



## LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Local Work Group meeting convened at 10:53 a.m. July 22, 2019 at the USDA Service Center, Helena MT.

Attendance:

Scott Blackman  
Jeff Ryan  
Dave Martin  
Karl Christians

John George  
Chris Evans  
Diane Fitzgerald

John gave an update on current contracts and Evans passed out the synopsis from the community planning meetings (see attached).

The office hasn't done as much outreach to the communities this year on special sign ups as we lost the Tri-County Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding and had ample applications on file to meet the current funding needs.

The goal of the public meetings was to determine what the core is for concerns on the part of the public. John went through the handout and talked about specifics that came out of each area meeting. There have been restrictions on stream projects through NRCS, but we'll have to see if that changes with change in personnel.

There was discussion about how the perspective of how the Local Work Group looks at problems needs to shift. For example, if a range concern comes up, we can look at how practices can benefit range as well as wildlife.

There will be no tip application this year as the field office would like to form more complete outreach with communities to complete proper planning with current staffing levels.

The group discussed the idea of adding some language on passive measures for stream issues, like riparian fencing, plantings etc. Also, improvement of irrigation structure on existing sites, to cover improvements to existing flood irrigation, as well as conversion to sprinkler.

There was discussion about the greater partnerships in the state, including that watershed groups and councils could very well become a more focused partner in the development of TIPS, leaving out Conservation Districts.

There was discussion about the possibility of bringing in someone like Ray Ledgerwood, to teach CDs how to effectively and work effectively together with watershed groups and councils.

Adjourned 11:51

Submitted by Chris Evans, CD Administrator