



## Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

### REGULAR MEETING Minutes

August 10, 2023

9:30 am

Lambkin's Restaurant, Lincoln Montana

**9:50 am**-The meeting was called to order at 9:50 am by chair Jeff Ryan. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, Jeanette Nordahl, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Stan Frasier, Tracy Wendt, Chris Evans. Joe Kremer-Herman joined the meeting at 10:05. Sherri Berrin joined the meeting at 10:48 am.

**Introductions**—Introductions were made

**Minutes** —minutes motion by Ryan, second Baucus to approve minutes as presented; motion carried.

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

**Supervisor absences**-Karl Christians and Skyler Van Dyken were excused.

**Correspondence**-Sun River Watershed Group Thank you note.

**Public Comment** - There was none

### Reports

**NRCS**-Becky and Andrew are at the DC meeting, Jason is doing some field work and Sawyer is at a training.

**DNRC**-John said that DNRC has a short deadline for a forestry grant. Jeff Ryan asked about the notice received recently about water rights. John Baucus will check into it.

**SRWG**-Tracy Wendt pointed out the letter that was passed around about the SRWG board reminding the CD about the held board position for the board. Evans and Ryan talked about it and have asked Joe if he's interested. He said that he would be willing to do the job for now. John said that he'll back Joe up and then Sarah said she'd be willing to do it sometime in the future. Tracy will follow up with Joe about the position to talk more about it. Tracy said they are closing out 3 DNRC grants. They're looking at applying for 3 or 4 BOR grants. One will be a follow up on their master plan, and she would like to do a watershed wide master plan utilizing old reports to inform some field work to create that. Evans told Tracy to let her know if she needs the various report copies that we've had done. Another grant would be a capacity building grant. They have a couple of events to come. The Weed Whacker Rodeo went really well. They collected houndstongue and knapweed this year.

Their other events-Emily is up by Arnold Coulee doing the volunteer event getting ready for the Low-Tech Process Based restoration project. Joe is planning to attend the event. Ryan said that it really engages people to get involved and it's a hands-on project. Bashin' Trash is the next weekend. She gave extra flyers to Chris Evans to hand out around the area. Evans will be sure to share it to the CD social media accounts. Next year is the watershed group's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and she's planning some pretty ambitious events, so stay tuned. They had a gauge on Muddy Creek that got vandalized and are following up on who may have done that.

**MRCDC**-Karl wasn't here, but Jeff gave a brief report, they are still fighting about water flows in the Missouri.

**WQPD**-Tour cancelled

**LHWG**-The watershed festival is this weekend, and usually gets a good number of people. Evans, Kremer-Herman and Ryan will be attending.

**Helena CORE group**-Summer walks are ongoing with that group. Everyone is in the full swing of activities this season. Montana Wild is gearing up for school to start again. Jeff thanked Joe for sending him the website on willow species.

**MACD**-Area meetings are coming up, and the Area 6 meeting is hosted in Whitehall on September 28<sup>th</sup> by the Jefferson Valley CD. Evans passed around the information for that meeting and encouraged supervisors to attend, especially if they've never gone to one before. Convention is November 14-17 in Billings, hosted by the Area 4 Districts. Evans handed around a draft agenda and encouraged supervisors to attend, especially if they've never been to one before.

### **Supervisor Reports**

**Jeff Ryan**—Jeff will be at the Watershed Festival on Saturday with Joe and Chris.

**Jeanette Nordahl**-Jeanette said that the Roger's Pass fire kicked up but the weather damped it down.

**Sarah Howe-Cobb**-Things have been quiet, and no fires so far.

**Stan Frasier**-Stan said the biggest thing going on in his area is the EPA cleanup that's been going on for 25 years. They're working on about 150 new sites and hauling material to the Luttrell Pit up on the Divide. There was a big article in today's newspaper about an old proposed dam (BOR) to flood the Paradise Valley. The article was a retrospective on how the project was stopped.

**John Baucus**-John said all of their hay got rained on before it was put up. There was a 30 day stretch with no rain.

**Staff Reports**-Staff reports were included in the packet.

### **Old Business**

John asked about the Vulk property discussion. Chris will reach out to Beth about the easement draft if they have one figured out.

Sarah asked about the LF ranch application and if we've heard anything back from Andrew. We have not as of yet.

### **310 Permit Applications**

CP-01-23 Bostrom-Motion to drop due to inability to find people who did the work by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

CP-05-23 Skeffington Family Trust-Motion by Ryan to consider it a violation and to use the recommendations from the site visit to have the landowner fix the problem, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-17-23 Winters--Jeanette and Joe gave a run-down on the situation. John asked if NWE would be interested in putting some funding toward the project. Evans can reach out and ask. Motion by Nordahl to approve with recommendations, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried. Frasier said we should have Jeanette write a letter to the county on behalf of the CD. Jeanette and Chris will work on that letter together.

LC-19-23-NWE-motion by Ryan to approve with modifications, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-20-23-Dillon-John and Joe talked about the proposed project. Jason and John didn't ask for a site visit. Motion by Ryan to approve as proposed, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-21-23-Schneiderhan—Motion by Ryan to approve with modifications, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-22-23 Daw—Joe indicated that he's waiting to hear back from Adam Strainer on whether he'd like to inspect or not. This is tabled until next meeting.

**Other Business**

**Parking Lot**

Update on 3 Bar X Conservation Center

**Next meeting**—September 14, 2023 USDA Service Center, Helena MT at 1 pm.

Approved by Jeff Ryan Date 9/14/23

Recorded by [Signature] Date 9/14/23