



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023

1 pm

USDA Service Center, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT
and via Zoom Conferencing

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Ryan at 1:06 pm. In attendance in the room were Jeff Ryan, Becky Ayre and Chris Evans. In attendance online were Stan Frasier and Tracy Wendt.

Motion by Ryan, second by Baucus to approve the January and February minutes, motion carried.

Motion by Ryan to approve the financial statements and pay the outstanding bills, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Correspondence-Evans shared the current correspondence.

Public Comment-There was none.

Reports

NRCS-Becky Ayre was present to make the report for NRCS. She hopes that the end of the Covid reporting is coming soon. EQIP has pre-approvals starting to come out sometime in the next week probably. 2nd sign up deadline is March 17. There's a joint chief's project that's mostly Jefferson and Broadwater, but part of the project is in Lewis and Clark County (in the Elkhorns area). Thinning and brush management. Tomorrow is the ranking deadline for CSP. There are only 2 in this office that need to be completed, but she's helping Choteau's office too. CRP general sign up is open through April 7th and the 3 TIPS were uploaded to the state site, final review will be the end of this month. NRCS will be doing an agronomy road show, a training on wind erosion and residue. They'll be in Helena on May 4th. Part will be in the office and part will be in the field. There's a grizzly bear specialist from USFWS that could provide some education. Sean Clancy, the area engineer in the office will be leaving to go to BLM. Becky accepted the Supervisory DC job for this work unit. She said that they should backfill the DC position in Helena.

DNRC-Steph had provided some very preliminary survey results to the Area 6 Employee meeting, she also provided a written report that is in the packets.

SRWG-Tracy Wendt provided a report with her request for partner support funds this month. She gave a brief run-down on what the SRWG is up to. The 25th annual Weed Whacker Rodeo is this year. In May is the cleanup and Bashin' Trash is pending.

They're supporting some weed spray days. Still hoping to get a Board member from the Lewis and Clark CD.

MRCDC-Jeff Ryan said that the Montana resolutions at the NACD went well.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan said that the end of February there was a meeting, and was mostly a presentation by Hydrometrics about monitoring for selenium and arsenic. The plumes are either receding or are staying still. The group did some strategic planning. They had a consultant who was facilitating. There will be a few more meetings. Jeff would like to see them be a partner in the Education Center.

LHWG-no report.

Helena CORE group-Summer walk series

MACD-Evans updated the board on the Education Work Group. Meetings will be every other month on the 4th Thursday at 8 am. The teams that will be taking on the tasks are already working hard. Jeff Ryan said that the session is going okay on the CD funding side so far. Both main funding bills are alive, but will require some hard work after transmittal.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-has been busy running down willow. Tim Olds has been out on Sieben's a few times cutting some. Jeff noticed a willow cutting project out on Sevenmile off Birdseye Road in the last few days and was concerned that it was a violation. It wasn't but the willow may be available for harvesting from those piles. If it works out we may be able to cancel the March 25th volunteer cutting event. Jeff said that he got a call from FWP on the Black Sandy project. They're doing a willow cutting even on March 31st. He's going to go out on this.

John Baucus-Sheep have been shorn, and they have about 6 calves. He was out on one 310 inspection since the last meeting. He's hoping that the ice will go off soon.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-Sarah said that they're expecting bears out soon. Sarah said that Cody Barnes, south of Augusta, started an FFA program at the Augusta school and is teaching an Ag class. He approached the Cobb Foundation for funding help and Sarah thought about the CD. There are 22 kids in the class, and in the FFA, 16 students. He has a yearly budget of about \$9000 to go to events etc. Barnes has some really big plans for the group. Sarah would like to see if the District would be willing to commit some funding on an annual basis for the FFA group and other support as available/needed. Sarah said that she would try to get them to our meeting in Augusta in June. We'll revisit the amount and commitment at the next board meeting.

Stan Frasier-Stan said that there was a good lemon and orange crop this year. He should be back before the middle of April sometime.

Staff Reports-Evans provided a written report to the board. Most notably recently has been the activity of the CDAC. This group is taking on a lot of the same functions as originally proposed in Operation Outreach. They have been working with the draft survey data to move forward on some planning for Districts.

Old Business

Update on 3 Bar X Conservation Center -no update. Evans will contact Beth Barry on Friday and see where they are on their planning. There was some discussion about the potential project. John said that projects like this always take a lot of time and

oversight. We may be contracting with someone to do the bulk of that work for us. No one on the board has the time to do that amount of work.

New Business

Grant App-Feathered Pipe Ranch-Motion by Ryan to approve the application, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Sponsor Drive NWE again, and new possibilities.

Hiring paperwork for approval-Jeff would like to participate in the interviews.

Bank question-FDIC Coverage cap-Evans had been contacted by Valley Bank. There is usually a brief time every year where we are over the \$250,000 FDIC insurance cap, and they wanted to find out if we wanted to add the supplemental insurance. There was no cost, so Evans filled out the paperwork.

Liability Insurance-Evans is working with Rocky Mountain Insurance Services out of Choteau to see about this. We need to have something in place on July 1.

Day on the Range-September 21st, Lincoln. Still working on a location.

310 Permit Applications

LC-01-23-NEW-motion by Ryan to approve, second by Baucus; motion carried.



LC-02-23-Pieloch-John Baucus went out on the inspection for this application. He said that the county won't put a weight rating on railroad flat car bridges. Work should be done when it's dry, so access would be through the creek bed while the work is being done. The project is all engineered by Stahly Engineering. Motion by Baucus to approve as proposed, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Other Business

Stan Frasier asked that we change his mailing address to home address.

Announcements

Next meeting—April 13, 2023 1 pm Helena USDA Service Center.

Approved by		Date	4/13/23
Recorded by		Date	4/13/23