



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2021

8:30 am

Dearborn Community Center

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 8:30 a.m. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Ron Ingersoll, Stan Frasier and John Baucus. Also in attendance were David Martin, Connor Mertz, Autumn Coleman, Becky Ayre, Sean Clancy and Chris Evans. Introductions were made.

Minutes-motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve as sent; motion carried.

Financial statement and outstanding bills-Motion by Frasier, second by Baucus to approve the financial statement and to pay the outstanding bills; motion carried.

Dave Martin agreed to work with the office staff on getting info together on outreach about the CD and incorporating as of yet unincorporated communities in the county.

NRCS-Becky said there's not a whole lot of new stuff going on. They've met with DNRC about outreach for the Wolf Creek TIP and she'll be requesting their assistance for that outreach. She met with the forester out of Lincoln and someone from the Blackfoot Challenge for outreach efforts on the Dalton Mountain TIP. They have some CSP contracts that will be obligated in the next month and funding has been requested to fund the rest of the CSP applications in the work unit. No deadline information as of yet for the EQIP deadlines.

SRWG-David Martin said that they're having their first big in-person quarterly meeting on the 21st. A team building session will be part of the effort at the ball park. They've met with the NRCS to learn more about the TIPs and how they can be more involved in that process. It's not yet clear to him how that whole process will work.

MRCDC-Christians wasn't present, but Autumn said their quarterly meeting is coming up on the 22nd of July and they'll go over her work plan. If the CD has anything that they want the Council to work on, get that information to Karl. The Rendezvous is coming up the 23rd and is focusing on the Gallatin Watershed.

WQPD-Jeff missed their meeting this last time as did Stan. They did send out an email indicating that they'll be resurrecting the Watershed Festival during the Farmers Market in 2022.

LHWG-Connor attended the PPLT Sevenmile Creek celebration. Confluence Consulting was there to discuss the project and they had a nice tour and then a reception at the Oddfellows. They were discussing some larger scale projects but haven't settled on anything quite yet. They're looking at the possibility of some acid water mine reclamation on Monitor Creek but there are some other potential projects in the offing. Connor has reached out to some of the people on Lake Helena for project work. Neighbor Gary Williams is interested in a project, as well as two others. Evans has put a request into Lewis and Clark County about the ARPA

funding but hasn't heard back. Evans will look into direct application and will contact Anna Miller at DNRC.

Weed District-No report.

HWCI-Autumn said not much is going on directly in L&C county. The R4R program meeting went well and MACD is probably going to proceed. The BDA projects are something that Autumn would be willing to assist the CD with, as far as permitting etc. Ryan asked about the Dana Ranch, they're trying to extend the ACOE permitting to cover 1000 feet but they aren't sure about how that will work. Dave asked about the BDA (beaver dam analogue) and who the right people are to talk to about this. Tracy Wendt is getting a lot of interest on BDAs on Muddy Creek and will likely have a workshop on the issue.

Extension-no report

MACD-Dave Martin said that he has a copy of the 2020 report. It's a simple report, but we can use it to evaluate how things are going. Operationally things are improving largely due to Rebecca. They're doing a lot of internal stuff but it's not evident yet how that builds Conservation Districts. Ryan looked at the dues report. There are a number of CDs that are paying up. Ryan made a comment that Yellowstone CD has less assessed dues than we do.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan Jeff said that he contacted the Secretary of State's office to find out the status of the Floodplain Resolution. The response was that they haven't sent it out because they're still processing it. He'll contact Senator Ellis in the next week or so to see if she can assist with getting it out. We've been in limbo in continuing the Stream Restoration Committee meetings pending that going out. Dave Martin said he looked at the next agenda for MACD, and Valley CD has a pending resolution on the books that is stagnated as well. Ryan could follow up on it with MACD if Ellis can't get that done.

John Baucus John said they're having an exceptional year for haying, and the market is between 200 and 300 dollars a ton. He's hanging onto his hay til he knows how much he'll need. Grass is done growing on the range, creeks are down already. On a side note, Baucus asked if Todd Grady had ever gotten a hold of Allen McNeal. That stream project is very much potentially significant. He said that there's talk with HVID that they may start rationing water.

Ron Ingersoll-Haying is busy right now, and the grass didn't grow very well due to the odd weather in the spring.

Stan Frasier-Weeds are sprayed; Ryan asked about the Beaver Reliever on Sweeny Creek and Frasier said that he hasn't looked at it recently but the pond level is about the same.

Dave Martin-CTE-Martin said that program has been great to watch grow, even during Covid.

Staff Reports

Connor-Connor went over his report to the board. He's been mainly wrapping up the Pollinator Initiative for the year, and working on the Summer Education Walk presentation on streams. He's also working with the SRWG on the Bashin' Trash event in August, coordinating most of the Riparian Grazing Management workshop in September and going out on site visits for permitting and other technical needs that landowners have. He's also been doing the monthly water quality monitoring for the SRWG.

Chris-Evans gave a run-down on recent activities, including the EO roundtable and fall training, conversion of payroll to Wiplfli's program and doing a variety of other tasks. The Education Committee and Outreach Work Groups have taken up some time, but are going well overall. The East Helena CTE advisory council work has been very encouraging. Evans has

stepped down as secretary, but will remain involved with that council on behalf of the Conservation District.

New Business

Connor had an application for the board to review for a Pollinator Grant for the Selma Held Community Garden, to incorporate a pollinator section. Motion by Frasier, second by Ingersoll to approve sponsoring that grant application.

310 Permit Applications

CP-03-20-Remains at the County Attorney’s office. Evans did hear from John Breneman that a lot of the brick has been removed from the river. She will bring photos to the August meeting.

EME-03-21-This emergency is ongoing, mainly because they’re not sure what the long-term plan is for it. Some of the work has been done, but they’re bringing in geotechnical specialists to review and assess for in-place lowering.

EME-04-21-tabled for the moment

LC-22-21 Almquist-Motion by Ingersoll, second by Frasier to approve as proposed; motion carried.

LC-23-21 Townsend-Motion by Frasier, second by Ingersoll to approve, with the modification to place silt fence and key in the rip rap; motion carried.

LC-24-21 Stewart-Motion by Frasier, second by Ingersoll to approve as proposed; motion carried.

LC-25-21 Wixten-Motion by Baucus, second by Ingersoll to approve with FWP’s recommendations of a culvert minimum of 36”; motion carried.

The next meeting will be August 12, 2021 at the Lambkin’s Restaurant in Lincoln and will begin at 9:30 am. It remains to be seen if we can do a hybrid meeting in August or if it will be solely in-person.

Adjourned at 10 a.m. to go on a site visit on Peter Burrgraff’s property on the Dearborn River.

Jeff Ryan _____ August 12, 2021 _____
Date

[Signature] _____ 8/12/21 _____
Recorder Date