



# LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021

Held at 1 pm via Zoom Conferencing

**Call to Order**-The meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Steve Granzow, Jeanette Nordahl, Sarah Howe-Cobb, John Baucus, Stan Frasier. Also in attendance were Andrew Kretschmer, Ethan Kunard, Autumn Christenson, Becky Ayre, Jade Metzler, Connor Mertz, Joel Brodeur and Chris Evans. Sarah left the meeting at 1:25

Introductions were made.

**Minutes** – April 2021-Motion by Frasier to approve the minutes, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

**Financial Statement** – April 2021-Motion by Nordahl to accept the financial statement and pay the bills, second by Frasier, motion carried.

### Correspondence

Envirothon-Lite-May 19, 10 am to noon at the Montana Wild Gazebo.

Government days-Augusta and Lincoln – There has been some discussion about the CD participating in the Government Days with the County. Evans could prepare some notes for Jeanette and Sarah and/or have staff attend the days. There was general consensus to begin that participation.

**Public Comment**-there was none.

### Reports

Printed reports are absolutely welcome.

**NRCS**-Becky Ayre said that the office has had 2 TIPs approved for funding and the current TIP boundary extended to add about 120 acres. Ryan asked about some of the excess material from their fuels reduction projects. The upcoming Beaver Creek Phase 2 project might really benefit from that. Becky said coordination with the landowners would be necessary, but that should work. Kretschmer said that he'd met with a landowner who would be willing to provide cedar with root balls and everything. The landowner would be willing to load them or even deliver (with reimbursement).

**SRWG**-Written report

**MRCDC**-Jeff Ryan-Karl Christians was on the hiring committee for the coordinator position. They've made an offer and it was accepted.

**WQPD**-Jeff Ryan sat in on their meeting and they pretty much discussed budget stuff. Valerie Stacey put in for the Sanitarian job and got the job. Her volunteer coordination skills will be missed.

**LHWG**-Connor Mertz sat in on their most recent meeting, they finished the strategic planning that they'd been working on. They have started re-forming subcommittees, with an education and outreach board and a projects board as well as a fundraising board.

**Weed District**-they've been hiring weed spray crews and the weeds are really taking off.

**HWCI**-Autumn Christenson submitted a written report, and said that UMOWA has been working on some noxious weed funding. She'll update us on those plans. They invited Autumn and Jeff to look at some potential riverbank projects this Saturday. She drove Jeff to Roundup to look at a river bank project. The Naked Riverbanks initiative, they had a meeting with DEQ, to let them know what's going on. DEQ wanted to know if there was anything that they could do to assist.

**Extension**-no report.

**MWCC** Ethan Kunard was on to present the Montana Watershed Steward Award for 2021 to Jeff Ryan for all of his work on streams and river systems in the state over the years.

Congratulations from the board and staff to Jeff!

**MACD**-one-fourth dues were approved at the last meeting but given the tone of the letter sent, and some other issues, the board has decided to table payment until later. We'll review again after the Spring Board or later. If the MACD board is interested in hearing our concerns, they're free to meet with us.

### **Supervisor Reports**

Jeff Ryan-other than the Lake Helena Project, things are looking good. It looks like the no-rise report for Spokane Creek has gotten over to Worby McNamee at Floodplain permitting.

John Baucus-John said he's very shorthanded on the ranch, fewer hands than when the ranch started in the 1800's. Very slow spring, and very dry.

### **Staff Reports**

**Andrew** provided a written report. Tom Watson specifically wanted to thank the board for their cooperation and "buy-in" on Montana Focused Conservation. Outreach in the Augusta area has been very busy recently. Andrew will be advertising the spring photo contest soon. Andrew spent a day at York that was put on by the fire department and did some outreach to the landowners out there. Several Rolling Rivers trailer events. He helped the Extension Office with tree orders. Additionally, he's done some research on a vehicle for the CD. The extra that DNRC has is a bit sketchy. CDs can go thru the state bidding process if they want a new vehicle. Ryan said that while we could use one, he's concerned about being able to afford it. MRCDC just acquired a new vehicle and got a late model used 4 door pickup and spent over \$30,000 on it.

**Connor** provided a written report. One of the main things he's been doing is working on the Pollinator program. We have just a bit of seed left. He has been following up with landowners

on plots. 95 people in the county have participated and he's getting good survey responses back from landowners. He's requested photos of plots as they come up and start to bloom. He's gathering interest forms for future program outreach. One landowner is a beekeeper and has been promoting the program amongst the amateur beekeepers, but also at the Farmer's Market. Connor would like to look into doing a pollinator workshop later this year. He's also doing a presentation for a bee keepers association. The Summer Walk series is planned. The first date for the CD is June 15. Registration should go live next week. For each event it should open up about 10 days in advance.

For the Riparian Grazing workshop in Augusta, they'll be making a pre-workshop trip in June with the speakers and to meet with the landowners.

There's a meeting for Bashin Trash next week. Lots of outreach this past month.

Connor has gotten out on one 310 inspection this month and has been working with Chris Evans on process and paperwork. He's started doing some of the contract work with the Sun River Watershed Group.

Jeff asked if Andrew and Connor were planning to participate in the UMOWA meeting on Saturday and they are.

### Old Business

Temporary Diversion structures-Ron Ingersoll wasn't present, so no report.

### New Business

Upcoming grant year-There is good potential that we'll need to submit applications for continuing the Pollinator Program, a few landowner projects on Lake Helena (fabric and other materials), White Sandy and Black Sandy (non-fabric project).

Accounting query-Our current accountant will no longer do our quarterly reports without us participating in their payroll program. Doing the math, this might actually save the CD money, and will certainly save time for Chris Evans to do other things. The cost is around \$1800 per year, but we pay over \$1000 for quarterly reports, W2's and 1099's, plus almost \$800 per year for the payroll subscription. Nordahl made a motion to approve, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Permissive Mill Levy Hearing-Evans will set up the Permissive Mill Levy hearing that is required annually. It will be June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm on Zoom and will last for 30 minutes.

### 310 Permit Applications

CP-03-20 Meyers (CP-01-18)-A neighbor sent some photos of work done to remove the bricks sometime since last fall. He will let the CD know when the landowner is back in the area.

CP-01-21 Lloyd-Tabled pending inspection.

CP-02-21 new complaint-Tabled pending inspection.

CP-03-21 Adams Family Trust-Tabled pending inspection.

LC-09-21 Patzer motion by Baucus to approve with modifications, 2nd by Frasier; motion carried.

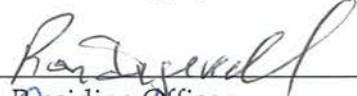
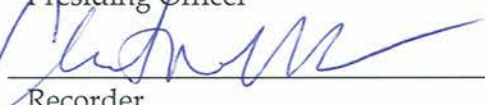
- LC-12-21 Greg Lee-motion to deny application as submitting, applicant can submit cut/fill dimensions; motion by Ryan, second by Nordahl; motion carried.
- LC-13-21 Broken O-Motion by Frasier to approve with Vivian’s recommendations, second by Nordahl, motion carried.
- LC-14-21-Broken O - Motion by Frasier to approve with Vivian’s recommendations, second by Nordahl, motion carried.
- LC-15-21 METG/PPLT-motion by Granzow to approve, 2nd by Frasier; motion carried.
- LC-16-21 Grady-motion to deny the permit by Granzow, with encouragement to contact McNeal or another qualified contractor and reapply and NWE too. Second by Frasier; motion carried.
- LC-17-21-Brodeur-motion by Ryan to approve with modifications, second by Frasier; motion carried.
- LC-18-21-BBCTU-Motion by Nordahl to approve as proposed, second by Granzow; motion carried.
- LC-19-21-Skierka-Tabled pending inspection.
- LC-45-19 & LC-46-19-Motion to approve 1 year extension on both, 2nd by Nordahl; motion carried.

**Other Business**

Drone weed spraying demo discussion. Folks from the TV and newspaper have been invited.  
Adjourned at 3pm

**Announcements**

Next meeting – June 10, 2021 meeting-in Augusta -what time? Morning? 9:30?

	6-10-21
Presiding Officer	Date
	6-10-21
Recorder	Date