

# Town of Philipsburg

To: Long Range Planning Committee 68<sup>th</sup> Session  
From: Town of Philipsburg  
Date: January 13, 2023  
RE: Sewer Project, RDG Town of Philipsburg, HB 7

Philipsburg has benefited greatly from the opportunities presented from the State of Montana via the American Rescue Plan Act, the Montana Coal Endowment Program, and the Water Resources Development Act.

We are here today to ask for what we truly hope is the last funding piece in the wastewater treatment project, via the Montana RDG program. Our request is based totally on matching the WRDA funding, which is approximately \$925,000 with the required match of approximately \$316,000.

This match would be very difficult to acquire at this time from our small rate payer base, without the State's assistance, and in light of additional infrastructure issue associated with drinking water. The overall project is about \$5 million. Some parts of the project have been done, prior to ARPA, which was desludging the lagoons and fixing outflows and inflows.

We anticipate getting the aerated rock filter installed this summer, and testing the system after that in conjunction with MT DEQ.

Thank you for your consideration and please reach out if there are any questions we can help answer.



Mayor Daniel Reddish and the Philipsburg Town Council  
Email [406Reddish@gmail.com](mailto:406Reddish@gmail.com)  
Office phone 406.859.3821



# MUDDY CREEK Restoration and Resiliency Project, Phase I

Cascade Conservation District has submitted a Resource Development Grant Proposal for a project in partnership with the Sun River Watershed Group to improve the health and resiliency of Muddy Creek in the Sun River watershed. This proposal was recommended for full funding in the amount of \$500,000 by the DNRC Resource Development Bureau.

This project was identified as top-priority work through the recently-completed Muddy Creek Master Plan to not only restore severely eroded stream banks and interrupted hydrologic processes, but also to address the root of the problem by reducing dramatic flow fluctuations in Muddy Creek.

The benefits of this project will be watershed-scale. This project proposes to expand the capacity of J-Wasteway, which would improve Greenfield Irrigation District's ability to manage irrigation more efficiently. This increased efficiency will result in more water available for river flows and increased water storage that can be used in low-water years for multiple purposes.

This project also proposes to treat three miles of stream banks that are actively eroding and floodplain connection that has been interrupted. These treatments will reduce erosion, improve groundwater storage, enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreate hydrologic processes that have been degraded by irrigation influence. Treatments include sloping and revegetating stream banks, bank and channel structures to reduce stress on banks, and multiple techniques to reconnect floodplains.

In 2002, DEQ completed a TMDL report for the Sun River that identified the need to address water quality and flow issues in Muddy Creek. This report motivated a suite of projects that dramatically reduced sediment inputs. As source issues were not addressed, the problems have continued. This project will be the first phase of new work to improve Muddy Creek.







***This project  
will have  
positive  
impacts  
across  
multiple  
watersheds.***

Photos: Google Earth imagery shows the impact Muddy Creek has on the Sun and Missouri Rivers. Sediment from Muddy Creek flows into the Sun River, then into the Missouri and is visibly noticeable for most of the year.

SRWG performs annual monitoring on the Sun River and tributaries, including Muddy Creek, to assess changes in water quality. Multiple stream gages across the watershed, including two on Muddy Creek, track flow patterns and fluctuations. With nearly 20 years of water quality data and decades of stream flow information, SRWG will be able to track changes over time as restoration activities across the watershed are implemented. Additional project-specific monitoring will begin prior to construction to track project impacts on the overall health of Muddy Creek.

SRWG has been awarded \$1.769M through a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Project Grant, which will provide a substantial portion of the funding for this project. Other funds and in-kind contributions are being provided by Montana Trout Unlimited, Greenfields Irrigation District, and Missouri River Flyfishers Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This DNRC RDG Proposal will round out the funding required for this work.

More information about Muddy Creek and the Muddy Creek Master Plan are available at [www.sunriverwatershed.org/muddy-creek-projects](http://www.sunriverwatershed.org/muddy-creek-projects).



Tracy Wendt, Executive Director  
Sun River Watershed Group  
[tracy@sunriverwatershed.org](mailto:tracy@sunriverwatershed.org)  
(406) 214 2868



Tenlee Atchison, Executive Director  
Cascade Conservation District  
[tenlee@cascadecd.com](mailto:tenlee@cascadecd.com)  
(406) 866 0028