



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2024

USDA Svc. Ctr. Conf Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT

And via Zoom Conferencing

1 pm-Call to Order-The meeting was called to order by chair Jeff Ryan at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, Stan Frasier, Sarah Howe-Cobb and Jeanette Nordahl (Zoom). Also in attendance were Becky Ayre, Joe Kremer-Herman and Chris Evans.

Introductions-No introductions necessary.

Review of Governance Calendar for September

Minutes from August-Motion by Jeff Ryan to approve as sent, second by Stan Frasier; motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills-Motion by Ryan to approve the financial statement and pay the bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Supervisor Absences-Karl Christians is on a cruise so was absent.

Correspondence

Evans shared the correspondence.

Public Comment – There was none.

Reports

NRCS-Becky Ayre gave the NRCS report. It sounds like Congress won't be finalizing the next Farm Bill until after elections. They may make some payment limitation extensions, but details are unknown. There are rumors about a government shutdown at the end of the month. John asked about how that would affect people participating in programs. Becky said that for ongoing projects, it could affect reviews of projects. For new applications, it shouldn't affect too much unless it's shut down for a lengthy time. They are working to try to get ahead especially on the forestry projects. They have some TIP presentations for next year. There's an RCPP coming out sponsored by Heart of the Rockies, that is related to Grizzly Bear Conflict. Sounds like it includes range riding, electrified mats, and other things.

DNRC-Report in the packet.

SRWG-Written report in the packet. Biggest thing is they put the call out for bids for the Muddy Creek Project.

MRCDC-The Fort Peck test flow project is wrapped for the year. The Missouri River Rendezvous was done in August. Jeff said that the tour was really good. They had a demo on gold panning.

WQPD-Jeff said that they re-elected the same chair and vice chair. They're discussing changing some of their rules for board member absences. They're considering another rate increase.

LHWG-Good turnout, around 300 probably.

Helena CORE-The summer walk series is done. Most of the walks had good turnout. The different groups are either tapering off or gearing up, depending on their involvement.

MACD-Area meeting issues-We can't get into the facility to do the setup until Tuesday morning at 7 am. Evans would appreciate all the help that is possible.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-7/8s of an inch of rain overnight. Son Bob is making the rounds on Little Prickly Pear Creek as ditch rider.

Jeanette Nordahl-Not much to report, they got a lot of good rain. Mountain lions have moved out of the yard and bears have moved back in.

Stan Frasier-He got a bit more than half an inch of rain. The cell company came and removed the entire tower and pad near his place.

John Baucus-End of hay time. They got ¾ of an inch of rain. L&C County put out for bid for the D2 ditch culverts. Looks like it's going to cost more than they expected. Phil Wirth called Sunday with a concern. When they repaved Wolf Creek Canyon, there was some rock disturbance where the headgate was that needed to be addressed before they paved that part. He indicated that he needed to do minimal work, placing a couple of rocks.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-Their rain gauge blew away so she isn't sure how much they got. She is trying to find out if Cody Barnes is still interested in being on the board.

Staff Reports

Kremer-Herman-Rolling Rivers Trailer went out 4 times in the past month; he took a look at the BDAs that he helped with, Water sampling, RR, Ruby Valley CD coming up, Broadwater Elementary with the trailer. Over 4000 people this summer with the trailer. MWCC tour coming up.

Evans-Written report in packet

New Business

WQPD grant app-the Water Quality Protection District is trying to wrap up their Grizzly Gulch project. They need funding for their planting activities and have requested that the CD sponsor a project grant for them. Motion to approve by Ryan, second by Frasier; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

LC-29-23 NWE Extension request; Project should happen in October. No site visit requested. Motion by Ryan to extend for 3 months, second by Frasier; motion carried.

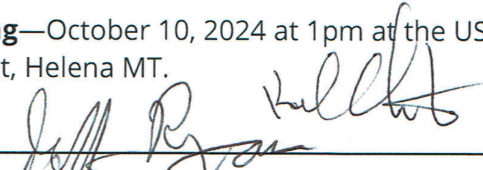
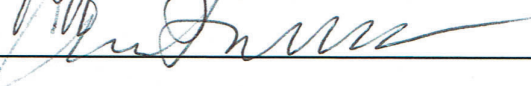
CP-04-24 Tritten-Joe said the ramp is about 50-60 feet long and about 12 feet wide in about a 10-12 foot drop. There's a public access ramp just upstream. Motion by Ryan to consider this a violation, that to address the violation, the landowner needs to provide designs, work with a contractor with restoration experience, submit a permit application, reclaim the site, include native grass seed and shrubs and erosion control matting. Application should be to the board in October with work completed by November 30th. Can come back for more time if freeze-up happens but board will have to vote on it. Second by Frasier, motion carried.

CP-06-24 Eagle Canyon Ranch LOA-Stickney Creek; Culverts washed out in a high-water event. LOA president was supposedly under the impression that they had a permit from the Army Corps; Motion by Baucus to consider the work a violation. They should place a single culvert when it washes out, replace with an arch culvert or bridge, with engineered designs, all with an approved permit. Whatever they use to replace the current culverts must span stream. Second by Frasier; motion carried.

CP-07-24 Wicklund-The neighbor said that the LO put in rock to make the log in the photo into a dam. Joe reached out to the LO who won't be back until the end of October/November. It used to be a footbridge. Water used to flow under the log. Patrick Uthe has the photos. The LO sent photos that he'd taken and it looks like water can get around it. Motion to table until the LO is back in town and a site visit can be done Ryan, second Baucus. Motion carried.

Announcements motion to adjourn by Jeanette 2:20 pm, second by Ryan.

Next meeting—October 10, 2024 at 1pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT.

Approved by  Date 10/10/24
Recorded by  Date 10/10/2024