



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021 9:30 am Lambkins Meeting Room, Lincoln, MT

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:33 by Jeff Ryan. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Jeanette Nordahl, and John Baucus. Also in attendance were Connor Mertz, Tracy Wendt, Becky Ayre, Mat Walter and Karen Good from Heart of the Rockies, as well as Erin Farris-Olsen with HOR on the phone and Chris Evans.

Motion to approve minutes as sent, by Ryan second by Baucus; motion carried.

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

Correspondence-Whitehall biocontrol, letter from MACD

Public Comment

Erin Farris-Olson gave a rundown on their programs and how they might be able to assist with project development and assistance. Karen Good was present and discussed a planning effort that is happening in the Lincoln area. With the help of the Blackfoot Challenge, they've hired a firm to assist with public meetings and outreach.

Based on community input they would like to see a safer better-connected downtown. Parking has been a concern, no sidewalks etc. The idea is to try to create change that encourages people to spend more time in town, not just gassing up. They've partnered with a number of different entities from the county to the land trusts. Envision Lincoln is just a group of stakeholders, not a 501c3. They're reaching out to partners to ascertain who can help them move forward. They recently applied for downtown master plan funding and got a \$50,000 grant to hire a contractor to assist with that. There is also an in-town trail plan under development. They're not planning to raise any taxes to implement this plan, but will be seeking grants to improve access within town in this plan.

They're hoping that one of our board members would participate in this whole process. They've submitted an RFP and are going through the process of hiring a contractor. They're going to try to keep meetings minimal. Given that they're a small town and not an incorporated community, everyone is already involved in so many other activities. They'll try to keep a virtual component to those meetings. Jeff asked if their goal is to become a non-profit and Karen said that is one of their goals. Tracy said that their group is getting a lot of buzz and good comments. Karen said that they're also applying for funds to do a way-finding plan to incorporate into the trail system. Jeff mentioned that it would be great to consider incorporating the stream projects into the trail system where possible.

NRCS-They are wrapping up the FY 21 CSP contracts which need to be obligated next week. Becky presented at the Soil Crawl that the Sleeping Giant group did out at Dusenberry's. She

gave some background on their programs and projects that they do. She had a lot of good questions and feedback from people. Evans asked for approval to send the report out to Burrgraff that Sean Clancy had done and the board approved that. Jeff Ryan asked about the conference room status. Becky said we'd have to meet after hours. She will update us with any changes.

SRWG-Tracy said that she had given a report to Evans. She and Evans have been working jointly on getting funding to secure a Big Sky Watershed Corps member for the two entities to share. Bashin' Trash is the other thing they're working on with the CD. Connor has more on that in his report. Tied to the potential Big Sky Watershed Corps member, is the potential for a Rain Barrel workshop that we could do concurrently for the northern Tri-County area. Tracy will look into some other grants that might be able to fund that. The Channel Migration Zone report is under review. As soon as the edits are to the team and they are incorporated, it will be live on the SRWG website. The SRWG will be working with FWP to do some trout restoration on Nilan Reservoir. **MRCDC**-Karl sent in a report via email. The River Rendezvous was well attended and the quarterly meeting went well. They worked on the proposed budget for FY22. Carie Hess, the MRCDC admin support person is resigning so they will need to fill that position.

WQPD-meeting was cancelled due to heat and smoke.

LHWG-Connor went to the LHWG meeting and has been sitting in on their E&O meeting. The group is going to captain one of the 3 cleanup sites in L&C County for Bashin' Trash. They've been looking for activities to get involved with to build momentum and are looking at longer term project planning and are interested in the Lake Helena shoreline projects. They had asked that Connor talk to Evans about any comments on needs in the community. Jeff Ryan indicated that we're going to need help for the Lake Helena project willow cutting and they could likely assist with that. Baucus said they have someone who cuts willow almost every year up by Flesher Pass on Willow Creek so there might be some options there for us.

Extension -Mat says that he's been the temporary 4-H agent since May and with the fair over, can largely go back to his regular job. They're looking for a 4-H agent and will be hiring another person. Alexa Noruk at DES is looking for landowner input on the Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Hay has been a big topic this summer. Mat has picked up on the hay testing (nitrate) and other hay quality testing and is looking for any information on what people are paying right now. General consensus is \$150/ton on the low end to \$450/ton. He's also looking for signs of blister beetle which are deadly to horses. His range evaluations around the county indicate that grass is nearly nonexistent and that people will be looking for alternatives for feeding. The fair went really well, was a record year. The kids did really well.

MACD-filled out the survey. Evans will get it submitted.

Supervisor and Staff Reports

Jeff Ryan-Resolution is on the move though we're going to need to keep hounding on this one with congressional folks, governor's office etc.; committee will begin meeting in September.

Jeanette Nordahl-said that there is a really good add out right now on stream banks. Evans will see if we can find a copy to get on the website.

John Baucus- said that the ag world is pretty dark. Range conditions are bad, hay is in tough shape, they're letting go of calves this year, where typically they'd over-winter them. There've been a lot more fires than those in the news, with 3 on their ranch alone. He mentioned NOAA's website that shows weather patterns for 3 months at a time. They have averages as well as above and below. Their estimates for next year are also really dry and warm. The ranch quit looking for extra help since they didn't get any interest.

Connor Mertz-he submitted a written report. Big things he's been working on include the Selma Held Community grant application for a pollinator grant. He's sent out a monitoring email to

participants and has been working with the Gallatin CD on how they're doing their monitoring program. Bashin' Trash has 3 sites in the county with team captains. There'll be an ad going out in the IR this week to let people know more about the project. Lakeside Bar has offered drink tokens for all the participants. The 2nd Education Walk event had 7 people, but was really a great crowd with good discussion. He's been working on outreach and logistics for the Riparian workshop in September followed by the MWCC tour the next day. The CDs and watershed group have met to discuss their presentations. A site visit on Lake Helena for the 3 landowners interested in doing willow projects. ARPA funding is a possibility but he'll look into other alternatives too. We got the truck from DNRC that they're loaning to the CD. He'll be doing the riparian assessment with Jared Payne the end of August. UMOWA project is still in the works. Connor has said that he'll help them get some volunteers for the planting this fall. He's sort of out of touch with the main guy at the moment.

Old Business

Cost Share-Ramstead – With the drought and some medical issues, they haven't been able to finish the project. They'd requested to end the cost-share and settle up with what has currently been completed. The board was in approval of doing that.
Follow up from Dearborn visit-as noted in the NRCS report section, Evans will send Sean Clancy's report to Peter Burrgraff.

New Business

Request from Colony-ARPA – One of the Hutterite Colonies has asked if the CD would be willing to do an application to the County for ARPA funds for lining the Floweree Canal and replacing the flume. The board approved that.
September Grazing workshop-Evans requested that board members planning to attend the event let her or Connor know.

310 Permit Applications

CP-03-20 Meyers (CP-01-18)-remains tabled.
CP-04-21 Rivers Motion by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb to consider this a violation. The landowner needs to immediately install Best Management Practices in the form of silt fence, straw wattles and/or coir fabric, and submit an application to repair the work done. A certified contractor will be required due to the fact that they are in a floodplain and will need a Floodplain Permit. Motion carried.
CP-05-21 Bullock- motion by Ryan and second by Nordahl to consider this a violation. Landowner needs to install BMPs immediately with a silt fence by the exposed soil and near disturbed areas. Sheet metal needs to be removed after irrigation season is complete, or by November 1. Motion carried.
EME-03-21 YPL-tabled pending documentation.
EME-04-21 Felder-tabled pending documentation
LC-18-20 Kuehn-Extension-motion by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb to approve a 1-year extension; motion carried.
LC-04-21 Eldorado HOA-Extension-motion by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb to approve a 1-year extension; motion carried.

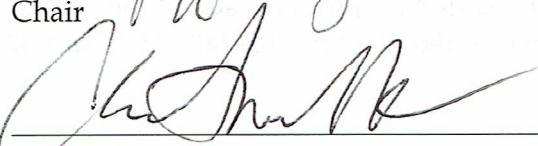
Other Business

Evans had a number of the Project Verification photos that applicants have sent in this year for board review.

The next meeting will be September 9 at 1 pm, location to be determined. This meeting will have a virtual component.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.

Chair  Date 

Recorder  Date 