



# LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## **Regular Meeting Minutes Via Conference Call Due to COVID-19 Pandemic July 9, 2020 8:30 am**

**Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 8:30. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Steve Granzow, Stan Frasier. Also in attendance were Tracy Wendt, Emma Kelsick, Connor Mertz, Autumn Christenson, Mikayla Moss, Jason Saari, Karl Christians, David Martin and Chris Evans.

Motion by Granzow to approve minutes as amended, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Motion by Granzow to approve the financial statement and pay the bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

**Correspondence**-planning board, Tracy's letter about the Forest Service plan.

**Public Comment**-none

### **Reports**

**NRCS** – Jason Saari – 3 TIP contracts were funded, Mindy Gauthier has made a request for some extra funding for additional contracts. The DC job has closed, and they're likely doing interviews this or next week so we should have a DC soon. Future projects: Diane Fitzgerald contacted Saari about a couple of landowners in North Jefferson County who may be interested in a cross-county TIP for fuels reduction. Saari has been in touch with a couple of landowners in the Dalton Mountain area for a potential TIP for fuels reduction. Ryan asked about when the office might actually be open again. Saari said that the office is currently in Phase 3. The building is locked, but appointments can come in, with screening and limits on conference space etc. They aren't sure when the doors will be unlocked. FSA is in charge of those changes at this point.

**SRWG** – Tracy Wendt was on the call for the SRWG. She told the board about a request for comments on the National Forest Management Plan. There are concerns about the lack of regard for downstream water users. Comments are due the 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Martin asked if this is the "ten year" plan. Wendt said that they aren't reviewed that often, but that this revision has been in the works for about 5 years. She said that comments are super important right now because in other states plans have been rejected at the national level due to comments/concerns. Frasier said that one of the important things in commenting is that it gives you standing if later, when the FS decides to do something that is questionable, previous comments gives standing. There was just a court decision last week about logging in the roadless area south of Helena, the judge's decision was not kind to the FS. Wendt will forward some recent drafts of comments for an example.

The Weed Whacker Rodeo is Saturday without the meal. They're still going to do door prizes, there's been a lot of interest in the event. There'll be an MCC crew there and Big Sky watershed Corps members as well. The board is meeting by call on Friday to get some business done. She has been working with Reclamation to get a grant activated for the Muddy Creek

project. They have a watershed management grant for capacity building from DNRC, and she's applying for some additional funding for project development, some of which can be in Lewis and Clark County. The CMZ map for the Sun River portion is nearly complete. Evans and Wendt are finishing up the work for the Elk Creek portion.

Emma Kelsick gave an update on her activities with the Rolling Rivers Trailers Usage Guide. She'll be meeting with the folks at the Helena unit soon. Their Rain Barrel event is also coming up soon.

**MRCDC** – Due to the virus issues the quarterly meeting will be held virtually. They're still very concerned/interested in the Army Corps flow plans (out of Fort Peck). The last plan was made 20 years ago. The plan has been put in a holding pattern until some decisions can be made. The new coordinator is doing a good job for the group. The Living on the Bank Website will be undergoing some revisions, adding in some weed information.

**WQPD** – Jeff is no longer on the board for that organization. At a recent meeting it was determined he'd already served the maximum terms. Frasier said that he thinks that Jeff should take over his spot as a representative of the Conservation District. Evans will send a letter to WQPD to replace Frasier with Ryan, keeping Frasier as alternate.

**Weed District** – Granzow has seen them out spraying ditches. No report otherwise.

### **Supervisor Reports**

Ryan said he'd contacted Laura Nowlin at the Water Symposium that he could help advise on potential projects. She has a small project near Two Dot for some willow soil lifts. It would be a great demonstration project for the locals. As for Spokane Creek, they'll be finishing the surveying soon. Christenson said she could maybe help out and so did Mertz. The CD may try for some Stillwater money for a loanable solar pump for projects on streams. Christenson asked if we want to still try for R4R but Ryan said it will depend on the landowner. He was also contacted by Timothy Olds about some potential work on Lake Helena. He'd like to look at the Spokane Creek project.

David Martin said he'll be working on the Rolling Rivers trailer guide with Kelsick and Evans.

**MACD/SWCDMI** – the dues informal subcommittee has worked on a letter for MACD in regard to dues, based on what they're up to and where we are with it. We are going to request that LCCD be considered in good standing for voting and give them some feedback on priorities. When they were making decisions about Cascade's request for being in good standing, they brought up LCCD's assistance with the work plan in lieu of dues and said they don't want to encourage that. Ryan said that one bright spot with MACD is that they've contracted with Jeff Tiberi for the legislative session this next year. He'll be contacting Jeff Tiberi about testifying and the Stream Restoration Committee.

**Elk Creek Flood Task Force** – Nothing currently new. Though if the CD gets the NACD CTA grant, the hire would be largely working in that area.

**East Helena CTE** – The group has been meeting regularly through the summer. They are planning to meet in September and will hopefully be able to tour the new high school at that meeting.

**Healthy Watershed Consortium** – Christenson was on the call to talk about things happening. The idea of the riparian management workshop was to try to lay down some kind of template for workshops for other CDs. They are hopeful that the work that Mertz and Evans did for the workshop that had been planned for July, but postponed will help with that.

Ryan reminded the group about the Naked Riverbank effort. They met in the Great Falls area about a month ago with a landowner group. They'll return to the area July 25<sup>th</sup> and

will build about a 200-foot-long facine if the Corps approves it. It'll be all hand-work so they'll have to see.

**Old Business**

Permissive mill levy- we are requesting an additional 8400/year in PML, motion by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb to approve that request. Motion carried. Evans will contact the county on that issue.

**New Business**

Cost share – We had a request from the Helena Food Share about the Cost Share contract we had with them. At the time, there was no requirement to have the project done within a year’s time. Evans asked the board if we could honor that agreement. The consensus was that we should, especially since we only had one other cost share application for 2020’s funding.

Email – given the number of large groups that Evans has been doing meeting notices and minutes for (East Helena CTE, Stream Restoration Committee, Education Committee and the CD) and people working from home having their out of office notifications set up, we had been blocked a second time with Montana Internet’s mail service. They put us on a SPAM list. So Evans contacted our website host and created a new email address with them. In the future, all of the meeting notices will go out on a platform like MailChimp that allows more than one distribution list (which MailChimp does not).

Website changes – Evans would like to add a page on the website with supervisor information and possible photos. The information would include why they want to be a supervisor, and stuff like that. In addition, Ryan thinks we should add a project page showing resource benefits and projected costs, match funds and grant funding. We could make it into a “project book” and have events etc. also included. This would be a great tool to share with legislators.

**310 Permit Applications**

EME-01-20 Ingersoll-remains tabled pending inspection

EME-02-20 Schuff – Motion by Granzow to approval of project with the recommendations, Howe-Cobb second; motion carried.

LC-13-20 Stump – Motion by Granzow to approve the project with the modification of incorporating armored swale in case culverts plug, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-14-20 Johnson – after getting better information from the applicant and discussing it with FWP’s Jason Mullen, this permit application is not within the CD’s jurisdiction.

LC-15-20 motion by Frasier to approve as proposed, second Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

**Next meeting** – Evans will discuss with Howe-Cobb as we get closer to the meeting as to whether it will be held via Zoom or in person. The next meeting is August 13, 2020.

Motion to adjourn at 9:56 am.

**APPROVED**

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

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