



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

December 8, 2022

1 pm

Conference Room

790 Colleen St., Helena and via Zoom conferencing

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm.

In attendance: Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, Jeanette Nordahl, Karl Christians, Dave Martin, Tracy Wendt, Chris Evans, Connor Mertz

Virtual: Stan Frasier, Sarah Howe-Cobb

Christians made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Financials: Evans says budget is looking pretty good this year, but she would like to make a bigger push for annual sponsors in 2023. We went a little over budget on supplies and marketing costs for 2022. Liability insurance went up in 2022 and will likely go up in 2023. Nordahl made a motion to accept financials and pay the bills, second by Christians; motion carried.

Correspondence: MACO has notified all special districts in the state will no longer be able to use its liability insurance. There was a thank you note from Julie Dooling for the invite to the legislator event and a thank you note from the Sun River Watershed Group. Evans would like to know if its ok if they take out a debit card for herself and another one for the other potential employee.

Public Comment-There was none.

Reports

NRCS-Becky Ayre: Becky is at a wedding and not in attendance today. January board meeting will potentially be at DNRC building in case of government shutdown.

DNRC-Steph Criswell: Written report in the packet.

SRWG-Tracy Wendt: Working on annual wrap-up. The group currently has a year-end fundraiser, goal of \$5,000, with a match, totaling \$10,000. There is a total of \$2.3 million for Muddy Creek work. The Floweree Canal was ineligible for funding. SRWG's RDG grant proposal was ranked high, giving it a good chance to be approved in the legislative session. Potentially looking to hire someone full time next summer, but all will depend on how grants shake out. Winter River Fest (fundraising for SRWG and area TU chapter) is happening again this year on February 18th. MRCDC is currently voting if Tracy should joint their board.

MRCDC-Karl Christians: Fort Peck flows were at 4000 cfs this past month, MRCDC is looking to document pump sites affected by fluctuations. Ranching for Rivers program is up and running again and looking for applications. Molly Masters submitted a written report in meeting packet. Overall, things have been quiet since convention.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan: WQPD has hired a facilitator to start strategic planning. They are interested in starting a Water Conservation plan for the county. WQPD also reviewed by-laws.

LHWG-Connor Mertz: Connor missed their December board meeting but was able to attend November meeting. Ally Bowe (BSWC member) finished her term in November. LHWG will have a new member onboarding in January. LHWG also wrote a letter of support for the Prickly Pear fish diversion project.

MACD: Convention went really well, board and staff in attendance thought it was a good tone. Martin thinks the resolution process can still be improved. Wendt said the only reason she heard about Convention was from attending CD meetings, she has heard from other watershed groups that they were interested in attending but didn't know when the date of the event was. Floodplain Resolution was approved. MACD and LCCD are going to work with NACD to get a resolution to get have the NACD support our work with FEMA.

Motion by Ryan, second by Baucus to approve sending Karl via round trip and hotel and registration; motion carried.

Supervisor Reports:

Ryan – working on draft Floodplain Permitting resolution to bring to NACD.

Martin – traveling in Hawaii

Christians – quiet in his neck of the woods. Checked in the Steve Granzow the other day.

Baucus – thinks they got more than average snow on Sieben this year.

Nordahl – a foot of snow in town. Snowmobilers are out.

Frazier – currently in Arizona.

Howe-Cobb – quiet up in the Augusta area.

Staff Reports

Mertz – last day on 12/23. Both the project and pollinator grant got funded. He will primarily be focusing on helping Chris with strategic/operational planning and transition documents.

Evans – most of it is on the report. Working on strategic/operational plan. She is taking some leave over the holiday.

Old Business

January board meeting will potentially be at DNRC building in case of government shutdown.

3 Bar X Conservation Center: Meeting with attorneys at the Drake Law firm this upcoming Monday to begin planning. Ryan would like to see the housing facilities repaired, to offer as an incentive to new employee. Evans threw out the idea of some potential historic restoration funding for repairs.

New Business

Grant approvals – all three grants (project, capacity, and pollinator) through DNRC were approved.

Grant Request for Mark McCauley at CR Anderson: Classes come out during lambing time, looking for sponsorship to help cover the costs of lunch. The cost is estimated to be less than \$500. Ryan made a motion to sponsor, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

EME-02-22 PPLT: Ryan made a motion to approve, second by Baucus; motion carried.

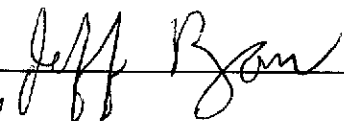
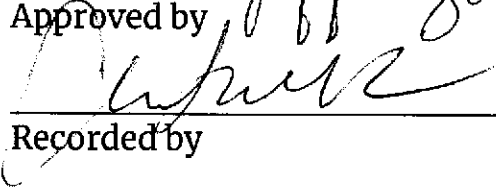
LC-28-22 Ranieri: Ryan would like to see an official diagram of the bridge plans before installation. Christians made a motion to approve with modification, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Other Business

Nordahl made a motion to adjourn meeting at 2:21pm, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Announcements

Next meeting—January 12, 2023, 1 pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, unless there is a government shutdown.

Approved by		1/12/23
		Date
Recorded by		1-12-23
		Date