



# LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## Augusta Flood Task Force Notes from July 30, 2019 Meeting

A welcome was given by Commissioner Geise, and introductions were made.

The group was given the opportunity to discuss what the current issues are and they were captured on flip charts, along with constraints, lessons learned and potential solutions:

### Agricultural Properties:

#### Ag land flooding

Crossings

Field Erosion

Channel migrations

Debris deposits

### Town properties:

Flooding in streets, yards, basements

Water quality issue in contaminated wells

Mold

Decreased property values

Loss of Economic revenue, tourism

### Public Infrastructure:

Tends to be more reactive than proactive (maintenance level)

Strain on budget and resources

Some of the concerns or potential for assistance with the issues listed were:

- Permitting concerns, especially in the mapped floodplain.
- Farm Service Agency has the ECP program for agricultural landowners
- For home damages, there is the potential for property tax relief. Susan promised that future events they would get a more rapid assessment completed in regard to damaged homes/buildings
- City revenue loss-for FEMA purposes, documentation of those losses need to be delivered by the home/business owners to FEMA for their reporting purposes
- Public infrastructure, health and safety, loss of bridges and culverts, all put a strain on the county's budget.
- The FLAPP program was discussed briefly given the trailheads and public land access that has been affected with roads being out etc. That program is based on

use, which is another reason to get some communication started with the National Forest offices.

- Simply the cost of fixing irrigation or other agricultural infrastructure and the concern that there may be yet another event next year or the year after.

There was a discussion of current activities and data that are available. Much discussion about which areas have already been mapped, especially available lidar and where else needs to be considered or covered.

Lewis and Clark County DES is submitting a grant application to FEMA for an H&H assessment from Augusta Clemons Road to highway 21. We're not sure how that assessment will tie into that being done by the Conservation District, but it will likely primarily be looking at city infrastructure and roads.

L&C Conservation District is planning to do a hydrologic assessment and discussion followed on the extent of coverage and what areas the Task Force may want to include in the hydrologic assessment. Should this be a "global study" to assess the entire system (top to bottom) rather than individual applications? While it would be nice to do a walking assessment of the entire watershed, every main tributary, there is not going to be enough funding to accomplish that. There was further discussion on differentiating between the short term and/or small-scale projects and the longer-term larger scale perspective. Short term assessment would include individual assessments of damages and potential solutions or remedies and repairs such as those damages to roads, fields, infrastructure and property. These would mainly be 310-permit type projects. Long term assessments would include hydrologic modeling to look at hydrologic flow paths, event-based floods and their distribution through the stream and floodplain system. This would allow an evaluation of how roads, ditches, and other topographic elements affect where the water goes when it floods.

We need to engage the USFS and assess what steps they have or are planning to take. There were concerns about whether we were collecting the right information. Much of the impact on the system comes from snowpack, vegetative cover and they nature of the storms that have happened, things we have little to no control over. There was discussion about how the group needs to move forward looking at how to make the system more resilient to future potential flood events. Evans will approach the Forest Service about what they're up to. There was discussion about the FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) and if grants were to be applied for, we would need the federal land usage statistics. Evans will ask the Forest Service about those as well.

Identified Sub-Committees to divide work load,  
Flood Technical Subcommittee-Dustin Ramoie, Peter Schade, Hall Herring and Paul Roos. Dan Karlin and the MDT representatives may be involved in that as well.

Funding-Chris Evans, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Ann Schwend, Susan Good Geise, Paul Roos, Hal Herring  
Process, Communications and Outreach-Tracy Wendt, Ann Schwend, Chris Evans, Theresa Lane

Next meeting will be Nov/Dec, or after the assessment report is completed. It would be ideal to have the consultant at that meeting. Upon the advice of landowners, the meeting will be one day, 2 parts with the landowners who met with the consultant in the first part, then the meeting will be opened up to the public.

Submitted by



Chris Evans  
Lewis & Clark Conservation District

Attendees:

Dustin Ramoie, L&C County Floodplain  
Pete Schade, L&C Water Quality District  
Ann Schwend, DNRC Water Planner  
Kyle Geise, Landowner  
Paul Roos, Lincoln  
Dave Hedstrom, MDT Hydrologist  
Chad Knuth, MDT Hydrologist  
Worby McNamee, DNRC Floodplains  
Teresa Converse Lane, Landowner  
Julie and Bill Madden, Landowners  
Brett Simons, Cong Gianforte field rep  
Dan Karlin, L & C County Engineer  
Clay Caudle, L&C County Bridge foreman  
Kevin Horne, L&C Public Works  
Peter Italiano, Dir of Community Development  
Tracy Wendt, Sun River WS Group  
Susan Ford, Store Owner  
Sarah Howe Cobb, Lewis & Clark Conservation District, Cobb Ranch  
Jeff Ryan, Lewis & Clark Conservation District  
Katie Vivian, FWP Biologist, Choteau  
David Larson, DNRC CARDD  
Hal Herring, Augusta resident  
Susan Goode Geise, L&C Commissioner  
Chris Evans, Lewis & Clark Conservation District