



# Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

## REGULAR MEETING Minutes

October 12, 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 12:59 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, Stan Frasier and Karl Christians. Also in attendance were Joe Kremer-Herman, Andrew Kretschmer and Chris Evans. On zoom were supervisor Skyler Van Dyken, Mary Hendrix, and Emily Kemp. Supervisor Sarah Howe-Cobb joined the meeting at 1:05 pm by Zoom.

**Introductions**—Introductions were made.

**Minutes** —motion by Ryan to approve minutes as sent, second by Frasier; motion carried.

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

**Supervisor absences**-John Baucus is working cows, Sarah is going to get on a bit later.

**Correspondence**-Evans handed around the NACD annual report booklet.

**Public Comment** -There was none.

### Reports

**NRCS**-Andrew passed around a printed report. Andrew said, in addition, that they're rolling into the new TIPs cycle. He'll also put the Tri County Fire safe working group in touch with Chris Evans for newsletter topics. The Birdseye area is in need of some assistance in regard to community agriculture.

**DNRC**-Mary Hendrix was on zoom and made a report from DNRC. She said that she hopes to be at upcoming meetings in person. They've had 5 grants submitted with many still in draft form. CDB staff will review apps on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Applications requesting \$10,000 or more go to the CDAC for recommendations. CDB is working on a new wage survey. They did one in 2021 but the new one will be coming out soon. They are reviewing the CD operations audit document and updating it. They'll be reviewing the MCA code that was affected by the last session, and will be planning to do updates on the law book for Conservation Districts.

**SRWG**-Emily Kemp said that Tracy can't be at the meeting today, she's working on some big grants. They have an upcoming Water Management work group meeting and a regular meeting. That meeting they'll be voting Joe Kremer-Herman onto their board. Tracy gave a

presentation as a partner at the Area 3 meeting. Tracy will try to be here in person for the November meeting, weather dependent. Her main focus right now is grants. Winter River Fest will be in February. This is the last meeting that Emily will be with us. Her last day is October 19<sup>th</sup>. She has enjoyed her time with the SRWG and MCC and says she has learned a lot.

**MRCDC**-Karl Christians said that they had their quarterly meeting in Malta. They had an update from the Montana Invasive Woody Species group. John Chase would like to see some analytics from the Living on the Banks site. The group discussed adjusting key words for the Search Engine. Fort Peck test flows are still an issue. The group is trying to be engaged in the DNRC water stakeholder group. They had a couple of people who applied to be on that, but it's a pretty serious time commitment. They'd like to try to tag team as a group. CMR Community Working Group had a meeting the next day. They had Gary Adams come from APHIS to talk about grasshoppers and the FWP person talked about toads and frogs and the fact that the weather conditions were just right for a large population of them. Ann Kulczyk talked about water reservations. They've decided to contract that out with consultants. Karl said the group had some concerns about that given that it deals with water rights. Karl gave a basic description about the water reservations program. Lewis & Clark doesn't have any. Karl said that Dick Iverson's health has been a bit challenged. There's going to be a MRRIC meeting in Omaha.

**WQPD**-Stan Frasier went on the tour of the Luttrell Pit, where the EPA has been hauling mine waste for decades. The main focus has been to address the zinc and arsenic in the Rimini waste water, so they're addressing inputs from old mining adits etc. for water that goes into Ten Mile Creek. They're either diverting the water, or treating it before it goes into the city water supply.

**Helena CORE group**-Joe said that the group is still meeting. Most in the group are either wrapping up the busy season or getting ready for their busy season. The next meeting they're going to be talking about the group's structure and some potential other big projects for the group.

**MACD-**

01-Not concrete rubble for rip rap; otherwise support

02-support

03-oppose

04-oppose

05-oppose the governor part; support delisting

Convention-Karl will be there for at least part of it and Jeff will probably ride with Karl.

Evans will reserve a 3<sup>rd</sup> hotel room and will register them for the part of convention that they're attending.

**Weed District**-Christian Lehnert gave a report to the board. He was happy to provide the trailer to the Day on the Range in Lincoln, and is looking forward to working with the CD and Extension on a cheat grass management workshop for winter.

**Supervisor Reports**

**Jeff Ryan**-The Montana Elder's event is Montana Matters Youth Outdoor Experience. The group has lined up the multipurpose building at the fairgrounds. The Weed Trailer, the

Rainfall simulator, the Rolling Rivers Trailer and the Willow display will also be there. The Montana Wild Turkey group will also be there.

**Skyler Van Dyken**-Skyler said all the cows are out of the mountains, and they'll ship next week. He has enjoyed the fall weather this year. They did have a grizzly kill last month.

**Karl Christians**-Karl said that the ag work has been a lot this year. Referring back to the delisting question for grizzly bears, the belief is that the bears will be more people-wise if they're de-listed. Helena Valley lost a lot of their alfalfa to winter-kill which was quite a hit. Karl said that he lost almost all of his alfalfa. In the north valley, it was a bit more of a mosaic. They brought up a person from MSU to talk to a group of people about it. It's been a good water year, at least in his area, and also a good weed year.

**Stan Frasier**-Stan is starting preparations to head south, he'll leave before the November meeting and won't be back until April.

**Jeanette Nordahl**-Jeanette said that in 5 days they have had a number of unexpected animal guests on camera at her house. She and Joe and Patrick went out on a site visit. She asked the landowner how he found out about the 310 law. He said it was really hard, so that's something that the CD should probably work on. Next year they're planning on significant road work in the Lincoln area.

**Sarah Howe-Cobb**-Sarah said that it's been quiet in the Augusta area.

**Staff Reports**-Joe said his highlights are the wetland delineation training that he went to. He said there were a number attending from out of state. He said that next week is a busy one with a site visit, LHWG meeting, a training in Missoula, and the end of the month he's going to do some work with PPLT. He's going to check out the pile of dirt on PPLT's place to see if they'd be willing to shift some of it to the Ryan Blake proposed project.

Chris has been working on grant reports and a grant application along with the normal stuff for the office. The employee organization load has been high, but will improve over time as the structure improves for the group. Jeff talked a bit about the Blake project.

Andrew recommended not using compost, using topsoil.

Chris Evans said that she's been busy with the quarterly grant reports, and will be happy to wrap more than a few up. She's been working extensively with the Employee Organization, including on her off time, getting ready for new bylaws, and the submission of the nonprofit paperwork for the organization. She has started work on the Operations Plan for 2024, and some recommended updates to the CD's Strategic Plan.

### **Old Business**

Evans will be in touch with Mary Hollow at PPLT after the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month, when things settle down a bit, to set up a meeting between her, the CD and Beth Barry.

### **New Business**

Google voice discussion-motion by Nordahl to review the options, and the cost and whether a number would transfer to a new employee, how well it would work in poor service areas; second by Frasier; motion carried. Evans will move forward with finding answers.

Grant application-motion by Ryan to proceed with the application for the proposed Blake project on Lake Helena; second by Christians; motion carried.

**310 Permit Applications**

CP-07-23 MREC-Motion by Ryan to call it a violation and that while there’s no work to do to fix it, that it deserves a violation letter, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

EME-01-23 Bristow-motion by Frasier to approve work as done; second by Christians, motion carried.

LC-23-23-Jewett-tabled until we get a plan motion.

LC-24-23-Swan-Stream flows year-round, but is pretty small. Motion by Nordahl to approve as proposed, with 18-inch culverts, waiving the 15 days; second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-25-23-Beck-Tabled pending site visit.

LC-26-23- Lindgren-motion by Ryan to approve as proposed, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-27-23-Miller-Motion by Nordahl to approve as proposed, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-28-23-Sherril-The ford will be used for logging equipment and trucks (trucks daily); Strainer would like them to use wattles or silt fence while the crossing is in use; motion by Frasier to approve with amendments and an additional amendment to remove the silt barrier when project is complete, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-29-23-NWE-no site visit was requested. Motion by Nordahl to approve, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-30-23 pending a site visit.

Weed Control language to cite the MCA about invasive species-Ryan would like to put in language on every permit that the CD issues to require a weed management plan for every project. Frasier said that a reminder on every permit and project verification form citing MCA with language that the landowner. Evans will work with NRCS’ language “this permit is approved subject to the understanding that the applicant will address any invasive species

**Next meeting**—The next meeting will be November 9, 2023 at 1 pm, and will be preceded by a planning meeting from 10-noon. The District will provide lunch.

Adjournment at 2:53 pm.

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Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_