNF Seasonal Technician	USFS	\$6,140	\$6,140
2021-4	BDNF Seasonal Technician	USFS	\$10,000	\$10,000
2021-5	Emergency/Contingency Fund	NWE	\$10,000	\$10,000
2021-6	Wall Creek Barrier Construction (part 3)	FWP	\$64,500	\$64,500
2021-7	Continuation of WFK Madison Stream Restoration	USFS	\$3,900	\$3,900
2021-8	O'Dell Creek Phase 18 Restoration	RDG	\$104,100	\$104,100
2021-9	Middle O'Dell Creek Lidar Acquisition	RDG	\$13,300	\$0
2021-10	SFK Madison River Floodplain and Habitat Improvement	USFS	\$60,600	\$0
2021-11	Indian Creek Irrigation Improvement and Streamflow Enhancement	TU	\$65,875	\$33,316
2021-12	Madison River Sediment Mobility Evaluation	NWE/FWP	\$99,570	\$97,760
2021-13	Ruby FAS Swale Restoration	MRF	\$12,000	\$12,000

### Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Andy Welch	NWE
Grant Grisak	NWE
Jordan Tollefson	NWE
Mary Gail Sullivan	NWE
Jon Hanson	NWE
Jim Boyd	FWS
Matt Jaeger	MFWP
Trevor Watson	MFWP
Travis Lohrenz	MFWP
Dale Olson	BDNF
Mike Duncan	MFWP
Jake Chaffin	CGNF
Pat Byorth	TU
Jon Malovich	MRF
John Muhlfeld	RDG
Lindsey Albertson	MSU