



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

June 8, 2023

9:30 am

Augusta Community Center, Augusta Montana
and via Zoom conferencing

9:30am-The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Ryan at 9:30 am. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Stan Frasier, and Skyler Van Dyken. John Baucus joined the meeting at 9:43 am. Also in attendance Tracy Wendt, Cody Barnes, Becky Ayre, Andrew Kretschmer, Sawyer Reagan, Joe Kremer-Herman and Chris Evans. On zoom was Danika Holmes from DNRC.

Introductions-Introductions were made.

Minutes —motion by Jeff Ryan to approve the minutes as sent, second by Sarah Howe, motion carried.

Financial Statement—motion by Jeff Ryan to approve the financial statement and to pay the outstanding bills, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Supervisor absences-Karl Christians was an excused absence. Jeanette Nordahl had not called in about her absence.

Correspondence-Evans shared what little correspondence we had, including a thank you from the Montana Biological Weed Control project.

Public Comment – There was none.

Reports

Printed reports are absolutely welcome.

NRCS-Becky Ayre and Andrew Kretschmer were present to give the NRCS report. Becky introduced Sawyer, the Pathways student for the summer. 16 applications are pre-approved, with 3 more probably getting ready this week.

DNRC-Report in the packet.

SRWG-Tracy Wendt was present to make the SRWG report. Emily Kemp with the MCC is the Conservation Fellow working with the Sun River Watershed Group. She worked with Chris Evans for a day doing some social media work while Tracy was on leave. The Muddy Creek Project will likely get going soon. It's about the 30th anniversary of that Task Force. Focus on weeds started this week with a spray day out at Elk Creek this week. The 20th or 21st is the Sun Canyon Spray Day with the Forest Service. The 25th anniversary of the Weed Whacker Rodeo is July 8th. The Predict the Peak turned into a raffle, and Tracy is doing some other fund-raising efforts. Tracy is still looking for someone from Lewis and Clark CD to sit on the SRWG board.

MRCDC-Report from Molly Masters in the packet. Jeff Ryan highlighted that the main thing is that they sent a letter to BLM about the rule changes that are proposed.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan attended via zoom at their last meeting. They're still working on the strategic plan. They did indicate that they want to be a major partner/participant if/when we get the conservation center going.

LHWG-this group is looking for board members and the Watershed Festival is coming up too. **Helena CORE group**-Joe Kremer-Herman is sitting in on these meetings for the CD. The group has started their Education Summer Walk Series and the CD is doing 2 again, one on Streams later this month and one on Wetlands in July.

MACD-Spring Board meeting this week. Evans presented on behalf of the Employee Organization, and they hosted a BBQ on Wednesday night.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan said that Ian Robertson mentioned that he's getting some mortality on his willows on the soil lift on Lake Helena. It's some kind of fungus that attacks mostly young plants.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-commented on the green, rain and flowers.

John Baucus-apologized for being late. It is very green, but the DNRC was fighting a fire in Wolf Creek Canyon just a few days ago.

Stan Frasier-He said the grass is doing well, but the weeds seem to be running late this year.

Skyler Van Dyken-Also green in his area, streams are running

Staff Reports-Evans included a written report for the board in the packet, Joe Kremer-Herman introduced himself to those he had not yet met.

Old Business

Decision on Liability Coverage-Discussion about the cost of the insurance. Jeff thinks it's worth it and John Baucus concurred. Motion by Ryan to approve payment of the full price, second by Frasier. Motion carried.

New Business

Augusta FFA program multi-year donation potential-Cody Barnes introduced their program and handed out a report to the group. He's accepting donations, no specific amount. He said the money they've raised so far has been spent on hotels. The group is hoping to get a calf pulling machine that the kids can learn hands-on. He has some funding for it, but is looking for more. 75% to 80% of the FFA students in Augusta's chapter come from Ag families. He is working to separate the FFA chapter work from the Augusta Ag Ed program. He'd like to get a hydroponics set up going too. Motion by Ryan to commit to giving the program \$500 per year for 5 years, amended by John Baucus to hinge on Cody being part of the program with an annual report with the invoice every year, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried as amended. During the Augusta Rodeo, they're going to have a cornhole tournament between the store and the Buckhorn. The bars will be donating raffle baskets too.

310 Permit Applications

CP-01-23 Bostrom-Tabled. It is unclear who might have done the work as it was purchased recently.

CP-02-23 Lakefront Lodge-Motion by Frasier to determine that this was a violation and that the landowner should get a permit to follow recommendations from the team, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

CP-03-23 Burns- Motion by Frasier to determine that this was a violation and to get a permit to follow recommendations from the team, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

CP-04-23 Smith- Motion by Frasier to determine that this was a violation and to get permit to follow recommendations from the team, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

CP-05-23 Skeffington Family Trust-inspection pending

LC-08-23 Northwestern Energy-Motion by Ryan to approve, second by Frasier, waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-09-23 Campbell-motion to approve by Ryan, second by Van Dyken; motion carried.

LC-10-23 Richardson-motion to approve by Ryan, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-11-23 Daws- motion by Ryan to approve, waiving the 15 days, second by Frasier; motion carried, John Baucus abstained.

Other Business

CD Self Audit-Evans reviewed the self-audit for operations with the board and asked for their input on a few places.




June 19th Holiday-as per our personnel policy, motion by Ryan to approve, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Parking Lot

Update on 3 Bar X Conservation Center-Pending

10:47 AM-Adjourn to the Local Work Group Meeting

Next meeting—July 13, 2023 at 8:30 am, Dearborn Community Center, Hwy 434, Wolf Creek, Montana.

Approved by		Date	7/13/23
Recorded by		Date	7-13-23
		Date	7/12/22