



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

790 Colleen Street • Helena, Montana 59601 • 449-5000 ext. 5

Regular Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center Conference Room
790 Colleen Street, Helena MT
January 8, 2019 at 1 pm

Call to order—the meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Blackman at 1 p.m. In attendance were Scott Blackman, Jeff Ryan, Stan Frasier and Steve Granzow. Also in attendance were Dave Martin, John George, Hannah Riedel and Mark Ockey from Watershed Protection at DEQ, Kevin McDonnell and Chris Evans.

Chairman—motion by Granzow to nominate Jeff Ryan as Chairman, second by Frasier; motion by Granzow to close nominations; motion carried.

Vice Chair—motion by Granzow to nominate Scott Blackman as vice Chair, second by Frasier; motion by Granzow to close nominations; motion carried.

Treasurer—motion by Granzow to nominate Jeanette Nordahl as treasurer; second by Frasier; motion by Granzow to close nominations; motion carried.

Kevin McDonnell wanted to clarify the minutes from December's minutes regarding the inspection that was done on the bridge that he put in. The portion of the minutes that indicated that the applicant was to remove some of the approach material on the west side of the road he believes should be amended. Kevin said that he brought a level to demonstrate that the swale was in fact there, and Diamond Bar X was going to remove the material not the applicant.

Otherwise Granzow made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Motion by Frasier to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Granzow, motion carried.

Motion by Granzow to approve the annual plan and budget for 2019, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Correspondence—

Montana Biological Weed Control project.

Public Comment—there was none

Reports

NRCS—John said that NRCS is working on certifications and QAR's on the forestry projects. The initial cut of funding for forestry this year is all going to Broadwater County. There may be some more funding reallocated closer to spring. They are also working on some other forestry projects with other fund pools. The new Farm Bill was signed just before Christmas. The

agency will have to wait on obligations to have new rules written for programs. FSA and RD are both on furlough, NRCS is being paid out of separate funds. He doesn't anticipate that NRCS will get tied up in the furlough at all. In 2013, they were working with a given FY budget and they are still open with funds that aren't tied into the FY. John will be going over to Missoula on January 23 and 24 to talk with the area office about the new focused conservation programs. The 3 offices have been talking about doing a long-range plan for the 3 counties on the east side of the Divide. John would like to do some facilitated discussions with other partners to discuss resource concerns and the direction that we need to go with our landowners.

John also had copies of SNOTEL data for the board. Monthly precip for December isn't too great, but overall, we're doing okay-ish.

Stan asked about specifics on the hemp language that was put into the new version of the Farm Bill. John said that he won't know those specifics until the rules have been written.

SRWG – no current report.

MRCDC – Jeff Ryan said that the quarterly meeting is coming up on the 17th in Winifred. He's hoping to catch a ride over with Karl Christians. Other than that, they are working on the living on the bank thing, a 223-grant application.

WQPD/ LHWG – no meeting since last CD board meeting. They did the willow cutting for the project on Prickly Pear Creek. They cut at least 5000 willows. Jennifer McBroom has officially taken over Jim Wilbur's old job and Valerie Stacey is now working for the County Health and WQPD offices.

MT DEQ presentation – based on some new direction that they've been trying to go, they are trying to target their efforts and therefore funding. They have some grant funds available and are using aerial imagery to try to quantify riparian health and ID stressors on the systems. Stan asked about where the TMDL process is and what has been done with those. Mark said that ideally about 5 years post TMDL, they go look and see what kinds of things have been done in those areas that affect the watersheds. They put together the TMDL Implementation Evaluation from those numbers. They handed out the TIE for the Lake Helena Watershed.

Scott asked about the TMDLs and the levels of N and P and how much change there has been in the past 30 years. Mark said that looking back that far, the water quality numbers are pretty sparse, especially depending on location. Jeff asked about what aeriels they used. Regular 319 funding call will be out in June.

Algae blooms are another thing that DEQ is working on is response to public citizen reports on the blooms. Hannah said that we can direct folks to their website.

Weed District – Christian said that he is at the Montana Weed Control Association conference this week.

Supervisor Reports

Howe-Cobb-Area 1-no report.

Nordahl-Area 2-at the MWCA meeting in Great Falls.

Ingersoll-Area 3-no report.

Blackman-Area 4-windy, fishermen and duck hunters

Granzow-Area 5 -the houses continue to go up east of Steve's place. There is concern about the availability of groundwater in that area as more wells go into the aquifer.

Jeff Ryan-Area 6-Jeff said that he's surrounded by the forest thinning projects and the elk have taken refuge on his place. Jeff had a copy of the IR article with the Prickly Pear project on the Tryan parcel. The office had a call from Capital High's environmental Studies teacher about trying to get their students involved in those projects. Jeff also mentioned that Valerie Stacey

made some connections on willow storage to early summer to extend project timelines. Frasier-Area 7-Stan is leaving next week and will gone into April. The Rimini firehall is mostly up. The city's new water line is moving east. We had a complaint last week that there was someone working on Ten Mile Creek, but Stan went and took a look and it wasn't in our jurisdiction.

Associate Supervisor Report-Dave's retirement party is at Ten Mile Brewery at 4:30. He's going to get a new email address for CD business and will pass that around when he gets it.

Old Business

Update on Vo-Ag talks--Karl and Chris will be meeting with the East Helena School and those who have agreed to serve on the advisory committee.

Mill levy training discussion-nothing new happening on this right now.

New Business

Cost Share Application for Allen Beck-the board would like to review this after Jeff Ryan takes a look at the overall 310 project.

310 Permit Applications

LC-28-13 – Dearborn Canal Co. Motion by Frasier, second by Granzow to extend this permit for another 5 years; motion carried. Applicant should be reminded to contact the CD every year prior to doing work.

CP-04-18 – There was discussion with Mr. McDonnell about his easement and the work that Diamond Bar X conducted under the emergency that he filed a complaint about. Based on photos from Diamond Bar X, it was determined that all of the approach material was removed from the new bridge site in spite of what was discussed at the onsite inspection. There was a motion by Frasier to consider the excess work a violation of the 310 Law and to ask Diamond Bar X to replace enough material to the approaches to make the bridge passable with a vehicle, second by Granzow; motion carried.

EME-30-18-continue tabled

EME-44-18 Diamond Bar X- There was discussion with Mr. McDonnell about his easement and the work that Diamond Bar X conducted under the emergency that he filed a complaint about. Based on photos from Diamond Bar X, it was determined that all of the approach material was removed from the new bridge site in spite of what was discussed at the onsite inspection. There was a motion by Frasier to consider the excess work a violation of the 310 Law and to ask Diamond Bar X to replace enough material to the approaches to make the bridge passable with a vehicle, second by Granzow; motion carried.

EME-45-18 Marsh-Motion by Granzow to approve work as completed, second by Frasier; motion carried.

EME-46-18 Marsh-- Motion by Granzow to approve work as completed, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-40-18 Willard-Revisit

Location: Willow Creek (east side)

The Board approved last meeting. After discussion, the board decided to change the wording on the permit to say "submit new designs". Applicant is working on the new

plan and will submit it. Motion by Frasier, second by Granzow to change the wording on the modifications. Applicant should get the work done prior to high water if at all possible.

LC-41-18 Beck

Location: Smith Creek

Timing: Spring after high water?

Purpose: resolve major erosion issue on Smith Creek resulting from the 2018 flood event

Dimensions: fairly lengthy

Materials: cobble, willow, native grass seed, erosion matting

Equipment: excavator or similar equipment

Team comments: 3 options, from do nothing, to riprap of entire bank, to Slope and vegetating bank. Slope bank 2:1, Place cobble along toe of bank like in photo, Dig up willow clumps from across stream and place into bank; native grass seed on upper part of bank; lay erosion matting on bank to help hold until veg takes hold; control livestock access in entire area so vegetation can take hold and after vegetation is established still control to limit future erosion.

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Granzow to table pending a review by Jeff Ryan for final permitting and our cost share program application.

LC-57-18 Fechter

Location: Elk Creek

Re-visit-there was a hiccup last month and we didn't see the last page of the team report. Alan Rollo had requested that wing walls be installed on the headgate instead of rock. Motion by Ryan, second by Frasier to send a letter with a modification to the headgate, adding wing walls. Motion carried.

Calendar of upcoming events

Three county RCPP meeting January 16

MWCC Annual meeting-29th January Helena

February meeting-14th in Helena

March meeting-14th in Helena

April meeting-11th in Helena

Announcements

Next meeting – February 14, 2019 Helena 1 pm

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____