**Where:** Tin Cup, Malta Montana

**Opening:** 10:08am

**Attendance:**

**Self-Introduction:** Bill Milton asked everyone to introduce themselves who you are, who you represent and if there is one tangible thing that would improve your life within this region and is measurable.

**Round Table Discussions:**

**Dan Brunkhorst** - **BLM Planner for Lewistown Field Office** –Like most federal agencies they have several tiers and policies that direct their planning. They have both Executive Orders as well as statutory policies. They are working on their Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the area that is being revised currently. They are putting the final document together from the public comment period. These plans are usually for around 30 years before they are revised again.

**Tom Darrington– BLM Malta Field Office** – Notes that when they have mandates that they are not always staffed fully to complete the mandates as they come in. Land Acquisitions and Superfund sites are a couple of big items for the Malta Field Office which in a lot of cases takes staff from other programs. Right now permit renewals are one of the main items being addressed which are big rangeland projects.

**Paul Santavy – CMR Refuge Manager** – Has informal processes which are things that they do on an annual basis such as small scale projects, budgets, and vehicles, these are mainly internal. Formal planning is the CCP which was completed with an EIS in 2012 so that is valid for 15 years. The requirement is a federal mandate that comes down from the government and this one was a first generation plan and there is work at the federal level to tweak for the second generation in 2027. The CCP is very similar to an RMP and some CCP requires stepdown plans. Paul noted that the CCP’s are usually very aspirational and have everything including the kitchen sink but as they move through them they get very limited to what they can complete due to staff and budget, leaving some items unaddressed. Currently they are working on the stepdown plans for the Habitat Management Plans (HMP). There has not been a lot of movement on those stepdown plans other than a few meetings.

**Cari Ostberg – NRCS Great Falls Area Office** – Montana Focused Conservation – is intended to be a locally led process starting with the field office, then the CD’s. MFC will help focus staff, funding and resources that will be working with the partners to move the overall needle to the positive for conservation on the ground. It is intended to be results orientated. TIP’s Targeted Implementation Plans will have to be completed.

**Leslie Robinson – Gianforte’s State Director -** Staff of nine in the state, of which most are Field Reps which have 12 counties each to cover. They also have nine staff in DC as well so they have a kick off retreat to all be on the same page. Each of them have to put up weekly reports to her and then she reports to Gianforte and the DC staff. Gianforte wants them to be about customer service and wants staff at events to hear the issues.

**Marissa Sather – Partners for Fish & Wildlife – Private Lands –** Works with landowners on volunteer practices and projects and does not have the same mandates. Have a five year strategic plan with four major goals.

**Drew Henry – Fish Wildlife in Parks –** Public process applies to most of what they do. Typically involves a scoping period which can be year round, and they also have some processes that are more formal.

**Karl Christians – DNRC CARRD** – They are on an old plan; Works with Districts on Local Work Groups DNRC helps Conservation districts on various levels from funding to planning to implementation.

**County Commissioners** - Ross Butcher spoke about being better partners through the MT Natural Resource Coalition and providing helpful comments to natural resource agencies.

**Conservation Districts -** Dean Rogge spoke about the districts working on annual work plans that stem from Local work group concerns.

**CMR Story Map – Mark Werley -** Gave and update on where the story map is on the website and what information is on and the map which is interactive.

**Emily Standley – MSU Extension –** Their programing is based on the needs of the community and the concerns that people bring in the office.

**Kelsey Molloy – The Nature Conservancy -**

**Martin Townsend – Rancher’s Stewardship Alliance -** A strategic plan that is reviewed every few years. They have a conservation committee that’s goal is to put conservation on the ground.

**Dan Casey – Northern Great Plains Joint Venture -** Most of the joint ventures in the area were started with migratory bird concerns and they work through a series of strategic plans.

**Damien Austin – American Prairie Reserve** **–** Are a 501 C 3 and have a lot of different levels of planning. They are working on a master plan or the 60,000 foot level the big vision which is in process. Organizationally they have 5 buckets which represent the different aspects of the group. Each one of these buckets usually has 2-3 goals which are usually 4 year goals. Then they have goals for 2 years in each of those buckets. Their staff meets each trimester and goes over their goals. He notes that their bison management plan is a 10 year document and it is also not set in stone so they are working on revisions right now.

**Adam – Ducks Unlimited – NAWHOMP** – revised in 2018 and it oversees how dunging is directed towards conservation.

**Laura Nowlin – Musselshell Watershed Coalition** – The watershed is literally Central Montana – Has a strategic plan and then do an annual work plan.

**Laura Nowlin – Winnett ACES -**

Lunch was served at 12:00 pm

**Small Groups – Breakout groups discussed the following questions:**

How useful was it to hear from the partners?

How do we leverage these partnerships for specific projects in the upcoming year?

**Next Meeting date:**

Adjournment: PM