



# Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2025 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 1:03 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, *Jeanette Nordahl*, *Stan Frasier*. Karl Christians joined the meeting at 1:15 pm. Also in attendance were Joe Kremer-Herman, *Tracy Wendt*, *Madison Colyer*, Sharon LaFaver and Chris Evans. (Italics denote Zoom attendance). Greg Wirth joined the meeting at 1:51 pm. Tracy left the meeting at 1:55 pm. *Nick Heard* joined the meeting at 2 pm via zoom.

**Introductions**-Introductions were made.

**Review of Governance Calendar for January February**-the calendar was reviewed. Ryan requested that Evans bring in the hard copy policies and procedures manuals so he can take a look at them. The Governance Calendar will be edited as we go through this year to have hotlinks to the electronic procedures/policies in each month.

### Supervisor Officer Elections

Motion by Baucus to nominate Jeff as Chair, second by Stan Frasier; motion carried.

Motion by Baucus to nominate Karl as Vice Chair, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Motion by Ryan to nominate Jeanette as Treasurer, second by Baucus; motion carried.

**Minutes from December**-Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes as sent, second by Baucus; motion carried.

### Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills-

Jeanette said that she just had the one question about the difference in the November vs. December balance. Evans explained that because the credit card payment was scheduled in December, but cleared through the bank in January, and she had forgotten to enter the amount in QuickBooks, the ending and beginning balances didn't match. Motion by Nordahl to approve the financials and pay the outstanding bills, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**Supervisor Absences**-Sarah Howe-Cobb was excused absent.

### Correspondence

Water Monitoring Request-Motion by Christians to not sponsor, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**Public Comment** – No comments

**NRCS**-No report

**DNRC**-Written report

**SRWG**-Tracy Wendt was on to give her report for the Watershed. She said that she missed the December event for the first time. They selected Confluence Consulting for the Muddy Creek project. The GID was selected for a Montana Bureau of Mines investigative project. It should be pretty interesting for the org to be a part of. Wadsworth pond project is mostly complete. Their big fundraiser is going to be soon and they're selling tickets for that. Their meeting this month is January 27th at the High Plains CD's new building. They have funding for a number of projects for the next few years, and so they've hired Madison Colyer to assist with getting that work completed. She is the new watershed outreach coordinator. Madison introduced herself. She's been working as a BSWC member with the Hill County CD and is now full time with SRWG.

**MRCDC**-They have been writing support letters for grant sponsorships. There was a discussion at the last meeting about the Resource Conservation Advisory Council meeting and then Conservation District Advisory Council. They would like to see another council formed for review of projects. They had a good call this morning about the oil well fracking in the northeast part of the state. It used to take about 40,000 barrels of water to frack a well, now it's over 300,000 barrels of water. Oil companies are coming in and wanting to pump massive amounts of water out of the aquifer to do the fracking. The council is concerned about the impacts on the aquifer. The CMR Community Working group will be getting moving again. On the Milk River Watershed Alliance, they're still working out the details of the MOU.

**NACD**-They will begin asking more of their committee chairs. It will open up seats for committees.

**MACD** had the resolution pass about hiring at NRCS, so Karl will probably be going to the national meeting in Salt Lake. Tom Watson's retirement party is Saturday in Three Forks.

**WQPD**-Their meeting is coming up at the Ten Mile Treatment plant.

**LHWG**-They met on Monday and will be doing an Outreach and Education meeting soon. They discussed the Grizzly Gulch planting project. Their annual meeting will be in March or April.

**Helena CORE**-No meeting this month.

**MACD**-CD Awareness Day in the Rotunda on the 23d, along with the evening meet and greet. They've started their weekly legislative meeting at 7 am on Tuesdays. The logging folks are disgruntled that CDs require them to get a permit even though they are still required to deal with the SMZ laws. There was a lengthy discussion about the Fox Hill Aquifer issue that MRCDC is dealing with. Mark Bostrom said that the aquifer tips toward North Dakota, which means it could end up being North Dakota versus Montana when it comes to problems. Jeff will continue to try to attend those meetings

**Supervisor Reports**

**Jeff Ryan**-Finally got snow in Jeff's area. They had a lot of ice on the roads.

**Karl Christians**-They have had way more geese than normal this year, in the fields and up on the regulating reservoir.

**Jeanette Nordahl**-They have snow and cold and are glad to have it.

**Stan Frasier**-Stan said that they have ripe oranges in Arizona.

**John Baucus**-Finally some snow, 6-12 inches depending on the area. They wrapped up tree work for this year.

**Staff Reports**

**Kremer-Herman**-Quiet month other than site visits. He's been working on end of year/beginning of the year stuff. He's been working on the Pollinator Workshop, probably April 8th. He's going to try to get it at the Lewis & Clark Brewery. Karl said the Missouri River Brewery back room too. Jeff asked if he'll have time for the Grizzly Gulch project assistance. It would basically be 2 events.

**Evans**-Written report.

**New Business**

Accountability Assessment-Put on hold until another meeting.

**310 Permit Applications**

CP-04-24 Trettin-Joe sent the board recommendations following the last meeting, but Joe hasn't heard back from the landowner. Tabled til next meeting.

CP-07-24 Wicklund-Lower fork of Spring Creek in the Lincoln area. Neighbor complained about structure causing high water affecting his barn. Water is passing through, on either end of the log which fell and became sort of a footbridge. Jeanette said the log has been there 20+ years. Their thoughts were that this isn't causing the problem. It appears that there's another structure downstream that appears to have been there since 2009 that might actually be the problem. The complainant said that his barn is sinking and has been there for a long time. Motion by Baucus that this particular tree is not a violation and no evidence of hauled in material was seen at the on site inspection, second by Ryan; motion carried.

CP-08-24 Wirth-The site visit was postponed due to weather. Phil Wirth had indicated that the first email went to the junk folder.

CP-09-24 Skeffington-Joe said that he spoke with the landowner and he will be working on getting a permit application back to the CD.

LC-19-24 Pieloch-Greg Wirth and Sharon LaFaver were present in the room, Nick Heard was on Zoom to talk about the project. Last month, the board tabled it with concerns about side-by-side culverts. The board had asked Greg to ask the landowner about putting in something that better spans the crossings. Mr. Pieloch had indicated to Greg that he isn't interested in doing a bridge as big as both crossings (box culvert and double culverts). He said that by the hydraulic analysis, 3 five foot culverts should suffice to convey the 50 year event. The intent of the crossing is also to provide truck access for demo work of some old buildings. Sharon LaFaver provided history that the existing structures were put in when the original subdivision happened over 30 years ago. Until last spring, she believes that there were no problems with the structures. This year, after 30 years, there was a log and debris jam which caused the water to come in and overflow. The structures are currently open after removal of the debris. The crossing is very narrow and will not accommodate truck travel due to width and the structure stability itself. They mainly need to widen the road and structure for the heavy trucks. Leaving it tabled til next month, going back to the drawing board.

LC-30-24 Alamia-Skelly Gulch Road-This one is on hold pending an update to the application following the onsite visit.

LC-38-24 Ledcor Prickly Pear Cr.-The landowner didn't grant access for the site visit. Motion to approve by Christians, second by Ryan; motion carried.

**Announcements**

Jeff Ryan said that he’s been discussing with Grant Grisak at NWE about the solar pump. We could probably get some activity with the pump this year.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

**Next meeting**—February 13, 2025 at 1pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT.


Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

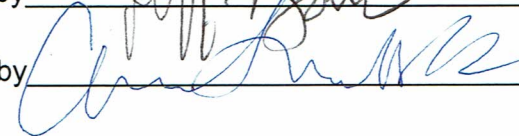
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Approved by  Jeff Ryan <sup>Paul Chit</sup> Date 2/13/25

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