



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

September 14, 2023

1:00 pm

USDA Service Center, 790 Colleen Street, Helena Montana & by Zoom

Call to Order-The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Ryan at 12:57 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, Stan Frasier, Skyler Van Dyken. Also in attendance were Tracy Wendt, Emily Kemp, Joe Kremer-Herman, Christian Lehnert, Andrew Kretschmer and Chris Evans. On Zoom was Sarah Howe-Cobb. John Baucus joined the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Introductions—Introductions were made.

Minutes —Motion by Ryan to approve minutes as sent, second by Jeanette Nordahl; motion carried.

Financial Statement—motion by Nordahl to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried..

Supervisor absences-Karl Christians is in Tennessee and thought he'd zoom in, but must not have been able to.

Correspondence-there was none.

Public Comment -There was none.

Reports

NRCS-Twelve EQIP Contracts have been obligated. The pathways student is done and has returned to school. A tentative offer was made for a forestry position, but they haven't heard back yet. They aren't sure when that will be finalized, but housing may become an issue with that. NRCS has asked that if we know of any available rentals to let them know. Karl had asked at a previous meeting about CDs reviewing contract documents. Andrew said that after asking questions about it, the change was made to reflect the amount of personal information that is now included in the contracts. Andrew thanked the board for the work done on the Local Work Group meetings this year. Application deadline for next year is October 27th.

DNRC-Written report from DNRC.

SRWG- Tracy Wendt said that they had the river cleanup this year. They had some team captains that couldn't participate. They didn't do all the planning calls this year and that may have contributed to a reduction in participation. Timing also probably had something

to do with it. They'll be back next year. They had a bear aware event at the Sun Canyon Lodge that was sort of last minutes but well attended with about 20 people attending. They discussed activities around the house and yard as well as hunting concerns etc. The watershed is going to try to host another one this winter in the Great Falls area. Tracy worked with NRCS out of Great Falls to draft a WaterSmart grant. Tracy will be attending the RRG Stakeholder meeting on the grant program. Water Quality Monitoring is ongoing. She's hoping that they'll have a technician on board next year, but may not have the money until 3 months in or so. She'll be asking for help to cover that if so. Tracy is applying for a number of grants this year and will be requesting support letters. Emily Kemp talked about the Low Tech project that they did, (provided handout). The first part of the project was willow and natural material collections. Round two was the actual building of the structures. Jeff Ryan asked about the cost per structure. Tracy said that it really varies depending on the size of the stream, the type of posts and other material. It's typically a low cost solution to channel incision. Because their workshop fell in the middle of harvest, they're going to look at doing a workshop in 2024 or 25. Tracy is going to apply for funding to do some site selection across the watershed to do some more work. Stan Frasier said he's watched a couple of videos recently on this type of structures and similar structures that slow the flow down. Tracy said that it'll be interesting to see if any beavers actually come in and like the site or if they'll need to maintain them. Jeff said it would be interesting to use dormant cottonwood in place of the posts. They might grow as trees. Jeff Ryan asked when Emily is done, October 20th is the end of her term.

MRCDC-Jeff Ryan said that he was in on the call in the past month. The main concern is still the Army Corps test flows. The quarterly meeting is in Malta on the 20th.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan wasn't at the last meeting. It was a tour of the restoration site on Prickly Pear Creek. They were going to go to the 2nd restoration site on Tryan's but Jeff wasn't sure if they made it to the 2nd one.

LHWG-Stan asked how the watershed festival went. Jeff, Joe and Chris were all there. The numbers didn't seem to be as high this year but those who stopped were really engaged.

Helena CORE group-Joe updated the group on the CORE activities. It's been a really great group for the CD to be engaged with.

MACD-Evans updated the board on the latest with the Area Meetings and Convention. Jeff and Jeanette may go to convention.

Weed District-They've been able to focus on county roads pretty well this year. They took care of the hydroseeding for the Black Sandy project for FWP. They'll be doing the Franklin Mine road hydroseeding and a chunk out by the landfill. Rush Skeleton weed has made it to the east side of the Divide. It was found on Fort Harrison and also a subdivision review and found it out by Canyon Ferry Road. John Baucus asked what the herbicide mix would be for it. Christian said that they're working on what the recommendations will be. Tordon, Milestone, Rinskor and Telar are what they're working with right now.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-Jeff basically gave his report with the Lake Helena Watershed Festival.

Skyler Van Dyken-Skyler said that conditions are good this year.

John Baucus-Finished haying 2 days ago, good crop this year, though the alfalfa kill probably dropped the nutrients. 1st week of October they'll be bringing the sheep home. They didn't go to the Helmville area this year due to development over by the Mannix ranch.

Stan Frasier-They'll be headed south around the first of November.

Jeanette Nordahl-They've had some bear activity. It probably froze this morning. Jeanette said that they are going south for the winter this year too.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-Corey from FFA had about 155 kids from around central Montana. He hasn't gotten the check (Augusta School District FFA program); Chris had talked to him about where to send that check, it was concluded that it would be best sent to Sarah.

Staff Reports-

District related-Turning over the bulk of 310 stuff to Joe. Planning for year end and 2024 is already in the works. We're looking at a cheat grass workshop with Extension and the Weed District in Jan/Feb. Evans is in preliminary planning for a tour of the Beaver Creek project in June, with Alli Russel's help.

Evans asked when the Board wants to do their planning/budget meeting. November sounds like it would work best.

Old Business

Floodplain permit issues-Jeff Ryan said we need to keep the work going on the resolution, checking in with NACD, and working with the Montana Joint Stream Restoration Committee. The lieutenant governor would like to take on the issue under the Red Tape Initiative. Aside from that, we've exhausted much of the work that we can do. FEMA will take several years to get through the potential changes in their regulations.

New Business

Cheatgrass Management Workshop with Extension

Montana Elders Fairground Event (April)-Jeff Ryan had sent out an email about this event. The event is to primarily benefit young people, exposing them to outdoor sports and activities. Jeff was asked if we could participate with the Rolling Rivers Trailer and the Willow Display.

310 Permit Applications

CP-06-23 Settle-motion by Ryan that it's not a violation, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-17-23 Winters-Motion by Nordahl to seek technical review, second by Frasier; Jeff Ryan said that he looked at the site when he worked at DEQ. The bridge is a pinch point causing deposition and lateral migration. A real fix is a longer bridge. Asking the county to come up with a proactive versus reactive plan might work better (Baucus).

LC-22-23 Daw-motion by Nordahl to table pending further information, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Other Business

3BarX Conservation Center discussion

Executive Session for Employee Review-The board adjourned to executive session to look at the 6 month review for Joe Kremer-Herman. Raise-Motion by Van Dyken to give a 1\$ raise at 6 months, second by Baucus.

Parking Lot

ADJOURNED AT 3:30

Next meeting—October 12, 2023 USDA Service Center, Helena MT at 1 pm.

Approved by Jeff Ryan Date 10/12/23

Recorded by [Signature] Date 10/12/23