



# 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**  
**April 11, 2019 at 1 pm**

**Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Ryan at 1:05 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Scott Blackman, Jeanette Nordahl, Steve Granzow, Stan Frasier, Sarah Howe-Cobb and Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were John George, Christian Lehnert, Tracy Wendt and Chris Evans.

Motion by Granzow to approve minutes to the March 21, 2019 board meeting as sent, second by Blackman, motion carried.

Motion by Nordahl to accept the financial statement as presented and to pay the outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

**Correspondence –**

Evans shared the correspondence with the board, including notes from DNRC, AERO's end of year report, NACD's annual report and the Montana Biological Control Coordination Project report and request for support. Christian Lehnert added that the MBCCP is working to get the hounds tongue bug off the pest list.

**Public Comment**-There was none.

**Reports**

**NRCS** – John said that the office is working with applications for the TIP they had approved. The Joint Chiefs project continues, primarily this year with applications in the Jefferson City area. They are trying to work with anyone who had an application in for the remaining year of area fund pools. Diane Fitzgerald may be reaching out to Sarah, Ron and Scott about doing some vegetation review on different soil types.

Mindy Gauthier asked John to let the board know that she appreciated visiting the last meeting. John went over the Civil Rights document that he is required to discuss with the board annually. He also did a brief review of the Cooperative Work Agreement.

John reiterated the importance of the four upcoming planning meetings around the county. This is the landowner's chance to get their priorities on the record. The Field Office long range planning document will not be stagnant, but the difficulty in making changes to it mean that it probably won't change a lot year to year.

Snow pack is in the high 80 and 90 percentiles, the Sun is in the 60's.

**SRWG** – Tracy Wendt has been spreading the word on our upcoming planning meetings. She said that the draft Forest Service plan is done, the comment period in 2016/17 had around 1100 comments. Several organizations put in comments, especially that the plan doesn't consider

agricultural or other downstream land uses. There have been some meetings to address the draft plan and there is some hope that they'll make some revisions before it's accepted.

Lewis & Clark CD will have 4 free tickets to the SRWG 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in August. The tour will be a no-cost event and they are looking for ideas on projects to showcase. Tracy had a "coming events" flyer and said that they're looking for volunteers for a number of things. There are some upcoming meetings as well, the Water Management Work Group at 10 am on 4/18, the Water Quality Work Group on 5/1 at 1 pm, the group looking at doing an RCPP project April 30 at 1 pm.

**MRCDC** – Written report, and Jeff said that they are still working on the Living on the Bank project even though the 223 Grant committee cut our grant request in half.

**WQPD/ LHWG** – they will be working on the strategic plan for 6 hours on Monday.

**Weed District** – Christina said there is a lot going on with the ramp up to spring work. They are currently hiring and the job app period is open to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Cheatgrass and whitetop is already coming in. The seeder is out and ready to rent to people. Jenny Garcin at the county is working on education efforts for them. He recommended that the CD send the link to the planning meetings to her.

### **Supervisor Reports**

Frasier said that the Baxendale Auxiliary fire hall is done. The Red Roof Café has been torn down, and he will miss the June and July board meetings.

Ryan said that they're doing a willow cutting on Saturday for Sevenmile Creek work. They'll be planting those cuttings the following Saturday.

Blackman said that his daughter got an award at the State FFA meeting, and that she is planning to become an ag instructor.

Nordahl said that the Annual Putt-putt event is happening on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Granzow said the development out his way is just getting to be more. He believes that it's time for some smart zoning, probably past time.

### **Old Business**

Cost Share Applications – There was discussion on the Cost Share applications that we've received this year. Allen Beck's needs to be deferred until we have an approved plan for his 310 permit. For Probert's two applications, the board approved 50% cost share not to exceed \$2500 for both projects, fencing and stream work as approved on his 310 permit. Sarah Howe-Cobb said that she will be willing to do a follow up inspection prior to the district paying him.

MACD-there was discussion about the MACD Conference Call that administrator Chris Evans and Supervisor Jeanette Nordahl sat in on. It was encouraging to hear that financial documents from MACD will be sent out to CDs now. It sounds like the planning for the spring board meeting topics are showing potential progress in the right direction. There was some discussion about our letter, including the belief that Lewis & Clark is making MACD jump through hoops, concern that the letter sent wasn't signed by the Chairman of the Board, leading some to believe that the letter wasn't in fact from the Conservation District Board. There were a few comments about us waiting to finish paying dues dependent on whether we like the convention or not, when our criteria were clearly stated with the letter. There was also concern about LCCD playing some kind of "pawn game" that would influence other CDs to do the same which would put MACD in a tight situation with their budget. There was another member of the board who said that if LCCD wants MACD to actually work on issues of concern right

away, then LCCD needs to pay full dues immediately. Finally, there was a comment that LCCD needs to pay and be in it or not. Ultimately those on the call put the decision on Lewis & Clark's voting status off until the spring board meeting.

**New Business**

Evans reminded board members of the upcoming planning meetings and asked that at least one supervisor be present at each meeting.

Evans shared the Sweet Grass CDs grant program info with the board. It was decided to go ahead and put in for some of those funds, primarily for the Spokane Creek Project.

**310 Permit Applications**

LC-03-19-GID

Location: Beaver Creek (North End)

When: ASAP

Purpose: Remove flood damaged bridge and replace with large culverts and low water crossing

Decision: motion by Blackman to approve with team recommendations, second by Nordahl, and to waive the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-04-19 Probert

Location: Sun River

When: 5/1 to 9/1

Purpose: stop steam bank damage

Cut back bank, create 3 or 4 windrow trenches to fill with willow/cottonwood cuttings. He would then seed the area. He would like to pull a couple of feet of river cobble back against the bank with fencing to protect the whole thing

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve with the above modifications, and waive the 15-day waiting period, with the understanding that the applicant contact the CD prior to starting work so that she can have a look. Second by Blackman; motion carried.

LC-05-19-Burke

Location: Missouri River-Canyon Ferry

When: April 20-November 30

Purpose: Bank Stabilization

Team report comments: Recommended approval with the following modifications: 1. Toe trench (3 ft x3ft minimum) lined with geotextile fabric; 2. Geotextile fabric lined vertical supports.

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve with the above modifications, with a 15-day waiting period waiver, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-07-19 Greg Drapes

Location: Missouri River-Canyon Ferry Reservoir

When: 4/20/19-11/30/19

Purpose: Bank stabilization

Team report comments: Recommended approval with the following modifications: 1. Toe trench (3 ft x3ft minimum) lined with geotextile fabric; 2. Geotextile fabric lined vertical supports.

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve with the above modifications, with a 15-day waiting period waiver, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-08-19 Hartnett

Location: Blackfoot River

When: ASAP

Purpose: bank stabilization/flood protection/fish habitat/debris removal

Team report comments: Recommended approval as proposed with the following notes: For the upstream log, heavy machinery can enter the river briefly from the gravel bar. This will enable the placement of the log along the bend while preventing disturbance to riparian vegetation. Work can take place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Proposed actions will have a fishery benefit in terms of habitat complexity.

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve with 15-day waiver and the understanding that the applicant will contact MDT if they plan to work within the right of way, second by Blackman; motion carried.

LC-10-19 Parker

Location: tributary to Ten Mile Creek

When: May through September

Purpose: bank stabilization/excavation

Team report comments: recommended approval as proposed

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Nordahl to approve as proposed; motion carried.

LC-11-19 Vision Net

Location: Ten Mile Creek

When: May through November

Purpose: Utilities

Team report comments: No inspection, Adam recommended approval

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Howe-Cobb to approve as proposed; motion carried.

LC-12-19 Vision Net

Location: Prickly Pear Creek

When: May through November

Purpose: utilities

Team report comments: no inspection, Adam recommended approval

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Howe-Cobb to approve as proposed; motion carried.

LC-13-19 Rosa

Location: Missouri River-Hauser Reservoir

When: Summer 2019

Purpose: dock/marina-dredging

Team report comments: No inspection requested. Adam would like someone to see the site during construction to ensure turbidity mitigation is in place.

Decision: motion by Nordahl, second by Howe-Cobb to approve with the condition on the Team Report; motion carried.

LC-14-19 Beal

Location: Beaver Creek (south end)

When: After May 1

Purpose: bridge for access

Team report comments: Adam didn't need to inspect but recommended approval with the following modifications: 1) work shall be completed between July 1 and September 31 or March 1 to April 30 2020 to avoid high flows and fish spawning time frames; 2) stream fording with machinery is approved as proposed.

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb, second by Nordahl to approve with modifications; motion carried.

LC-15-19 YPL

Location: Prickly Pear Creek

When: April

Purpose: Utility Right of Way clearing

Team report comments: Recommended approval with the following modifications: 1) leave stumps at 3 ft in ROW clearing; 2) removal of cut trees up to discretion of landowners.

Decision: Motion by Blackman to approve with the modifications and waiving the 15-day waiting period, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-16-19 Helena Sand and Gravel

Location: Missouri River-Hauser Reservoir

When: May

Purpose: To provide a more stable base for the boat ramp where it enters the waterway by removing top layer of existing base and placing more stable base

Team report comments: Adam did not request an inspection. He said he'd like to see the site during construction to ensure turbidity mitigation is in place.

Decision: Motion by Nordahl to approve with the modification noted, second by Granzow; motion carried.

LC-17-19 Almazar

Location: Missouri River-Canyon Ferry Reservoir

When: May through November

Purpose: bank stabilization

Team report comments: Recommended approval with the following modifications: 1. Toe trench (3 ft x3ft minimum) lined with geotextile fabric; 2. Geotextile fabric lined vertical supports.

Decision: Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve with the above modifications, with a 15-day waiting period waiver, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

**Other Business**

The board adjourned to executive session to complete the employee appraisal and discuss a raise. They decided on a 3% COL raise effective at the beginning of the current pay period (4/6/19).

**Calendar of upcoming events**

- April 18 SRWG Water Management meeting 10 a.m.
- April 23-CTE meeting Prickly Pear Elementary 6pm
- April 29-Suds for the Sun event
- May 1-Norther Plain Regional NACD conference call
- May 1-SRWG Water Quality Work Group meeting1-3:30
- May 2-6-8 pm Public Planning Meeting Lincoln Sr. Center
- May 9-1 pm Augusta Board meeting
- May 9-6-8 pm Public Planning Meeting Augusta
- May 16-6-8 pm Public Planning Meeting East Valley Fire Hall
- May 17-Flood Awareness Day, East Valley Middle School
- May 23-6-8 pm Public Planning Meeting Lincoln
- June 12-NACD member listening session for Norther Plains Region
- June 13-8:30 am Board meeting Dearborn Community Center
- July 1 All budgets due to the county. Public hearing is required to renew Permissive Levy
- July 6-Montana River Rendezvous-Fort Peck
- July 25-28 Montana Youth Range Camp-Gallatin CD
- August 24-25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of SRWG-tour (free) and BBQ Dinner Sun Canyon Lodge (\$20)
- September 4-5 Montana Range Tour-Harlowton hosted by Upper Musselshell & Yellowstone CDs

**Announcements**

**Next meeting** – May 9, 2019 1 p.m. Augusta Youth Center, Augusta Montana.

**Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.**

**APPROVED**

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Presiding Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Recorder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_