



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 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 Jeff Ryan at 1:10 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, John Baucus, Karl Christians, Sarah Howe-Cobb and Stan Fraiser (zoom). Also in attendance were Tracy Wendt, Andrew Kretschmer, Joe Kremer-Herman and Chris Evans.

Introductions-Introductions weren't necessary.

Review of Governance Calendar for November/December-The board reviewed the month's governance calendar and that for December.

Minutes from October-Motion by Baucus to approve as sent, second by Ryan, motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills-John Baucus floated the idea of looking into 3-6 month CDs at Valley Bank in order to get a better return on our savings, which would then be applied to conservation programs. Evans will look into that. Evans detailed the situation with the county property tax bills going out late. The CD may not receive the "big check" until 2025, which will make our year end "bottom line" look pretty bad, but won't really be real. We should do a policy review for the funds in savings to be sure that it's clear where they are earmarked for. Motion by Jeanette to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Supervisor Absences-no absences.

Correspondence

NACD Dues-Motion by Karl, second by Howe-Cobb \$250; motion carried

Invite to Cascade/High Plains CD

DOA financial Report notice

NACD Resource

Public Comment - There was none.

Planning with Terry Profota was completed at the morning meeting with supervisor training for staff and supervisor succession

NRCS-Andrew presented a report with a written report.

DNRC-written report

SRWG-Tracy was present for the SRWG report and she provided a written report as well. She ran into Alan Beck recently and he's putting in some more rock. His willows had a good success rate and he wants to extend his permit. High points from her update: Hiring process for the engineering for Muddy Creek; She selected someone for the new SRWG planting; they will be

seeking CD input on a technical advisory basis in completion of their planned projects. Tracy is staying active trying to keep stream gauges functioning.

MRCDC-Karl Christians said the group is in the process of trying to hire to do an irrigator survey below Fort Peck. They meet next week during the MACD convention. They're possibly going to bring the Milk River Watershed Alliance in under the MRCDC to assist them to get things back on track. CMR Community Working Group had part 3 of their Monitoring program. They're working to refocus that group.

WQPD-Jeff Ryan said the main thing in their meeting was the presentation from DEQ's Greg Montgomery. He spoke mostly about the PFAS chemicals and gave background on how widespread they are and the cost for sampling.

LHWG-They haven't had their meeting yet.

Helena CORE-Things are pretty slow at CORE but Joe has encouraged and taken on starting a newsletter for the group.

MACD-Convention ideas-what would draw supervisors to Convention?-Workshops on topics that are either new or current; discussions related to CDs like exempt wells; different examples of projects and programs at the CD level; Worst watershed violation contest; Evans will come back to the board in March to ask about current topics.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-His son Bob is an active ditch rider on Silver Creek.

Karl Christians-Conditions are dry in his area; he's been considering the issue with kochia and wondered if there's a way the CD could do a demonstration or something. Karl said that Linda Granzow went on a month-long trip and he said that Steve is doing okay.

Jeanette Nordahl-There was a contractor that came in to cut around the power lines and they didn't clean up after themselves, she assumed that it was a NorthWestern Energy project. She's working on recruitment to replace her.

Stan Frasier-Stan said they've been in AZ about a week and a half.

John Baucus-Conditions are dry in his area as well; the crash calves that he talked about last meeting have finally moved on for the most part. Fall roundup has been good with beautiful weather. They've been working on their brush and tree project.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-her area is dry and quiet.

Staff Reports

Kremer-Herman-It was a relatively quiet month and he's wrapped up the water quality monitoring for the Sun River Watershed Group.

Evans-Written report.

New Business

Legislative Activities-Annual report will go out to legislators for Lewis & Clark County.

"Customary and Historic Maintenance"-Joe had provided an item that Hailey Graf had provided about customary and historic maintenance. No one recalls dealing with anything specifically like this. The LCCD board has required maintenance permits for this type of work.

Solar pump costs (per week, per month, damage deposit)-\$500 for damage deposit; for leasing it: \$25/week (for the first year). It's stored at Karl's at the moment. Karl's son recently bid a similar set up for \$8700.

RRT Costs-The last board meeting the board had discussed charging ½ mileage rates for hauling the trailer for entities, unless it's an event of ours. We'll work our way through problems as we go. We will also charge a damage deposit (\$300) that users will get back upon return of the unit and verification that there is no damage.

Wake boat signs language-Karl said we should focus on the main causeway arm. A sign at Black Sandy, possibly at White Sandy. Ideas floated for language were: Reduce Erosion: Wake boats should avoid marked areas; Stay closer to the center of waterbody; a QR code for LOTB; Help avoid future regulations in place of History of Hauser; Long term effects of erosion-bank damage, sedimentation in water

310 Permit Applications

LC-25-23 Beck-Alan would like an extension on this permit; as per FWP-Instream work allowed June 15-October 15. This excludes plantings or bank work that is not directly in the stream, Jeff Ryan said that the applicant could put willow in before the rock goes in, with the base of the willow in the water. Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve a 1-year extension, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

CP-04-24 Tritten-Landowner has not submitted any plans for repair; motion by Nordahl to send the 3rd letter to the landowner with the civil penalty commencement date being the date he was supposed to have plans to the Conservation District; Christians said that he can see something there from before. Joe said that the Army Corps had time stamped photos. Second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

CP-07-24 Wicklund-pending site visit

CP-08-24 Wirth-Phil Wirth indicated that he didn't think he needed a permit because he's maintaining it; Joe replied with a letter that he would need a permit. Chris will see if she can find Phil's phone number.

CP-09-24 Skeffington-When Joe and Karl went out on their trip to look at the wake boat erosion. The landowner has put sod down, clear to the water. This landowner was told last year that he was not to do that. That language was not sent in the letter though. There has not been a site visit.

LC-17-25 Barrett-This was tabled at the last meeting. Adam Geik had indicated no instream work during a specific time, but that's when Joe does the work. Adam said that no work should take place April 1-June 15. Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve a 5 year permit, with the option to renew with a site visit, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

Announcements

December after-meeting gathering-Missouri River Brewing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.

Next meeting—December 12, 2024 at 1pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT.

Approved by Jeff Ryan Date 12/18/24
Recorded by [Signature] Date 12/17/2024