



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

September 8, 2022

1 pm

Russell Meeting Room, DNRC

1539 11th Ave, Helena and via Zoom conferencing

In attendance – Jeff Ryan, Skyler Van Dyken, John Baucus, Dave Martin, Tracy Wendt, Jessica Ramirez, Becky Ayre, Connor Mertz, *Sara Howe-Cobb (virtual)*

Call to Order -1:04 PM

Minutes-Ryan made a motion to approve August minutes, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Financials – Evans: time of year where everything is in the negatives, but the big check from the county is coming in December. Overall, some things are looking pretty good. Last month, over \$30,000 came in in grant money (Lake Helena project, Spokane Creek, EO training).

Ryan made a motion to approve budget and pay outstanding bills, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Correspondence – Certificates of election signed by supervisors present. Positions will take affect the first of January.

Public Comment

Reports

NRCS-Becky Ayre: Final two high-tunnel applications approved, another \$15,000-\$16,000 of money through EQUIP program, Wolf Creek Tour Oct. 7th to check out current TIP work, building reflooring and fencing project has begun, working on two new TIPS with Tri-County and DNRC, Smith/Elk project in the works looking to gauge interest.

DNRC-written report in meeting packet.

SRWG-Tracy Wendt: went to American Fisheries Society meeting, a lot of discussion on how the Infrastructure Bill will be distributed, Board and Water Management meeting Oct. 26, looking for a LCCD representative to join board in replacement of Dave Martin, written report in meeting packet.

MRCDC-written report in the packet.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan: went out with the LHWG board and some of the WIPIC committee to see projects on Lake Helena, plan to work with Jewett to offer financial (materials costs) and technical assistance.

LHWG-Connor Mertz: LHWG Watershed Festival was a success! Farmer's Market helped draw in a lot of folks. LHWG also helped recruit volunteers for Bashin' Trash and captain our two Lake Helena sites.

MACD – staff are busy at the EQC meeting, last meeting about HJ27 before Session starts.

Hired a new financials and operational staff member. Current discussion revolves around

where the money for bill would be coming. Pushing for a line item to cover some of MACD costs to help restructure dues system. For Area meetings, looking for Districts to come with a report of what they would do with additional funding as proposed by the bill.

Supervisor Reports

Ryan – just was attending the EQC meeting, took a look at the Beaver Creek restoration project last week, at this point Creek is running and project is looking good.

Van Dyken – been busy ranching, things are really dry on the ranch.

Baucus – things are very dry on the ranch, if we hadn't gotten rain in July, they would likely be shipping animals which they've never done in their history, grizzly bear that killed 30 sheep in the past week.

Howe-Cobb – dry and windy, Nilan Reservoir has dropped as low as it can go, bears are out looking for food, it's been a bad berry year.

Martin – ankle is still healing

Staff Reports

Ramirez – Watershed Festival, helped Jeff with poster presentation, Bashin' Trash – 17 volunteers total, asked to volunteer at Science School program.

Mertz – Bashin' Trash, Watershed Festival, working on a delineation for the Jewett project, looking for approval to move forward with Helena Community Garden pollinator project (installing native pollinator housing at each garden). Ryan made a motion to approve, second by Van Dyken; motion carried.

Evans – CDAC meeting was really interesting yesterday, group is supposed to be conduit between CDs and CARD Bureau. There was discussion about a supervisor certification program. CDAC will meet again at the Convention. Chris is going to be gone Oct. 27th-28th for Administrator Boot Camp, will be leading the discussion on boards.

New Business

3BarX Conservation Center discussion: Ryan and Evans ran through photos from the visit with the Ray Vulk and his daughter Beth Barry last month. There was some discussion on lease duration and the conservation easement that Mr. Vulk wants placed on this property which will limit types of development. Baucus think it's probably more feasible and cheaper to completely tear down existing building and rebuild. Ran through different potential possibilities for new property. Baucus wants to know estimated costs for building (replace vs refurbish), Evans has researched a little and found several potential grants for refurbishing old properties. We could work with agencies to establish conservation plantings, etc., possibly working with E Helena tech/ag program to have them do labor, Howe-Cobb is in support but we need to do a lot of research of costs. Baucus also do research on maintenance costs. There may also be other agencies that would want to co-locate with us if we were to have a facility. Baucus thinks CD needs to be very specific in lease agreement – if we decide to not continue lease, do Vulks get improvements? Do they have to buy it back from the CD? Ryan – bottom line: do we have the Board's blessing to move forward on this discussion?

Start w/ itemized list – rough costs of different components to project

- Start by talking with Cascade CD
- Potentially talk to a contractor
- Reach out to Spokane CD folks
- potential partners to work with
- List of "process" steps

- Make sure stipulations of conservation easement align with CD vision of property – new structures, etc.

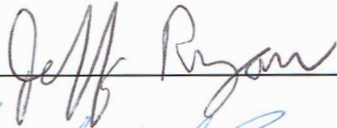
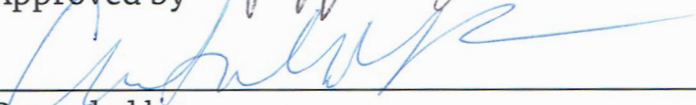
Motion from Howe-Cobb to proceed with initial planning, second by Baucus; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

LC-04-21 The applicant contacted us and said that much of the work is done by volunteers, so they hoped that the CD could extend to fall 2023. Motion to extend through September 2023 by Ryan, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07.

Next meeting—October 13, 2022 1 pm Helena, location TBD.

Approved by		10/13/22
		Date
Recorded by		10/13/22
		Date