



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

790 Colleen Street • Helena, Montana 59601 • 449-5000 ext. 112

Regular Meeting Minutes Augusta Youth Center, Augusta MT May 11, 2017, 1 p.m.

Call to order—the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Scott Blackman at 1 p.m. In attendance were Scott Blackman, Jeanette Nordahl, Steve Granzow, Jeff Ryan, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were David Martin, John George, Kelsey Anderson, Travis Wilson, Stacey Barta, Larry Hoffman and Chris Evans. Pat Troy joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes as sent second by Granzow; motion carried.
Motion by Nordahl to accept the financial report and pay the bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Correspondence

There was none.

Public Comment

There was none.

Reports

NRCS—John George was present to talk about the NRCS office. They are working through the special initiative backlog of applications. They have around 50 people who have called in and all of them are getting a field visit. He estimates that there should be around 15 applications with that special initiative. That deadline is May 26th. General EQIP signup is June 1 cutoff for applications for FY18. The office is a bit light on those applications this year and John would like to see some variety in land use types in the applications.

Darcy and Jenney are working on a Ladies Range Day, with one in the Dearborn Area and one in Meagher County. John was recently in D.C. meeting with leadership and getting some of the perspectives from their points of view.

A student intern (2nd year) will be in the office starting on Monday and will be working on forestry and range projects for the offices. Darcy will be out on maternity leave late fall for a few months.

John asked if there is anything going on in the individual supervisor areas that he needs to be aware of.

Jeff Ryan talked about the webinar he sat in on with NRCS. The issue under discussion was stream bank stabilization and whether it should qualify for EQIP funding.

There's an ag summit going on in Great Falls the 31st and 1st.

State Snowpack overall is looking pretty good with Meagher in the lower area. Southern part of the state got most of the moisture.

WQPD/LHWG – the meeting was cancelled.

SRWG – Travis was present to talk Sun River. Since last meeting Travis went the MWCC planning workshop in Missoula. They had some presentations on stakeholder engagement. The end of April there was an aquatic invasive species summit in Great Falls where they brought in outside experts to talk about what's happening in other states.

He's been working on planning for the weed events. They will be paying an MCC crew to pull weeds. May 23/24 is the Gibson reservoir spray day. He's been around to businesses to solicit donations for the Weed Whacker Rodeo.

The volunteer water quality sampler started up the end of April to monitor at 6 sites into October. He's hoping to work with Adam Sigler at MSU on some long term trend analysis on the historical sampling.

Lincoln area – Jeanette said they're gearing up for weed season, the water is running quite well.

MRCDC – Scott said the most recent email was about Zinke's trips assessing monuments. There is a comment period on these if people are interested.

Weed District – Hoffman said that rentals and such are in full swing. They're working on 2 ag days, one for East Helena and one for Jim Darcy school. Dearborn spray day meeting is the 18th at 5 p.m. The Community spray rigs are headed out to their sites. The mosquito population is ahead of schedule. Don't forget the Vigilante Parade on Friday.

MWCC – Kelsey talked about what MWCC is doing on the AIS monitoring program. Kelsey is reaching out to a number of folks to take the survey. They are seeking information on entities that are doing water quality monitoring as well as whatever else others are doing on AIS work. They're trying to keep from duplicating efforts. She sent out a large batch of surveys and they're hoping for good response.

Old Business

Martin had a recap of the small acreage thing in Missoula that he went to. They had over 100 people in attendance. They had soil presentations and there was lots of energy in the group. NRCS did a lot of the planning, the CDs did logistical support. Dave's going to try to get to a pasture walk this summer.

New Business

The board discussed a Juniper Workshop in light of the fact that they're hosting the Winter Grazing Seminar. It was decided to scrap the extra workshop and focus some of the WGS on juniper encroachment. Evans will look at dates that potential speakers may be available and will then look at dates for the event.

Motion by Granzow to approve the purchase of a new projector, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

LC-04-17-Decision: continues to be tabled pending more information from Applicant.

LC-16-16 – Stockdale: Motion by Ryan to extend for one year, second by Granzow; motion carried.

LC-12-17-YPL: Motion by Granzow to approve, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-13-17-Henry: Motion by Granzow to approve with FWP recommendations as modifications, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-14-17-Henry: Motion by Howe-Cobb to table pending feedback from applicant, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

LC-15-17-Durocher: Motion by Granzow to approve, adding in the requirement for willows to be included in the project, about 1 per foot, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

LC-16-17-Century Link: There was some discussion about continuing to require permits for directional boring projects. It was concluded that the board want to continue permitting given that setback for the projects have been modified over the years, as has the requirement for re-seeding etc. Motion by Nordahl to approve, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-17-17-Charles: There was comment from FWP that Eric would like to inspect this, and that there'd been some history of denying culverts in this drainage. Evans will dig up the files and get those to the Supervisor and FWP biologist. Motion to table pending inspection by Granzow, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

LC-18-17-Mord: There is some concern that this project has an existing Operations and Maintenance agreement with USFSW. Motion to table pending review and possible inspection by Howe-Cobb, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

Other Business

There was some discussion about the permissive mill levy potential for adding benefits. Evans encouraged the board to at least consider doing the paperwork to pave the way for adding benefits to an employment package after she retires. There was discussion about how it works, considering the board has been paying the "base" for several years already in the form of a health stipend. There was a motion by Howe-Cobb to move forward for a \$500/month increase, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

Adjournment to Executive Session to discuss raise.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer

Date

Recorder

Date