



# LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## REGULAR MEETING Minutes

November 8, 2022

1 pm

Montana Meeting Room, DNRC

1539 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Helena and via Zoom conferencing

**Call to Order** – Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, Karl Christians, Skyler Van Dyke, Jeanette Nordahl, Becky Ayre, Chris Evans, Jessica Ramirez, Connor Mertz

Virtual: Stan Frasier, Tracy Wendt

October minutes – motion to approve by Ryan, second by Christians; motion carried.

**Finances** – There were numerous bills to pay, mostly having to do with grants. Evans said that this is the time of the year where financials don't look great, but the big check from the county is coming soon. Motion by Ryan to approve, second by Baucus; motion carried.

**Correspondence**–Evans shared the correspondence with the board.

### Public Comment

#### Reports

**NRCS-Becky Ayre:** NRCS building is still undergoing construction. COVID reports are still coming in each Friday. They've had 21 applications (all high tunnels and forestry TIP). The FO staff are helping the Choteau office with CSP renewals. Andrew is working on a GCI application for Choteau office. Currently, for 2023 fiscal year there are 9 CSP applications on books.

Applicants are now required to fill out a workbook as part of the application. TIPS that are in the works are Wolf Creek Area 3, El Dorado, Sieben Ranch. Becky is acting Supervisory DC unit for the area at the moment.

**DNRC-Steph Criswell:** CDB report can be found in the meeting packet.

**SRWG-Tracy Wendt:** Water Management Working Group and Board Meeting in October, then Tracy took some personal time so she is still catching up.

**MRCDC-Karl Christians:** Karl missed the last meeting due to a time change, but was able to catch up from Laura. They are planning a retirement party for Jim Beck at Convention. They are involved with a working group with the CMR to bring together partners from all different interest groups. Grazing numbers on the CMR have been reduced, pushing to work collaboratively to find management solutions that are best for all interests, including pilot study to assess impacts of reduced grazing.

**WQPD-Jeff Ryan:** There was a lot of discussion at the board meeting about the Beaver Creek project. They agreed to host Watershed Festival again in 2023.

**LHWG-Connor Mertz:** LHWG is drafting up some board responsibility documents. The group hosted a Halloween trash clean-up (10/27) along York Rd. They are putting out a call for new board members.

**MACD:** Board discussion of resolutions.

Floodplain Permitting Resolution 22-01 (LCCD): Requesting that MACD and DNRC work together to communicate with FEMA regarding floodplain permitting requirements for restoration projects. (SUPPORT)

Resolution 22-02 (GCD): Adopting Gilly for online 310 permit application platform. Unsure about what the cost of this program will be, and if it should be run by a private company vs. state. (BASED ON ACTUAL VALUE, OR ABSTAIN)

Resolution 22-03 (Petroleum): Revise Nepotism Law (SUPPORT)

Resolution 22-04 (Roosevelt): Fort Peck Test Flow Mitigation (SUPPORT)

Resolution 22-05 (Big Horn): Incentive for Cover Crops (SUPPORT)

Resolution 22-06 (Valley): Opposition to foreign ownership of critical land (SUPPORT)

### **Supervisor Reports**

Ryan – Jeff thinks that HJ27 bill has a great chance of passing.

Van Dyke – ranching. They have been selling calves and moving cows.

Baucus – happy about the moisture, the snow has been making planning interesting. A lot of happy hunters on the Sieben Ranch.

Nordahl – Jeanette has been doing some traveling.

Christians – great moisture this fall. Everything is pretty quiet out his way.

Frasier – in Arizona for the winter

### **Staff Reports**

Ramirez – listed all of the events LCCD was involved with this year. Thanks to everyone for the support this year.

Mertz – Connor submitted the Lake Helena (Jewett) project grant and Pollinator grant with Helena Community Gardens. Jewett project wetland delineation has been taking some time but is almost finalized. We have received the seed from GCD for the 2023 Pollinator Initiative program. Connor has been sorting through some Rolling Rivers trailer issues for the Spring 2023 season and has been using free time to update 310 database.

Evans – Policy & procedures book for the CD are about half-done. Jeanette has offered to review the books and make recommendations. She has been working with the EO to develop New Employee training handbook. She has been involved with a lot of other EO activities and Convention.

**Old Business**

3BarX property: the property owner has had some medical issues so correspondence has been slow. Chris created spreadsheet with different goals for the property along with a timeline for each. The board needs to start develop some timeline/costs associated with renovating old property as well as developing a new building. Jeff would like to see an interview with Ray Vulk to persevere with the development of the new conservation center. District needs to figure out agreement, easement, and cost estimates before pursuing the big money.

Legislator Event – November 30: Rebecca Boslough-King will be attending.

**New Business**

Planning meeting for December – will be at the Helena USDA (CD office) conference building, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am followed by lunch then the regular board meeting

**310 Permit Applications**

LC-26-22: Van Dyke – disclosure, he leases land from the Burggraff's, so he will likely be the one doing the work. Jason Mullen's recommendations are just that work should be done before Oct.1 to not interfere with brown trout spawning. Ryan would like to be notified prior to maintenance. Ryan made a motion to grant maintenance period for 5 years, with notification, and biologist timing restrictions, Van Dyken recuses himself, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-27-22: Ryan – motion to approve with proposed setbacks, reclamation with native seed mix and weed control of disturbed areas, waiving the 15-day waiting period; second by Nordahl; motion carried.

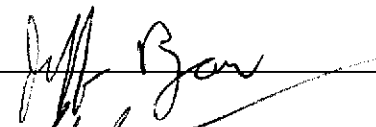
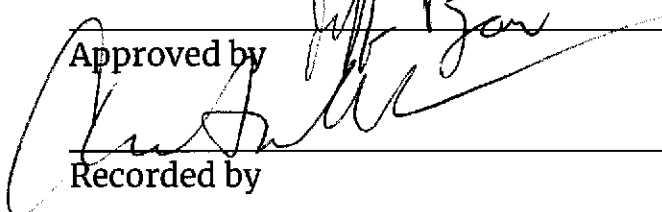
**Other Business**

Our BSWC member will be starting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll be sharing her with MACD, us 70% and MACD 30%.

**Announcements**

Nordahl made a motion to adjourn meeting at 3:07 PM, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**Next meeting**—December 8, 2022 1 pm Helena, preceded by a planning and budget meeting at 10 am.

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

