



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
December 12, 2019 at 1 pm

Call to order – the meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Stan Frasier, Ron Ingersoll, Sarah Howe-Cobb and Scott Blackman. Also in attendance were Dave Martin, Diane Fitzgerald, Tracy Wendt, Paula Gunderson, Ethan Kunard and Chuck Cornillie.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes for October and November as sent, second by Blackman; motion carried.

Motion by Sarah Howe to provide a \$500 bonus for Evans, second from Scott; motion carried.

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

Approval of plan and budget will take place in January. There was some discussion about the plan and the budget. Evans will forward out “final” drafts prior to the January board meeting.

Correspondence

Technical assistance grants – pursue the answers about the match money and the EQIP question. There was discussion about Focused Conservation and the cost of the TAG from NACD. The fundamental disagreement that LCCD has with the focused conservation philosophy and the thought that anyone hired would be for EQIP is the base problem. Evans will follow up on this with Sunni Heikes-Knapton at NACD about the specifics of the grant program.

Public Comment-there was none.

Reports

NRCS – Paula Gunderson gave the NRCS report. She says that there is more to EQIP than just focused conservation, there are all the special initiatives. The CRP signup is going on right now. The rental rates are fairly low. No information as of yet on the upcoming programs. They’re waiting on rules still. They are having an easement workshop in Teton County and will invite everyone who may be interested. MARS is looking at doing easements in the floodplains. Paula said that there are several people covering the Helena office while Diane is on leave if she is also on leave. Paula will work with Evans on a letter to waive the requirement for CD signatures on contracts with NRCS.

SRWG – Tracy said that the SRWG and Cascade CD have applied for 223 funding for the channel migration zone mapping. They’re working on a contract with Karin Boyd. This will include the map and report and some outreach. The group will have a BSWC member next year. Her

workplan is currently evolving including outreach, water quality and hopefully a volunteer water quality monitoring program. The SRWG board met last week and prior to the meeting had a 2-hour intensive training. On Giving Tuesday they raised \$1500 for the watershed group. They want to pursue the Pull Your Share program with Dan Wilkins. The school in Great Falls is working that program into a lot of their curriculum. Dan has been engaging more schools and they have about 300 students interested, and may be branching more deeply into Lewis and Clark County, including Ford Creek. This could become a statewide program and SRWG will be working to find extended funding for them. The adopt a trout program is moving forward with FWP.

MRCDC—see written report

WQPD/ LHWG—Going back to last meeting's request from them to assist on stream gauge funding, there was a motion by Blackman, second by Ingersoll to approve \$1500 for one year and have them get back with us on other partners. There were some long-term funding ideas thrown around, including the possibility of an Adopt a Stream Gauge program, etc.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff said that the WQPD brought in someone who put on a really good training on proper board function for special districts etc. Some of the information Karl Christians covers in trainings.

Scott said that he's considering retiring from the board. He'll stay on until he finds a replacement.

Other Groups

MWCC-Ethan Kunard was here to brief the board and introduce himself as the new executive director for MWCC. He put in a plug for their project funds which are up to \$20,000 as a supplement to other project funding. Their Annual Meeting is January 21. Their agency partners will be there on a discussion panel. They'll have breakout sessions in the afternoon with tools for attendees.

They are hosting a reception at Ten Mile brewery, and he wanted to remind the board about the Montana Water Summit March 3-4.

MACD-Chuck was present to talk about MACD. He said he worked for a CD 20 years ago. The strategic plan is something that he's committed to making a part of his own work plan. He read it through completely for the first time this morning. He said that he's focusing on the possible merger of SWCDM and MACD along with a bylaws rewrite. There's going to be a survey out before the January meeting and he'll be communicating with all the CD administrators. The supervisor summit will be in February probably, and a leadership summit in January for MACD board members—the strategic plan came up in regard to that training too. They hope to include that facilitator in the supervisor summit.

Martin said that he heard more of the MACD board call members talk about the strategic plan than he ever had on past conference calls and he was encouraged by that. He asked about topics for the leadership training and how they're determining those. There was the survey at the area meetings and the concerns that came up from that. He believes that conflict management needs to be discussed. Chuck is sure that that topic will be part of the training. Jeff Ryan asked about the training location, Chuck thinks it's going to be January but isn't sure where yet.

Weed District-They are working on contracts and grants that are due in January. They have been talking with BLM, Forest Service and MDT to update contracts to keep projects moving. Beyond that they have the MWCA conference in Great Falls the week of January 14th. Mike Nordahl resigned from the weed board so Christian is looking for someone from the Lincoln area who might be interested. He said he has been approved to move forward with his cost share program. The aim will probably be more toward the small acreage landowners. He's looking at potentially a \$250 match and up to \$10,000 total for the first year. There will be a lot of people who have 25

acres or less who will need education on management of invasive species. The city had a weed summit and discussed what has been working or not working for their fight on invasive species.

310 Permit Applications

CP-03-19 Atchison-motion by Howe-Cobb to consider it a non-violation, second by Blackman; motion carried.

EME-04-19 Lee – Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve work done especially in light of the fact that they’re looking at changing the whole site with a permitted project, second by Blackman; motion carried.

EME-13-19 Swanson – remains tabled.

EME-15-19 Meyer – motion by Ingersoll, second by Howe-Cobb to approve work as completed under the emergency notice. Motion carried.

LC-45-19 Geise – Motion by Blackman, second by Ingersoll to approve the permit application with the recommended modifications from FWP; motion carried.

LC-46-19 Geise – Motion by Blackman, second by Ingersoll to approve the permit application with the recommended modifications from FWP; motion carried. Evans will make sure a copy gets to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Calendar of upcoming events

December 12-Planning and budget meeting Helena 10 am

December 12-CD meeting Helena 1 pm

December 16-Conference Room, Public Hearing for rule change 9 am

December 17-310 Committee Meeting 10 am Montana Room, DNRC

January 9, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm

January 9, 2020-First day for Supervisor Candidates to file for election

January 13, 2020 MACD Board Conference Call 7:30 am

January 14-16 MWCA Annual Conference, Great Falls

January 21, 2020-MWCC annual Meeting TBD

January 30, 2020-Stream Restoration Committee Mtg, Fred Buck Room DNRC

February 3-4, Montana Soil Health Symposium

February 10, MACD Board Conference Call

February 13, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm

March 3-4, Montana Water Summit

March 9-the LAST day for Supervisor Candidates to file for election

March 12, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm

April 21-23, NRDP Conference-Fairmont Hot Springs

Announcements

Next meeting – January 9, 1pm at the USDA Service Center in Helena.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned 3:05 pm.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer

Date

Recorder

Date