



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Lambkins Restaurant, Lincoln MT
August 11, 2022 9:30 am

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by chair Jeff Ryan at 9:39 am. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Karl Christians, John Baucus, Skyler Van Dyken, Stan Frasier. Also in attendance were David Martin, Connor Mertz, Jessica Ramirez, Becky Ayre and Chris Evans.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Ryan to approve minutes for June and July, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Motion by Ryan to approve the financial statements for June and July and to pay the outstanding bills, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Motion by Frasier to appoint Skyler Van Dyken as a new board member for the Dearborn area, second by Ryan, motion carried.

Correspondence: Evans shared the correspondence to the board, including the Big Hole Watershed newsletter, the SRWG thank you note, the NRCS Partner quarterly newsletter.

Public Comment: There was none.

Partner Reports

NRCS (Ayre) – 8 EQIP applications have turned into contracts, and one CSP moved forward. They are doing some late preapprovals, so more high tunnels may get funded. Ryan asked about the commonality of the high tunnels. Becky said that it's a statewide fund pool, but they have their own pool so they are getting to be more common. Ryan asked if any of the forestry projects are close to Helena that would lend accessibility for materials for stream projects; Becky wasn't sure off the top of her head. Evans recommended checking with the Tri County Fire Safe group for potential materials. Baucus offered the encroachment areas on their place for those materials if they'll cut their own. The NRCS staff will be back on Monday from vacations and they'll be looking at moving forward with the collaborative Elk/Smith project that the Forest Service brought up at our last Local Work Group meeting. Martin asked when the last Farm Bill was done. Becky said that it's dated 2018, but

wasn't really begun for implementation until 2020. The next Farm Bill is under construction at the national level.

DNRC – Printed reports from Stephanie Criswell; Evans gave a run-down on the Legislative meeting from yesterday.

SRWG – Jessica gave a brief report for the Sun River Watershed Group. Their Rain Barrel Workshop went well. Tracy had sent a written report for both months. Dave Martin is leaving that board so they are seeking a new person from LCCD to be part of that board. For the next board meeting in October, Tracy will be sending out an update. They're hoping that the current board members will bring a potential replacement board member along to that meeting. They are also getting ready for Bashin' Trash—collaborative Missouri River cleanup, also on the Sun, August 20th.

MRCDC – Jeff Ryan and Connor Mertz went to the Missouri River Rendezvous, toured the Kilby Butte project that Connor had helped out on. Jeff said the most interesting part of that tour was the tour of the Kilby Butte Hutterite Colony. Connor said that they saw some really interesting projects.

WQPD (Ryan) – Jeff said he missed the last meeting. Connor is working on a field visit for them for the next meeting to the Lake Helena restoration projects.

LHWG (Mertz) – Connor said that they had a meeting this week that he missed due to the wetland plant training he went to. They're helping out with the Bashin' Trash on the Helena end and the Watershed Festival the following weekend. They're looking at having an annual meeting this year in the fall. He'll keep the board posted on that.

HWCI—Ryan said that Beaver analogs are being put in by that group (Autumn wasn't present).

MACD – there was discussion about the draft resolution that Jeff Ryan put together. Motion by Ryan to approve the resolution, second by Frasier; discussion continued. Motion carried. Evans will get it in to MACD by the deadline.

Area 6 meeting attendance—Ryan and Martin both plan to attend as does Evans.

Supervisor Reports

Baucus – John Baucus said it's really dry where he's at. The biggest drainage on the ranch has gone dry for the first time since his dad can remember. There was discussion about innovative practices dealing with spring developments and climate trends.

Martin – Dave has been recovering from a broken ankle.

Frasier—Stan said they've been getting rain now and then; the grass is still green around his area.

Christians—DNRC asked if the board wanted to request Governor's Environmental Contingency funds for the Matt Staff fire. Consensus was no.

Staff Reports – Connor wanted to ask the board about requests on Lake Helena project work. The old Andersen project needs revitalization on one end. There was also a request for new work closer to the causeway. It's a much larger project. He asked how the board wants to tackle project requests like that in the future. The CD doesn't have the capacity for too much hands-on work. Ryan said that the best we could do is to help with oversight, but to communicate with the landowners that the CD won't do the projects. We could probably commit to a couple of days of Jeff and/or Connor's

time to get the project work started. Connor and Jeff could put together a guidance on the critical points in time that the oversight would be needed and the CD could put in a grant or 2 for the projects. Money won't be available til March from DNRC under the new program for grants. Applications will be open from September 1 through October 15.

Connor said that someone called him on Monday who lives up Davis or Oro Fino Gulches. The landowner wanted someone to come and look at their culverts to look at cleaning out the culverts. Stan Frasier said that the same person called him.

Jessica said they finished up the Summer Education series with the Wetland Walk. They dug a little soil pit and wetland plants etc. She is starting to visit pollinator plots this month. Bashin' Trash and the Watershed Festival are coming up. She and Connor went to Dillon earlier in the week for a wetland plant ID class.

Evans also asked the board for ideas on Convention Sponsors from our area. Banks, Northwestern Energy. Town Pump/Exxon, Conoco. Home Depot, Lowes. Evans let the board know that she was asked to be the EO representative on the new Conservation District Advisory Council (the re-do of the Resource Conservation Advisory Council). Meetings shouldn't take up much time and the new format of the council should make it a much more viable group long-term.

New Business

457B plan-motion by Ryan to approve working with them for the plan, second by second by Christians; motion carried

Evans will be sending out questions to the 3 board members that we need more information from for the website.

Evans let the board know that MACD has approached us to co-host a BSWC member with a 70/30 division of time (We'd have 70%). Motion to approve by Frasier, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Evans told the board that a bank signature card update is sorely over-due. There was discussion about who should be on the bank signature card and it was decided that it should be Jeff Ryan, Karl Christians, Stan Frasier, Jeanette Nordahl and Chris Evans. Motion as such by Ryan, second by Christians; motion carried.

Review of quarterly report—CD Staff had completed this for the last meeting, but since we didn't have a quorum, brought it again. The highlighted column was 2nd quarter of 2022. The columns to the right are cumulative numbers so far this year.

310 Permits

LC-18-20 and LC-04-21-Extensions--motion by Ryan to approve extensions, second by Baucus; motion carried.

EME-01-22 Melaney—Connor said the diversion got blown out in 2019's high water. Recommendation to approve with the modification of re-seeding with native species. Motion to approve with recommendations by Ryan, second by Frasier, motion carried.
LC-17-22 Jorgenson—motion by Ryan to approve with modifications agreed to at the site visit, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LCf-18-22 Beartooth Bay RV Association-John Baucus went out on this one. You can't see it from the pictures that he sent, but when it was installed originally, some of the

bigger rocks weren't well keyed in. The rock wall was also put in vertically, so the plan is to lay it back. They'll replace the material as they finish. Motion by Baucus to approve as proposed, second by Christians; motion carried.

Other Business

Flooring/paint at the Helena Field Office-the office is supposedly going to have all new flooring and paint between August 22 and September 9th. The last local work group and Board meeting in September will be at the DNRC Russell Room. The local work group starts at 11 and the board meeting starts at 1.

Vulk place-Beth Barry has indicated continued interest and would like to meet with us again. Evans will find a time in the next couple of weeks and will let those interested know.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting will be September 8, 2022 at 1 pm and will be at the C.M. Russell Room at the DNRC at 1539 11th Avenue, Helena MT. It will be preceded by the 4th and final Local Work Group meeting from 11-12.

Approved by Jeff Ryan Date 9/8/22

Recorded by [Signature] Date 9/8/22