



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Dearborn Community Center July 14, 2022 8:30 am.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by chairman Jeff Ryan at 8:38 am. In attendance were Chris Evans, Jessica Ramirez, John Baucus, Skyler van Dyken, Jeff Ryan, Becky Ayre, Connor Mertz.

There was no quorum, so financials and meeting minutes, as well as 310 permits, and appointed Skyler Van Dyken officially will have to wait for approval until the next meeting.

Correspondence: Thank you card from MT Wild for Chris' Rolling Rivers trailer event with Eureka School. Thank you card from MWCC for LCCD support. Letter of support request from Greenfield Irrigation District for hydropower project.

Public Comment: Baucus – Settle Ranch Easement, his main question regarding LCCD support of the letter is that it doesn't specify any benefit to conservation. There are no guards locked in on how the resources are protected. Mineral rights have been kept. No public access allowed despite being funded through public funds. Evans had sent a letter expressing concerns that there were no forestry management or range management plans outline in the easement proposal. Evans suggests taking a look at the mission statement of the board – is 'open space' something that should be included in the language? Regardless of what occurs with the easement, LCCD will keep tabs on the project in case it is sold and reach out to new landowners.

Partner Reports

NRCS (Ayre) – working on getting applications to contracts, DNRC hired a new forestry outreach employee, looking to work with them to do work on TIP boundaries, statewide meeting in September has been postponed due to COVID members, training and quality assurance meetings coming up this fall

DNRC – report in packet.

SRWG – No report.

MRCDC – report in packet. River Rendezvous next week.

WQPD (Ryan) – water treatment plant tour.

LHWG (Mertz) – their BSWC member is organizing irrigation workshops with GardenWerks throughout this Summer. They are planning for Watershed Festival, and have agreed to Captain two cleanup sites for Bashin' Trash. At their Project Committee meeting, Mertz and board discussed working together with the CD to note

and prioritize projects from 310 program, keeping LHWG in mind as a resource for landowners looking to do projects.

MACD – resolution discussion, Ryan would like to see more support from DNRC regarding the FEMA resolution. The area meeting will be in Gallatin County this year on September 30th, Convention is in Helena (November 15th–17th) this year. Area 6 staff have been busy with planning, hoping to bring in a speaker to focus on resilience (fire, flooding, drought), session following up on last Convention's legislative session, discussing what Districts would do if they received more funding.

Supervisor Reports

Ryan – WPIC tour went really well, one of the members is also on EQC and spoke support of HJ27, more CDs should be doing more outreach with legislative members.

Baucus – haying the valley, greener in the middle of July than he's seen in years, streams in his area are looking really good, seems like NOAA predicting models can't keep up with erratic weather.

Van Dyken – good rain in the Dearborn area, stream flows are still low.

Staff Reports – in meeting packet, Chris worked 6–7 hours for MACD helping them with financials while they hire a new person, but it looks like they've hired a new Operations person.

New Business

Evans will be asking the board to review the possibility of an agreement with MPERA allowing CD employees to start a 457B plan (deferred compensation). This is particularly appealing for 2 reasons: The board doesn't have to contribute unless they choose to, and at separation, all of the annual and sick leave payout can go to that fund without being taxed if the employee chooses.

Next meeting discussion on project prioritization.

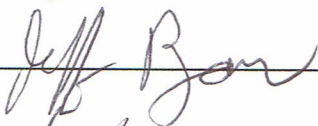
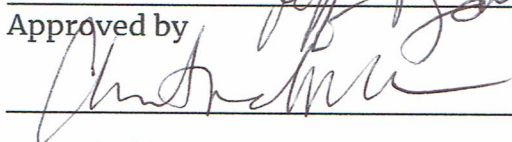
Jessica will work with Jeff to revamp willow lift demonstration for Lake Helena Watershed Festival.

Review of quarterly report

There was some discussion on the possibilities of a new conservation center. Baucus cautioned about things to consider with easements (changing landowners), "plan for the worst case scenario, hope for better than that", up for more discussion with the board at future meetings.

Having no further discussion, Ryan adjourned meeting at 9:56 to move into the Local Work Group meeting.

Approved by

Date

8/11/22

Recorded by

Date

8/11/22