



## Lewis and Clark Conservation District

790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 406.389.3895 <https://lewisandclarkcd.org>

### REGULAR MEETING Minutes

January 12, 2023

1 pm

Conference Room

790 Colleen St., Helena and via Zoom conferencing

**Call to Order:** the meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Skyler Van Dyken, John Baucus, Stan Frasier(on zoom), David Martin, Becky Ayre, Claudia Lyman and Chris Evans.

#### **Swearing in of elected supervisors:**

Elections opened for Chair: nomination of Jeff Ryan for Chair, by Sarah Howe-Cobb, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Elections opened for Vice Chair: Motion to nominate Karl Christians by Sarah Howe-Cobb, second by John Baucus; motion carried

Elections opened for Treasurer; motion by Skyler Van Dyken to nominate Jeanette Nordahl, second by Sarah Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Minutes: motion by Jeff Ryan to approve the December minutes as presented, second by John Baucus, motion carried.

**Financials:** Evans discussed the year end numbers for the CD. The CD received the big check from the County before the end of the year. The year end financials showed a positive balance of over \$11,000, so she went ahead and ordered the new computer system for the admin position. If anyone has questions about the financial statement or the budget for 2023, please let her know. Motion by Ryan to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Sarah Howe-Cobb; motion carried

Plan and budget for 2023-Evans said that she added a line item to the operations plan to, at some point in 2023, create a policy for how the district responds to emergencies like flooding, fire, etc. This came up at a recent EO event, that CDs should have some sort of strategy for how they'll respond in emergency situations. Evans will follow up with other districts and the CDB at DNRC to see if anyone has done this, and what it might look like.

**Operations, strategic and budget; motion by Ryan, second by Sarah Howe-Cobb; motion carried.**

**Correspondence:** There was minimal correspondence, a couple of christmas cards and that sort of thing.

**Public Comment-**There was none.

#### **Reports**

**NRCS-Becky Ayre:** Becky gave the report for NRCS. The office is still getting a weekly email about masking requirements for Covid. There were a number of bulletins that came out this week for EQIP, they're waiting on one for CSP. The Community Ag Fund Pool has some new guidelines and the high tunnel and pollinator are some of the practices for that pool, the sign up deadline is February 14<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 high tunnel apps in the county, and the Teton County

office is going to cover those for our office. There are 11 forestry applications with inventorying for Forest Management plans. The week of February 10<sup>th</sup>, Jason and Andrew will be going to the Soil Health Symposium. There's a grazing conference in Missoula that most of the office staff are going to. Becky said that the payments have all been made for active CSP contracts and renewals have been funded. There are 4 in Helena for the next batch of applications. HEL and 569s are being worked through as they are received. For active TIPs for 2024 FY have been read through and they got edit requests that are due back to the area by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They're interviewing for the Supervisory DC jobs, and hopefully the new person will start after the end of February.

Becky went through the Civil Rights and Cooperative Work Agreement. The current version of the Cooperative Work Agreement is almost 3 years old and sorely needs to be updated. Becky said that as a reminder to the board, producer information isn't supposed to be public. Title 6 prohibits discrimination by NRCS, program outreach is done cooperatively. Posters are all up in the NRCS office if anyone wants to look at them.

Evans mentioned that the Soil Health Symposium in February falls over the Board Meeting for February. Since we have a BSWC member who is funded through the Soil Health funding, they've set aside 2 spaces for our District to attend. Having always wanted to attend, and with it always the week of our meeting, she hasn't been able to. Given that we don't have any 310 permit applications at this point, and the fact that typically if we cancel a meeting, it's the February meeting, motion by Sarah Howe-Cobb to cancel the February meeting, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**DNRC-Steph Criswell:** Written report in the packet.

**SRWG-Tracy Wendt:** Tracy couldn't be at the meeting, but provided a brief written update that Evans read to the board.

**MRCDC-Jeff Ryan** said that the River Councils will be in town tomorrow for the Section C presentation. He will attend, and Chris Evans will be providing information for the Committee about the challenges that CD employees face.

**WQPD-**Their next meeting is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> of January which conflicts with the MACD meet and greet.

**MACD-**Legislature is in full swing and Becca is doing a great job. There will be a CD Awareness Day in the Rotunda on January 24<sup>th</sup> with the Meet and Greet to follow that evening. The funding bill is still alive, but they are actually looking at some other alternatives to that particular bill.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Ryan** – The floodplain resolution was submitted to NACD; Karl Christians will be attending to present/support for that resolution in New Orleans. Fergus CD is planning to send us \$500 to help with expenses, and Flathead will see if they can approve some help as well.

**Van Dyken**-Skyler said that he's been feeding and dealing with a lot of snow, more snow than in Augusta or the Helena area for sure.

**Baucus** –John said that the sheep are in the valley, and they've been feeding. His neighbor Zach Wirth was appointed to fill HD80 in the legislature.

**Frasier** – Stan says it's warm and sunny in Arizona.

**Howe-Cobb** – Quiet in Augusta, getting ready for calving season.

**Martin** – Dave had a slideshow about some of his trips including his visit to the Spokane Conservation District and a meeting that he had with Vicki Carter.

**Old Business**

**3 Bar X Conservation Center** – nothing new at this point. After our meeting with the lawyers, it was decided that the Vulk family needs to create the conservation easement first and make some decisions. Once they've done that, they'll get back to us on next steps.

**New Business**

Shirts/jackets/hats-With the capacity grant that was approved for us, we need to do a swag purchase. Along with coffee mugs, and some other stuff to give away, Evans would like to do another shirt/sweatshirt/hat order. Please let her know if you want something specific.


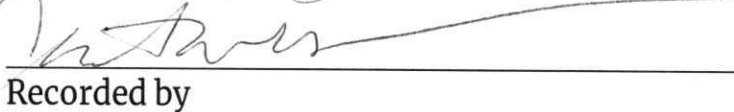
**Other Business**

Google workspace-Dealing with data and sharing data is becoming an issue at the CD office. Evans would like to explore the idea of using Google Workspace to deal with that long term. MACD uses workspace for their employees and the CDs who use their email addresses. Sponsor Drive-Evans will be working on the sponsor drive for 2023 this month. She will get some extra forms out to the Supervisors to hand out to potential sponsors.

**Announcements**

**Adjourned at 2:55 pm**

**Next meeting**—February 9, 2023, 1 pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Approved by 	Date <u>2/9/23</u>
Recorded by 	Date <u>3/9/23</u>