



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 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 chair Jeff Ryan at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Karl Christians, *Sarah Howe-Cobb* and *Stan Frasier*. Also in attendance were Kasydi Lucas, Andrew Kretschmer, *Becky Ayre*, *Nick Heard*, Joe Kremer-Herman and Chris Evans. Greg Wirth joined the meeting at 1:54 pm. (*Italics denote virtual attendance*). John Baucus joined the meeting in person at 1:20 pm.

Introductions-Introductions were made.

Supervisor Appointment-John Baucus had forgotten to file his paperwork with Lewis and Clark County. He has indicated a willingness to continue as supervisor. Motion by Christians to appoint John Baucus as supervisor, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Review of Governance Calendar for November/December-The board reviewed the December calendar and took a brief look at the January calendar.

Minutes from November-motion by Ryan to approve November's minutes as sent, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills-Motion by Ryan to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Christians. Motion carried.

Surety Bond-motion by Christians to find out what a \$5000 bond will cost through Payne Financial, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Supervisor Absences-Jeanette Nordahl was excused.

2025 Budget-There was discussion about the proposed budget. Motion by Ryan to approve the budget as proposed, with a 2.5% cost of living raise effective for the 1st paycheck in January, second by Christians. Motion carried.

Operational Plan-Motion by Ryan to approve as presented, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Strategic Plan updates-motion by Ryan to approve as presented, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Correspondence

Evans passed around the correspondence, including a couple of subdivision notices, and a thank you card to Jeff Ryan.

Public Comment –Nick Heard was present to discuss the Pieloch application.

NRCS-Written report from Andrew at NRCS.

DNRC-Kasydi Lucas provided a written report but she said there's a bill proposed to bring CD procurement rules into line with state rules. Also the federal court case for the Ambler 310 in Flathead will have a hearing in January. Depending on that decision, the state case may be unnecessary. Randgeland Resources Council has open seats and CARDD has several grants open. CD Day at the Rotunda is January 23rd. Steph Criswell asked if LCCD wanted to have a table. Evans will plan to be that.

SRWG-Tracy is out of state at the moment.

MRCDC-Karl said there's a report in the packet from Molly. The group will be working with the Milk River Watershed Alliance to revitalize that group.

WQPD-Jeff attended their last meeting. They hired a hydrogeologist, Keegan McClanaghan, and he gave a Groundwater 101 and then they did a Septic 101. The other topic that came up was the quality of the City water supply. Joe said that all of the water is coming from the Missouri treatment plant due to some work on the Ten Mile plant. Their January meeting will probably be at the Ten Mile Treatment plant. They asked the CD to sponsor a grant for their Grizzly Gulch project which was successful. They'll probably want help with gathering willows.

LHWG-At last month's meeting they discussed the Grizzly Gulch project. They won't be doing a fall trash pickup on York Road.

Helena CORE-Joe missed the last Helena CORE meeting. Most of those groups are waiting for snow for their winter activities to begin.

MACD-Convention was decent, all the resolutions passed. MACD is fully staffed. Jeff Ryan mentioned that they might consider having the Rosgen short course for supervisors (and CD staff) at a future convention. It would be a great learning opportunity for supervisors especially.

NACD-Karl said they had a Northern Plains meeting recently. They asked about what's going on with Montana since they haven't heard too much from them. Karl said that he brought up the Forestry concerns. 40% of the Montana timber sales are in litigation. With the change in administration, the hope is to have BLM work more closely with the grazing permit lease holders. There's a convention in Salt Lake City in early February that Karl will probably have to attend.

Supervisor Reports

Jeff Ryan-His family had a successful hunting season.

Karl Christians-On behalf of the CD and Farm Bureau, Karl reviewed the proposed growth policy for Lindsey Morgan at the county. She'll be submitting comments on ag's behalf to the consultant. The next draft will be out before too long.

Stan Frasier-Nothing very exciting with him. The directional bores on Ten Mile and Sweeny–no inspection but a followup after completion. He would like Joe to pick a random handful to look at in person.

John Baucus-Warm and dry, all the livestock is out on the range. He is working on reviewing all the water rights that they got back after filing on them. He said that it appears that if leaseholders

develop a spring on private property and the conveyance ends up on state land, DNRC ends up with the water right.

Sarah Howe-Cobb-It's really windy and there have been 2 fires, both human caused, and still smoldering. Cody Barnes would like to get the \$500 installation.

Staff Reports

Kremer-Herman-Massive amount of 310 permit applications; new beaver dam has been built on Prickly Pear upstream from Wylie Drive, anchored on a couple of jersey barriers.

Evans-written report

New Business

Planning for project timelines-6 weeks prior to the deadline.

310 Permit Applications

Decision on historic and ongoing 310 permit files-The CD will be going all electronic in 2025 (saving any hard copies that come in in one folder). CD staff will begin to scan and upload 2014-2024 (keeping hard copies as long as required under records disposal rules) and will scan and index/archive the hard copies from 1976-2013, with the plan to dispose of those hard copies as required.

CP-04-24 Trettin-The landowner is having some family issues, so Joe spoke with Mike Wirth who did the work on this. It's essentially a water gap for horses. The site is fenced. Originally it was a steep bank. Motion by Christians that the landowner needs to apply for a permit to revegetate, harden the bottom, file a weed management plan, and have a follow up site visit, second by Ryan; motion carried.

CP-07-24 Wicklund-Tabled pending a site visit.

CP-08-24 Wirth-Joe was unable to get in touch with him. We did receive a letter from Phil about the history of the ditch. MDT agreed to line the ditch and install the headgate. Joe will schedule a site visit.

CP-09-24 Skeffington-landowner has done significant grading and removal of vegetation, as well as building one structure really close to the water. Motion by Baucus to consider the activity to be in violation, a permit must be obtained with a plan to do remediation work on the entire length of the disturbed bank to protect it from erosion. An Army Corps of Engineering permit will also be required. Second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-19-24 Pieloch-They want to remove the accumulated material upstream from the culverts and replace those with 5 side-by-side culverts and another 2 where the box culvert is, 55 foot length. The access serves about 4 landowners. There is concern about the passage of bedload and woody material with culverts, especially side-by-side culverts. John Baucus asked if a rail car would be a better option, cost-wise and as a better product. Getting a railroad bridge back to the site is questionable due to the nature of the road (windy, steep). Culverts can be pieced together, a bridge cannot. Motion by Baucus to table pending the landowner reviewing other options that are economically viable and more resource friendly, second by Christians; Karl asked if Greg could look at possible alternatives and get back to the CD; motion carried.

LC-20-24 NWE-no site visit requested; motion by Ryan to approve all of the NWE apps with follow up site visits to at least a few, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-21-24 NWE-no site visit requested; motion by Ryan to approve all of the NWE apps with follow up site visits to at least a few, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-22-24 NWE-no site visit requested; motion by Ryan to approve all of the NWE apps with follow up site visits to at least a few, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-23-24 NWE-no site visit requested; motion by Ryan to approve all of the NWE apps with follow up site visits to at least a few, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-24-24 NWE-no site visit requested; motion by Ryan to approve all of the NWE apps with follow up site visits to at least a few, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-25-24 Ledcor Ten Mile Cr. x Frontage Dr-Motion by Christians to approve, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-26-24 Ledcor Silver Cr. x Lincoln Rd.-Motion by Christians to approve, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-27-24 Ledcor Silver Cr. x Birdseye Rd. N-Motion by Christians to approve, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-28-24 Ledcor Silver Cr. x Birdseye Rd. S-motion by Christians to consider non-project, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-29-24 NWE Seven Mile and Ten Mile-Motion by Ryan to approve, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-30-24 Alamia-Tabled pending site visit.

LC-31-24 Ledcor Three Mile Cr. x Birdseye Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-32-24 Ledcor Park Cr. x Birdseye Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-33-24 Ledcor Park Cr. x Lone Pine Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-34-24 Ledcor Silver Cr. x Silver Creek Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-35-24 Ledcor Dog Cr. x Skelly Gulch Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-36-24 Ledcor Trib. Ten Mile Cr. x Colorado Gulch Rd.-motion by Ryan to approve 31-36, second by Christians; motion carried.

LC-37-24 Ledcor Trib. Prickly Pear Cr. x Sierra Dr.-motion by Christians to consider non-project, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-38-24 Ledcor Prickly Pear Cr.-Tabled pending site visit.

LC-39-24 Ledcor Ten Mile Cr. x US 12-Motion by Ryan to approve with follow up site visit, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-40-24 Ledcor Sweeny Cr. x Priest Pass-Motion by Ryan to approve with site visit, second by Baucus; motion carried.

Announcements

Next meeting—January 9, 2025 at 1pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT.

Approved by Jeff Ryan ^{Kalch} Date 1/9/25

Recorded by [Signature] Date 1/9/2025