



# 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 October 8, 2020 1pm

**Call to order** – the meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 1:02 pm. In attendance in the room were Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, Andrew Kretschmer, Becky Ayre and Chris Evans. On Zoom were Steve Granzow, John Baucus, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Stan Frasier, David Martin, Karl Christians, Tracy Wendt, Emma Kelsick, Connor Mertz, Autumn Christenson, and Lindsay Volpe.

Motion by Nordahl, second by Granzow to approve the minutes as sent; motion carried.

Motion by Nordahl, second by Granzow to approve the financial statement as presented, and to pay the outstanding bills; motion carried.

### Correspondence

Four new major subdivisions north of East Helena were submitted for comment to the CD. Evans asked if the board wanted to comment. Granzow wanted to make sure that our concerns for the groundwater (in this case, quantity) were sent back to the Planning Board.

NACD Dues billing-Given what the letter from NACD said about their activities and the fact that we are directly benefiting from their work with the CTA grant and Andrew Kretschmer's position, the idea of paying "full" dues was discussed. Motion by Granzow to pay the \$775 minimum dues, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

### Public Comment-none

### Reports

**NRCS** – A few of the forestry contracts are getting started. The office took a tour on the SRW on potential projects; Fuel break projects are ongoing. Granzow asked about the HVI having excess water due to development. Becky said not that she knows of.

**SRWG** – Tracy Wendt was on the call to make a report of the Sun River Watershed Group. This is Emma Kelsick's last meeting with the CD as a Big Sky Watershed Corps member. The tour that Tracy planned for the NRCS staff from all 3 counties (Field and Area office staff) went pretty well. They toured some of the main problem areas. Adobe, Muddy and Elk Creek were the main areas of interest. The group was looking at the sites in view of the potential tools available for management. Wendt thanked Evans and Ryan for getting the contract with DNRC and Applied Geomorphology signed and back for the Channel Migration Zone study that is now getting underway. That project will be mapping Elk Creek from the confluence with Smith Creek to the Sun River. They are having a board meeting and a water management work group meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will meet in person but have the option for people to call in via zoom or another format. It was Emma Kelsick's last meeting with the CD. She has submitted the final draft for the User's Guide which should help with consistency in the use of the trailer. The 2

sections are transportation and use and the online version for users to download. Jeff thanked Emma on behalf of the CD for all of Emma's work.

**MRCDC**– Christians said that there are ongoing interactions with the ACOE and effects on irrigators. Liv Stavick also provided a written report.

**WQPD**– Ryan said that a couple of their meetings were cancelled due to Covid and weather. There was a Rossiter School tour on well monitoring for water elevation.

**LHWG**-No report

**Weed District** – no report.

**Supervisor Reports**

**Ryan**-was recently out on Sevenmile creek on the new stream project. Autumn Christenson and Connor Mertz were also out there to do a tour of the project. They met up with Nate Kopp from PPLT. Evans will talk with Nate Kopp about the potential for partnering with the EHHS FFA chapter for grazing.

**Granzow** – The houses continue to go up in his area.

**Baucus** – It's been quiet and remains very dry. They had a lot of grass this year so now that it's dry, the fuel load is high.

**Martin** – Connor Mertz, Andrew Kretschmer and Dave Martin worked on winterizing the Rolling River Trailer this past week.

**Staff Reports**

**Evans** – While the Elk Creek Task force has been slow recently, Evans thinks that there will be an uptick now with Andrew's help. The East Helena High School Career Technical Advisory Committee met at the new high school and had a tour as well as a meeting. The group is moving forward on a number of fronts including working into the internship/apprenticeship side of things. Evans has continued working with the MACD Education Committee on a number of ongoing projects. In addition, the Stream Restoration Committee has been meeting relatively regularly. The hiring process has been completed with both jobs. Connor Mertz has been selected for the Resource Technician position.

**Kretschmer**-Andrew has spent the week working on orientation, setting up email, getting paperwork done. Still waiting for an NRCS computer and network access. Andrew went along on the field tour on the Sun River Watershed and was introduced to a number of landowners along with the NRCS Staff. He worked with Martin and Mertz on the Rolling Rivers Trailer winterization and is putting together some plans for a photo contest for the Conservation District to build social networking.

**MACD/SWCDMI** – Area meeting for Area 6 is tomorrow and will be held virtually. Ryan mentioned that the leadership team is meeting around the state, with the next one being held in Lewistown. He's hoping for better transparency.

**Healthy Watershed Consortium** – Autumn and Connor were out on the visit with PPLT on the Sevenmile property that burned. PPLT is looking at some re-seeding efforts with Native Grasses and are looking at a grazing plan for long term. Ranching for Rivers funding timelines may be a problem for them.

**Old Business**

The selection was made and Connor Mertz will be the new Resource Technician for the Conservation District. Evans had a question for the board on Andrew's probation period. Since he was previously employed with the Sheridan CD, Nordahl made a motion to change his

probation period to 90 days with the ability to use both annual and sick leave after the 90 days is up. Second by Frasier, motion carried.

**New Business**

Evans introduced Andrew to those in the room and on the call. Andrew has an idea to run a photo contest for the CD, potentially a number of times per year. This would boost our social media following and would also provide the CD with photos of the county to use without having to go out and take the pictures ourselves. The board thought it was a great idea. Planning needs-Evans will email out the APO to the supervisors with some thoughts on moving forward with a Long-Range Plan and APO revision for 2021.

Associate Supervisor-We have been approached by Chris Carparelli about his hope to become an associate supervisor for the CD. Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve that; motion carried.

**310 Permit Applications**

EME-01-20 Ingersoll-inspection pending.

LC-21-20 Stockton-Motion by Granzow to table pending more information from the applicant, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-22-20 Wirth-There was a question about removal of the old bridge at the site. The board would like to let FWP weight in on the date for removal. Evans will contact Mullen about that and will add that deadline to the conditions on the permit. Modifications recommended by the inspection team were: Maintain existing stream width and bank lines when installing rip rap, minimize sediment mobilization, remove old bridge within 1 year and reclaim the banks to natural conditions as present upstream and downstream. Motion by Nordahl to approve with the modifications noted, adding the removal date requirement, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-23-20-tabled pending inspection

LC-24-20 Weingartner-Motion by Granzow to approve as proposed, waiving the 15-day waiting period, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-25-20 Edens-motion by Ryan to approve as proposed, second by Frasier; motion carried.

**Next meeting** – November 12, 2020 1 pm via Zoom

Motion to adjourn by Nordahl 2:40 pm.

**APPROVED**

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

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