



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2024, 1 pm

USDA Svc. Ctr. Conf Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT
and via Zoom Conferencing

Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Karl Christians at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Karl Christians, John Baucus, *Jeanette Nordahl*, *Stan Frasier*, *Skyler Van Dyken*. Also in attendance were Chris Evans, Joe Kremer-Herman, and *Molly Masters*. Italics denote attendance via Zoom. (Stan Frasier left the meeting at 2:30 pm.).

Introductions—Introductions were made.

Minutes—Motion by Baucus to approve as sent, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills—motion to approve the financials and pay the outstanding bills by Van Dyken, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Supervisor Absences—Sarah Howe-Cobb was not present. Motion by Frasier to consider her excused, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Correspondence

Frasier is interested in doing the Forestry BMPs; Joe may also want to participate.

Notary renewal-Evans got a note about the expiration of her current notary certification.

There was discussion about the value of renewing it. Stan Frasier thought it was worth keeping, Karl said that it could be left up to Evans.

Article in the paper about the East Helena CTE topic-There was a meeting at the school with the Governor, and none of the CTE council members were invited. Evans asked if we should write a letter to the school indicating the value of keeping the CTE council informed of events like this. Evans will put a letter together to the school reflecting that request.

Karl said that Mark Wolfrom at Murdochs has a bunch of metal products to donate and Karl recommended that we contact the coordinator of the Augusta FFA.

Public Comment-No public comment.

Reports

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NRCS—The NRCS staff are mostly at the Soil Health Symposium this week. Kyle Tackett had told Karl Christians that most state conservationists are not cleared to attend the NACD meeting. Karl said that the State Technical Committee meeting is March 5th in Missoula. Kremer-Herman may attend that meeting on behalf of the CD. Christians said that there are periodic complaints or issues that come up about NRCS specs and programs. The STAC meeting is the place to go to bring up those complaints and issues.

DNRC—Written report in the packet.

SRWG—Written report in the packet; Joe Kremer-Herman reminded the board about the SRWG sponsored events coming up. Tracy had prepared an MOU with the CD to have Joe do some water quality monitoring this year. It will amount to a couple of days a month most likely.

MRCDC—Their quarterly meeting is in Lewistown this year. Missouri River Rendezvous is August 22nd. Karl said that they'll be up Confederate Gulch for the MRR in Broadwater County. The solar trailer will be set up as a demonstration. Karl plans to get in touch with Dallas Diehl at the CD in Broadwater to look at the potential of doing a canal seal. Karl said that he thinks that districts need to get more involved in agency proposed rule changes. It's a lot of work to be more involved but is worth the work.

WQPD—Jeff said they had a meeting on January 23rd where Jennifer went over the annual plan. With Kathy Moore leaving, they're reorganizing and will be moving to 1930 9th Avenue. The Grizzly Gulch project is being engineered by RESPEC.

LHWG—Joe said that they are having their annual meeting March 20th at the Lewis and Clark Brewery. Joe asked if anyone else wants to present information about the Conservation District. During the presentation, they'll explain about the organizations and they'll work those details into the trivia following. They're going to be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop at GardenWerks that we are supporting.. The CD got the Education Grant to help cover the costs of that. It will be April 25th. The CD will assist with the registration and advertising.

Helena CORE—Joe said that hiring is ramping up with the members of that group. They had their meet up last night at the Ten Mile Brewery.

MACD—Evans said that the next convention will be in Great Falls. Some of the topics will be legislative related. Karl will be attending the NACD annual meeting this month. Karl is on the Forestry and Natural Resource Committee (Dean Rogge isn't going) and a Public Lands committee. Karl will be tracking down who with NACD is in charge of the floodplain resolution that we brought.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-Jeff has been pushing the Montana Elders Event in April. He has sent a number of emails out. He contacted Janet Ellis about the potential Beaver Creek tour that one of the interim committee aids was interested in. It could be a separate tour but could also be concurrent with the tour that Joe is working on coordinating.

Karl Christians-cattle prices are up, better than expected.

John Baucus-John said that the snow is good, even though we're way behind. The crows are causing issues with lambs, they peck out their tongues. There's a study going on to review the interaction between domestic sheep and bighorns that they are participating in.

Hay prices are way down due to an excess from 2023. They'll start calving in about 3 weeks, and lambing in about 5.

Skyler Van Dyken-Lots of snow, about a foot in the last week. They've started calving with about 5 on the ground. In the mountains they've gotten about 2 feet of snow.

Jeanette Nordahl-She said that we'll talk about the Blackfoot issue later in the meeting.

Stan Frasier-Stan will be back in early April.

Staff Reports

Joe Kremer-Herman-He's been working with Alli Russel at the USFS about the Beaver Creek tour. John Muhlfeld and Adam Strainer will be presenting on that. It will be in the place of a Summer Walk with Helena CORE. The other date for the summer walk will probably be the Rolling Rivers Trailer. He's working on the wake boat project. He's been doing some grasshopper training and signed up for certification for the Pollinator Project. He's been busy with the 310 program. He'll be attending a non-profit board training and the floodplain training soon. He's also working on the Threemile Project and will be looking to Brewer's for potential willow cutting.

Chris Evans gave some highlights from her written report. We were approved for our 2024 Education Program grant. This will cover the rain barrel workshop, the wake boat signs and part of the pollinator initiative this year. She has been busy with start of the year activities, and also with the Employee Organization work. She spent part of a day at the Broadwater CD with their new employee who is working on cleaning up their QuickBooks chart of accounts, which prompted her to review the updates to the BARS chart of accounts and a bit of a reorganization of our COA.

Old Business

Threemile Grant application-motion by Ryan, second by Baucus to approve sponsorship of the grant application. Motion carried.

New Business

Youth Expo-Jeff Ryan would like to put some funding toward the scholarships that the group offers to students. The camps are free to the kids who go, but it takes money to put them on. Evans said that the district has sponsored camp registrations for students in the past. Right now there is \$500 budgeted. Those are typically for the Montana Youth Range Camp, Range Days or Montana Youth Range Camp.

Motion by Baucus to approve giving \$1000 to the scholarship fund, second by Christians, motion carried. Ryan

310 Permit Applications

LC-17-23 Winters-Technical Review details-Joe has spoken with Hailey Graf at DNRC and the quote for this is about 10 times what most come in at. If we were just to ask Mike Sanctuary to come in and do the typical technical review. We got 2 responses, but one is a subcontractor for the county so pulled his bid. The work is done. Now the county floodplain permit coordinator has indicated that no floodplain permit or Army Corps permit were

applied for or issued. Motion by Ryan to drop the technical review, second by Van Dyken; motion carried.

LC-02-23 Extension Request-Motion by Ryan to extend for one year, with the comments from Jason. Second by Baucus. Motion carried.

CP-01 and 02-Pending inspection.

CP-03-24-Newman jurisdictional question-Ryan motion no jurisdiction, second by Christians; motion carried.


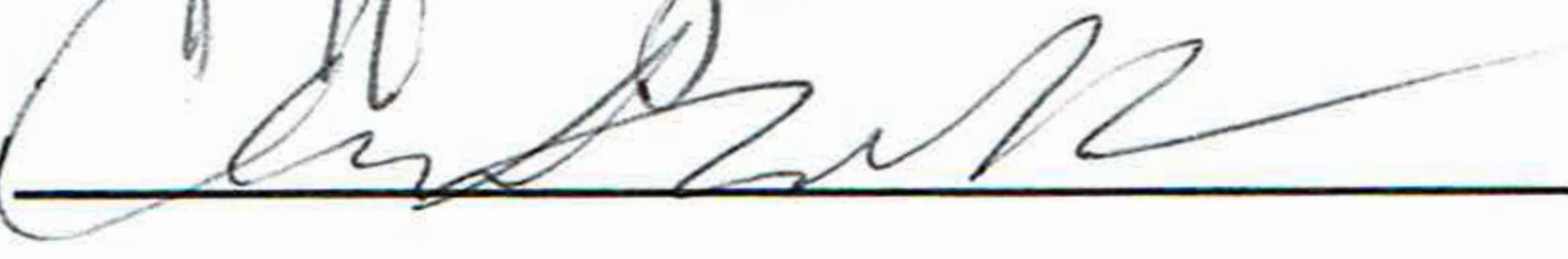
Other Business

MCDEO subcontract. Motion by Christians, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Announcements

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Next meeting—March 14, 2024 at 1 pm, USDA Service Center, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT.

Approved by  Date 3/14/24
Recorded by  Date 3/14/24