



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
November 14, 2019 at 1 pm

Call to order – the meeting was called to order at 1:05pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Steve Granzow. Also in attendance were David Martin, Karl Christians, Jennifer McBroom, Paula Gunderson, Diane Fitzgerald, Christian Lehnert, and Chris Evans. There was no quorum for the meeting.

Correspondence

Evans had some correspondence from DNRC, and the county planning board.

Public Comment-No comment

Reports

NRCS – Diane and Paula were present to discuss NRCS. Current activities: a lot of practices are being installed right now. Diane is keeping up with stuff so far. No ranking or contracting at the moment. Paula said she is excited for the opportunity to be the acting DC for Lewis and Clark. She gave some background on her background with the agency. There should be a general CRP signup in December. CD's have the option to opt out on signing the CRP contracts. We would need to send a letter saying so to NRCS. We'll need to make a decision and send in the letter.

Because NRCS is under a CR right now, there isn't a ton of activity at the moment on new sign ups and contracts. With the focused EQIP, CSP may be another option to get funds out to landowners who are outside the EQIP TIPS. Contract implementation will be high on Paula's priority list.

SRWG – Tracy was present to give the SRWG report. They're looking at doing a project across county boundaries to pursue funding for different projects on the Sun. In Lewis & Clark she's primarily focusing on weed issues. There has been some discussion about stream gauges and the need for them in the watershed. Flood control, river issues, the Broken O needs an automated headgate. Dan Wilkins and the Pull your Share program with the Great Falls High Schools wants to double the project. The project has become part of the education program throughout the high school to include career development, culinary etc. Dan has been called about the signs. SRWG was approved for a Big Sky Watershed Corps member for next year. They'll be looking at doing some fundraising for various projects.

The water quality and water management working groups met last month and they are getting good participation.

December 5th the board is meeting at GID and prior to that they're have a water quality monitoring workshop. They'll be talking about trend analysis and the project for the BSWC member. Giving Tuesday is December 3 and she wants to encourage anyone who wants to donate to donate that day. The TU is raising some funds for stream gauges and Tracy will be doing some

speaking with their groups.

MRCDC – see report. Jeff wanted to highlight the MRRIC section of the written report. Dick Iverson has been valuable on that protecting the rights of the irrigators.

WQPD/LHWG – Jennifer gave a brief update on their current projects. East North Hills has had some concerns about water supply. Monitoring has indicated that currently there is plenty of water, but there's a question about how many wells you put in before you start seeing the declines. In the Ten Mile zone, they've been working in the valley to increase the monitoring and getting information faster by improving the technology for getting information.

Not a lot going on with the watershed group. They do have their 501c3 status now. They had all of their application work done but didn't have their SAM number so they were locked out. Jennifer was looking at the Watershed Planning Grant too. They are potentially looking for someone to assist on a contract basis to work on the watershed. They have a project ongoing in Grizzly Gulch that is finally coming together.

Supervisor Reports – Jeff thanked Karl for getting him in touch with an engineer to do some of the work on Claassen's project.

Granzow said that water issues are a continued concern as the houses continue to be built.

Other Groups

Weed District-Christian had a meeting with BLM on agreements with BLM for primarily contracting work in the Scratchgravel and the North Hills. He is also working with MDT for contracts to spray in the rights of way. There are a lot of roads that MDT doesn't spray, including Montana Avenue and Green Meadow Drive, part of Custer Ave. He is working on a grant with the Roundtable on the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. They are working on a weed cost share program for the County. Christian requested a support letter.

MACD/SWCDMI – Martin and Evans gave some updates in regard to the upcoming convention.

East Helena CTE update – Evans updated the board on the fundraisers and other activities going on with the Ag Program and other CTE advisory committee work.

Elk Creek/Augusta Flood workgroup-right now the activity with that group is in a holding pattern until we get the assessment from Confluence Consulting.

New Business

310 Rule Changes-We are set for our public hearing on December 16th and the board should be able to review any comments and then adopt the new rules at the January 9, 2020 board meeting. There shouldn't be any changes, since the only changes that we're looking at are required by the change in state law. New forms should be in effect after the January 9, 2020 board meeting.

Storage solutions for electronic files-Evans will look into cloud storage and a couple of external hard drives.

310 Permit Applications

No 310s could be acted on due to lack of a quorum

Calendar of upcoming events

November 18-21 MACD convention in Kalispell

December 4-5 AIS Summit Carroll College (Register at <http://cleandraindry.mt.gov/AIS-Summit>)

December 5 SRWG Quarterly Board meeting, 1-2 pm GID in Fairfield

December 6-Stream Restoration mini comm. mtg Helena 1 pm

December 12-Planning and budget meeting Helena 10 am

December 12-CD meeting Helena 1 pm
January 9, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm
January 14-16 MWCA Annual Conference, Great Falls
January 21, 2020-MWCC annual Meeting TBD
February 3-4, Montana Soil Health Symposium
February 13, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm
March 12, 2020-CD meeting Helena 1 pm
January-March – TBD – election paperwork in-Stan, Scott and Ron
March 3-4, Montana Water Summit
April 21-23, NRDP Conference-Fairmont Hot Springs

Announcements

Next meeting – December 12, 1pm at the USDA Service Center in Helena. The second budget and planning meeting will be from 10-12 am.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____