

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

Environmental Studies

2016

History of the Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cfkrbc>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council, "History of the Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council" (2016). *Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council*. 2.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cfkrbc/2>

This History is brought to you for free and open access by the Environmental Studies at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council History

The Clark Fork Task Force

The Clark Fork Task Force was created in 2001 by the Montana legislature to create a water management plan for the entire Clark Fork Basin. [Read a history of the Task Force and its charge.](#)

The Task Force compiled water management plans for the basin in 2004 and 2014, and these have helped to inform the State Water Plan. After the statewide plan was adopted, members of the Clark Fork Task Force, along with many additional stakeholders came together in 2016 to revision the Task Force as a Basin Council with expanded role and membership. A major focus of this basin council is promoting and monitoring the implementation of the basin plan.

Forming the Clark Fork Basin Council

Spring 2016: Stakeholders completed a survey regarding the value of a basin wide regional coordinating entity.

April 15, 2016: Stakeholders met to discuss the intent to form a basin wide coordinating entity. At this meeting, stakeholders also appointed a planning team including:

- Vicki Watson, University of Montana
- Michael Sweet, UM Climate Office
- Verdell Jackson, Landowner
- Jennifer Schoonen, Blackfoot Challenge
- Ada Montague, DNRC

The planning team was charged with drafting a charter for review by stakeholders in October 2016.

October 5, 2016: Stakeholders met to discuss the proposed charter, proposed title “Clark Fork Basin Council,” and legislative initiatives relating to the creation of basin councils that were being considered by the Montana Legislature Water Policy Interim Committee.

The planning team was charged with organizing the next meeting which was held on April 20, 2017, and served as the FIRST annual meeting of this council. In addition, a draft charter was debated and adopted using a consensus approach to decision-making that is employed by the Council in all of its affairs. And the Council’s first Executive Committee was nominated and elected at this first Annual Meeting.

Executive Committee Members

Meg Casey, Trout Unlimited

Maureen Connor, Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee, Natural Resource Damage Advisory Council,
Granite Headwaters Watershed Group

Thomas Cox, Flathead Lakers

Molly Davidson, Montana Association of Dam and Canal Systems

Bonnie Holzworth, University of Montana

Michael Howell, Bitterroot River Protection Association

Verdell Jackson, Flathead Conservation District

Susan Lake, Mission Valley Producer

Evan Norman, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program

Travis Ross, Missoula Valley Water Quality District

Jennifer Schoonen, Blackfoot Challenge

Dave Shively, University of Montana