



# Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

## REGULAR MEETING Minutes

November 9, 2023

1:00 pm

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

**Call To Order:** the meeting was called to order by Jeff Ryan at 1:05 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan and John Baucus in the room, Jeanette Nordahl, Skyler Van Dyken and Stan Frasier on zoom. Also in attendance were Zach Williams, Tracy Wendt, Joe Kremer-Herman, Chris Evans and Mary Hendrix. Katie Vivian rejoined the meeting at 1:58 pm.

**Introductions-**Introductions were made.

**Minutes-**motion by Ryan to approve the minutes as sent, second by Van Dyken; motion carried.

**Financial Statement-**Motion by Ryan to approve the financials and pay the outstanding bills, second by Baucus; motion carried.

**Supervisor Absences:** Sarah Howe-Cobb is out for a while due to medical issues; Karl Christians is out at another meeting.

**Public Comment-**There was none.

**Correspondence-**There was none other than what otherwise applies further in the agenda.

**NRCS-**Zach Williams gave the NRCS report, Andrew also provided a written report.

**DNRC-**Mary Hendrix was online for the DNRC report. Assessment document is due the end of June 2024. With the MACD convention next week, 9 grant applications will be presented to the CDAC for review. The other 5 were below \$10,000 and will be decided on by the CDB staff. MEPA requires public comment availability. Mary also talked about the floating holiday. It replaces the every-other-year election day holiday. The new holiday is offered every year instead of every other year. We have until December 31<sup>st</sup> to use that holiday. HR and Payroll at DNRC said it's a standalone benefit that the CD pays to employee. \*\*Create a separate category for the Floating Holiday for right Joe and Chris are both taking this the day after thanksgiving.

**SRWG-**Tracy Wendt has elected not to apply for a BSWC member in 2024 due to housing/office space concerns. They're hoping to hire someone part way through the year. That means that they'll need some help doing water quality monitoring. She has proposed an MOU to have Joe cover that monitoring until they can get someone hired. They would cover the cost of Joe's hours at wage + fringe except for the Permissive Levy. It would entail

about a day and a half every month. Jeff Ryan asked about what they monitor. Tracy gave some background on that and the history of their monitoring. It's 7 sites, turbidity, nutrients and temperature, pH and flows. It entails calibration and then data entry after the day of monitoring. The other big thing is that Tracy has been participating in the RRGL stakeholder meetings. The public comment period is open through tomorrow. Evans already sent in comments, partially based on Tracy's comments. Biggest problems include that many of the programs don't include staff time/expenses for management of projects or stakeholder meetings for projects. She has been working on grant reports and some events. She's submitted the invoice for the LCCD partner share. She asked if the board wants to know if they want a breakdown on how that funding is spent. She said that it's truly a partner contribution is a show of support for their organization.

Tracy was also representing the Missouri River Flyfisher Association. She said that they are willing to provide some funding for Allen Beck's proposed projects. Tracy said the group is happy to help with funding for projects that are good habitat projects. She said meeting summaries are posted online for the watershed group.

**MRCDC**-report from Molly in the meeting packet.

**WQPD**-No report

**LHWG**-Joe went to the last few meetings. The group is pretty interested in doing another Rain Barrel event. They're hopeful that the CD could help out with registration online. They are looking for volunteers for the Grizzly Gulch project. The CD could probably reach out on our volunteer list.

**Helena CORE**-Joe said that the last meeting mostly revolved around the mission and goals of the program and the group's structure. The group has been discussing how to vet new participants. The group may be instituting subcommittees as well.

**MACD**-Convention is next week. Evans and Ryan talked a bit about the importance of the business meeting on Thursday, and the need to have one of the CD supervisors on zoom for that for the vote on dues restructuring. Jeanette and Stan said, John said he could too probably. Evans will register all of them. Final votes on resolutions will also happen at those meeting.

**Cheatgrass workshop**-We have been talking with Mat and Christian about a workshop and will see where that goes.

### **Supervisor Reports**

**Jeff Ryan**-he met with the Montana Elders group. They went down to the fairgrounds to look at the building the group rented for the April 13<sup>th</sup> event. The CD will participate with the Rolling Rivers trailer, willow display.

**John Baucus**-It's been a beautiful fall, with a really nice shot of moisture in that snowstorm. Lots of hunters have been out. Opening day between North Hill and the Sieben exit had 25 vehicles parked on the right of way.

**Stan Frasier**-They got over a foot of snow at his place before they left the state. They ended up postponing their trip about a week, and are now in Arizona.

**Jeanette Nordahl**-Jeanette said they're working on getting settled. They missed the snowstorm, left before that.

**Skyler Van Dyken**-Skyler said that it's a windy beautiful day at his place. They ended up getting rid of the calves right before the snowstorm.

**Staff Reports**-Joe Kremer-Herman said that he's wrapping up stuff before his trip to France. They have a site visit to get done before Thanksgiving. The soil pile out at Sevenmile that was hopefully going to be useful for the Blake project, has had Tordon sprayed on it, so won't be usable for that project.

Evans had provided a written report, but gave highlights on her activities in the past month.

**Old Business**-3 Bar X Conservation Center-Evans had a conversation with Mary Hollow from PPLT about the property. She indicated that the size of the property excludes a true conservation easement, just because of the cost of one. There are some potential alternatives, with a conservation servitude and a land use agreement. She is going to put those alternatives together and get them to Chris Evans.

**New Business**

Morning planning session-Jeff Ryan, Joe, Chris and Katie Vivian waded through the proposed changes to the strategic plan, operations plan for 2024 and the draft budget.

**310 Permits**

LC-30-23-Plaggemeyer John Baucus gave the inspection report. Ryan said that vegetation would tie the rock rip rap together nicely. Coco fabric would be preferable to filter fabric. Key in the first layer of rock, dormant willow cuttings laid in with soil around it, then the rest of the rock. CD can provide recommendations/advice on the vegetated rip-rap. Project should be completed shortly after the ice comes off. Motion by Ryan to approve with the modifications, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-25, 32 & 33-23-Motion by Ryan to approve all three applications with the modifications recommended by the inspection teams, waiving the 15-day waiting period, condition that the estimated distances by Joe be noted in the modifications, using willow plantings/cuttings, 6 stems per foot; second by Frasier; motion carried.


LC-31-23 is inspection pending

LC-23-23 is withdrawing application

John Baucus made a motion to send flowers to Sarah Howe-Cobb, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**Next Meeting**-The next meeting will be at 1 pm, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, Helena Montana.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Approved by  Date 12/14/2023

Recorded by  Date 12/14/2023