



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

790 Colleen Street • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-449-5000 ext. 5

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022, 1 pm

Montana Room, DNRC, 1539 11th Avenue
Helena MT 59601 and via Zoom Conferencing

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, John Baucus, David Martin. Also in attendance were Neal and Debbie Lloyd with Larry Caulfield (310 Permit), Becky Ayre (NRCS), Steph Criswell and Katherine Certalic (DNRC), Connor Mertz, Jessica Ramirez and Chris Evans.

On Zoom conferencing were: Supervisors Sarah Howe-Cobb, Jeanette Nordahl and Stan Frasier, Bob Ganter (310 permit), Autumn Holzgen (HWCI), Tracy Wendt (SRWG) and Katie Vivian (FWP).

Introductions-Introductions were made.

Minutes-Motion by Jeff Ryan to approve the minutes as amended, second by John Baucus; motion carried.

Financial Statement-Motion by Jeanette Nordahl to approve the financial statement as presented and to pay the outstanding bills, second by Stan Frasier; motion carried.

Officer Elections-Jeanette Nordahl nominated Jeff Ryan for Chair, second by Baucus; Jeanette Nordahl nominated Karl Christians for Vice Chair, second by Frasier; John Baucus nominated Jeanette Nordahl for Treasurer, second by Howe-Cobb; nominations closed; all were elected to those positions for 2022.

Correspondence-Evans shared the thank you notes and holiday greetings from SRWG, WWC, Cold Water Engineering and Emma Link at the Cascade CD.

Public Comment-There was none.

NRCS- Becky Ayre made the NRCS report. The office is working with DNRC on a campaign to do some mailing targeted mailings in the Wolf Creek TIP boundary to establish tour dates and locations to showcase what post-projects should look like. In partnership with DNRC and other forestry folks, NRCS and other partners will talk about program options in case landowners don't want to work with NRCS and they are planning to do the same thing with the Dalton Mtn TIP. Wolf Creek phase 2 has been presented to the area and the mailings have been successful. They are hoping project tours will also generate interest among landowners in the area. The Wetland Reserve Easement application on the books since 2017/2018 should be

wrapped up this year. The field office is also working with the CD to organize a water user meeting in Craig, trying to get anyone involved with water across the county together to identify issues and talk about resources available (including NRCS, ARPA money, infrastructure bill). The office has seen a lot of applications across the county and want to identify if there is similar interest in any one area and judge larger project potential. John brought up that he'd be happy to facilitate a meeting for the Canyon Creek area, NRCS office is back at 50% staffing and back to appointments only.

DNRC CDB - Stephanie Criswell, the new DNRC-CDB Chief was present to talk about DNRC. They are collecting input from districts (forum - Feb 25th, written input, sit-down meeting) for CDB strategic plan. They will be meeting with RCAC to define the purpose of the group, currently they are mostly doing 223 grant reviews. Stephanie said that she sees a lot of blurred lines between what MACD does and the CDB does, and they are also trying to address communications piece between roles and responsibility. CDB will be using newsletter as update if they can't make it to district meetings. They will be sending out a map to all districts assigning CDB "point-person" for each district (will be able to field questions or directing them). They've talked with Laurie Zeller and Caitlin Overland about municipality incorporation at LCCD's request. The steps are: 1) petition to expand district borders 2) set hearing 3) hold hearing 4) referendum on questions 5) appointment of supervisors - 7 supervisors required (2 urban supervisors who are appointed by the municipalities).

SRWG- Tracy Wendt said that they have been project planning, applying for funds, doing grant reports. The board of directors is meeting Jan 26 (Zoom option), taking stock of BOD - don't have many people representing the headwaters (Augusta area) and would like to change that. They are going to start having quarterly meeting to see if they can improve engagement. The newsletter was sent out and has information on a lot of upcoming events They raised \$3500 with the end of year fundraiser. RiverFest is upcoming and they've partnered with Missouri River Fly Fishers. Jessica Ramirez, the BSWC member started this week. On Tracy's radar is reaching out to Nilan Water Users to see about following up on 310 issues (Krause)

MRCDC-Karl Christians said that the group is still concerned with ACOE plans for pallid sturgeon related high flows. Molly Masters got testimony and letter to FEMA with comments in suggesting they take special consideration for stream restoration projects

WQPD- no meeting since last meeting.

LHWG- Annual Meeting Date set for March 22nd at Lewis & Clark Brewing. The group is working on drafting up agenda for meeting and getting together conservation panel, want to know if Karl Christian is interested in sitting in on that panel.

Weed District-No report

HWCI- Autumn Holzgen said that they are shifting focusing more on LTPRB work out in central MT area. The original HWCI grant has ended but they are staying active with several riverbank stabilization projects.

Extension- Mat forwarded pest education series they are will be hosting this Spring. Evans will send it around to the board members who want it.

MACD-- Chris, Dave, and Jeff met with MACD reps to discuss issues which have impacted the CD not paying dues. Dave was impressed by planning they have going on - implement strategic plan, interim CD funding investigation, Chris thinks progress is being made. Jeff

agrees that Rebecca has made a huge difference in the organization. We'll see how things go in 2022.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-Drake and Jeff cut willows for the Sandbar willow for the Kilby Butte project.

John Baucus- not a lot going on, listened in on the Zoom meeting for the Tenmile Assessment discussing options. Most are very expensive. They also talked about Silver Creek - big topic was water going through subdivision, from surveys - all landowners want to do something about flooding issues, no one wants to pay for it.

Stan - weather is warm and sunny in Arizona.

Jeanette - no report.

Dave - CDOWG is moving forward with more members now.

Staff Reports

Connor-Strategic planning, Annual plan, operations plan, spending a lot of time on Lake Helena project coordination, taking over more responsibility with 310 permitting.

Chris - two weeks off for holiday (still checking email though!!), a lot going on in the various committees and other groups she works with. She passed out the NACD supervisor job descriptions which is a place for us to start with those. She is looking for feedback/ideas on 75th anniversary in 2023.

Old Business

Plans-The board reviewed the strategic plan and operational plan. There were some questions about changes. Motion by Jeff Ryan to approve the Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Budget-The CD Board will review the Budget and Operations Plan prior to the next board meeting.

310 Permit Applications

LC-12-21-Lee- revisiting this permit from last year, Greg Lee had discussed suggested changes from CD with ACOE and received permit. Motion by Jeff Ryan to approve with changes, and to waive 15 day waiting period, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-30-21 Cowdrey- recommendation by Adam Strainer to embed toe rock to 50% and approve as soon as possible to keep water above the dry. Motion to approve with modifications and to waive the 15 day waiting period by Nordahl, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-01-22 Lloyd- Culverts that were placed in violation have been removed. Neal Lloyd, the applicant, has concerns that embedding the culverts under the new application will require more boards to get water to headgate. He also commented that removal of the culverts to comply with the violation has caused disturbance in the stream. However, if he had removed them in the fall as the violation resolution required, that would not have been the case. Every year they fight to get water, despite having pretty good water rights. Last year, with the violation in place, was the first time in 20 years they had water all year. Evans explained that the point of embedding culverts adds material to the bottom of the culvert to improve fish passage as well as providing stability in case of high water. Jeff explained that, although fish passage might not be a big concern right now, it is the CD's duty to plan for a future in which it

is. Motion by Jeff Ryan that the culvert be embedded 6 inches to a foot, making sure base fill is compacted and waiving the 15 day waiting period, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

CP-01-22 Wrenfrow - tabled until we hear back from landowner, waiting on inspection with FWP and CD supervisor.

Chevallier - over the years there has been discussion about moving material in area above headgate so less material is required to divert stream flow where it is supposed to go. Jeff Ryan said that there has been past CD discussion on bringing in a professional to reconfigure stream channel. Jeff, John, Adam Strainer, and Allen McNeal should go out on site to discuss options with Chevallier. There has been no recent correspondence with Adam about water rights issues.

Danny Beutler - John Baucus got on ArcMap to look at this site. Most years showed significantly green indicating even if no surface water flowing there is definitely water close to the surface. Baucus thinks it would be best to get more details about what he is intending to do before deciding on the project. Ryan thinks at a minimum, a site visit should take place. Frasier couldn't tell from the imagery if there is another blowout if the water would reach the stream. Ryan's concern, aside from perennial/nonperennial is that if there is a blowout it will affect Wolf Creek. Ryan said he has other options, the board would like to see a formal application and a site inspection out to the site.

Other Business

David Martin gave a description of his thoughts on a display for the CD. Evans and Mertz will work on pulling together some photos that fit our Strategic Plan goals and start working on a narrative to go with each goal.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm. The next meeting will be February 10th at the same location and time.

Chair Jeff Ryan Date 2/10/22

Recorder [Signature] Date 2/10/22