

August 31, 2016

Mr. Jon Heselwood and Mr. Steve Dunfee
Buffalo Hill Municipal Golf Course – City of Kalispell
1176 N. Main Street
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Mr. Heselwood and Mr. Dunfee,

Thank you for submitting a 2017 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project proposal titled “River Bank Restoration & Stabilization Project for Buffalo Hill Municipal Golf Course” and presenting the project to program staff and the Water Activities Work Group. This year we received 14 project proposals with a total request of \$2,140,250. We anticipate being able to award approximately \$900,000 in 319 funds, therefore the competition for 2017 project funding will be high. After preliminary discussions of this and the other proposed projects, **we suggest that you not submit a final application.**

The Buffalo Hill Municipal Golf Course was built within the floodplain of the Stillwater River. Lateral erosion and river channel migration across the floodplain is a natural process. The proposed project will limit these processes and potentially increase erosion in downstream sections of the river. The Watershed Protection Section prefers to fund projects that address underlying causes of nonpoint source water quality problems. We are concerned that the proposed golf course project limits natural processes and may lead to additional water quality problems and downstream bank erosion conditions. However, we will be able to provide technical staff support to advise on activities necessary to protect infrastructure, such that those activities are completed in a manner that best considers water quality and natural stream processes. Please consider working with the assigned DEQ Project Manager (Mr. Eric Trum) and the Flathead Conservation District to explore future projects and long-term planning considerations. Mr. Trum can be reached by phone at (406) 444-0531, or by e-mail at ETrum@mt.gov. We sincerely appreciate your interest in addressing water quality concerns in the Stillwater River and hope that we are able to support your efforts in this direction in the future.

Sincerely,

Dean Yashan
Watershed Protection Section Supervisor
Water Protection Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Eric Trum