



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Meeting Minutes USDA Service Center, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 December 10, 2015, 1 p.m.

Call to order—meeting was called to order by Stan Frasier at 1pm. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Steve Granzow, Jeff Ryan, Bob Bushnell and Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were Alan Rollo, David Martin, Larry Hoffman, John George, Murray Strong, Jennifer McBroom, Erin Farris-Olson and Chris Evans. Scott Blackman joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Granzow to approve the minutes as sent, second by Bushnell; motion carried.

Motion by Bushnell to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Granzow; motion carried.

Correspondence

David Martin was present to talk to the board about the maintenance for the Rolling Rivers Trailers. The current grant is coming to the end of its term and Dave wanted to talk to the board about the potential for sponsoring an operations/maintenance grant. Trailers are owned by MACD and sponsored at 4 places through the state. Granzow asked about an amount, motion by Bushnell to approve sponsorship for a grant up to \$2000, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Sponsorship request for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council mural-Erin was present to talk about the mural they're putting up at the Ten Mile Brewing Company. She gave some brief history about MWCC and what their current goals are. In 2013 the organization became a 501c3 and has recently moved into its own office. They are partners in the BSWC program along with MACD. Erin showed a draft sketch of the mural of the Ten Mile Watershed, which will be 4'x12'. She asked the board if they would be interested in donating some funds. Motion by Granzow to sponsor for \$1000, second by Blackman; motion carried.

223 grant request potential-Stephanie Kellogg is finishing up her Master Gardener certification and hopes to put in a grant request to the board and DNRC to help with a community garden. She'll get back to us with details when they know more.

Public Comment

There was none.

Reports

NRCS—Business is going on with plans, about 30 applications. Pending the RCPP notification around the 16th they are just doing as normal. Rankings for projects around the end of January, should have funding lined out in March. Snowpack isn't good with the extended warm weather after the snow received in the fall. The office will be doing outreach on the Two Chief's Ten Mile project. Applications will be taken for that project through the end of May.

WQPD—Jennifer said that the hydrogeologist presented isotope data on the Helena area aquifer, Emerald Ridge, North Hills and the southeast part of Helena are areas of concern in regard to groundwater. Recharge is pretty good within the HVID area. There's pretty clear data that there are declining water levels otherwise. The other presentation was given by Jennifer on the 319 funding reduction. Rick Tryan owns property downstream from the Elliott project and they will be hopefully using that funding for the Tryan project. Jennifer said that one of the big components of the funding was their Sediment BMP's. DEQ didn't like that the group didn't have any projects in hand for that funding, so they are hoping that the Big Sky Watershed Corps member may be able to assist in getting some landowners on board and they could go back for more funding.

SRWG—Rollo was present to discuss activities on the SRWG. Rollo and Susan McNeal are continuing work on the T-Bar project on Elk Creek. The 2016 weed activity dates have been identified and he will make sure those dates go out. Alan has retired as the full-time coordinator but will continue with Elk Creek and some of the weed efforts. Phone interviews have been done and they narrowed it down to 2 people. Both will visit the area soon. Rollo is requesting some assistance to bring the person from Seattle over to finalize the interview. He is requesting \$500 for that. Motion by Blackman to approve, second by Granzow; motion carried. Once the new coordinator is hired Alan will be bringing them around to meet people in person.

MACD—There was some discussion about the State Technical Committee meeting at the convention. Evans will forward comments about the convention to MACD.

Lincoln Area—Not much happening in Lincoln, they're waiting on the snow. Bushnell said that EPA has gotten involved with weed licensing and have changed the requirements. There will be a test annually and the points that you get for going to continuing education classes are being reduced. The convention in January should have more information.

Lake Helena Watershed—Watershed Restoration Plan is in DEQ's hands currently. It's about 100 pages and details what landowners can potentially do to their own property to improve the watershed. They had to pick priorities as part of the plan. Jim Wilbur wanted to let the board know that they purchased some gates for the water gaps for the Elliott project. They are also trying to get some signage specifically the history of Stansfield Lake and some info on the project funders.

MRCDC—Rachel's letter was primarily about the convention for MACD. They're having a sage grouse initiative committee meeting next week. They're wrapping up the year and prepping for next year.

Weed District—Larry said they have a Lincoln Vegetation Management group meeting. They are trying to get the different areas around the Lincoln Valley into groups and doing some work on weeds and revegetation. Around 15 showed up at yesterday's meeting. They are working on getting the weed interest and education up to speed. Karen Good from the group should be contacting the CD regarding newsletters and such.

The weed board last week looked at developing a public awareness education series to increase awareness on timing of managing noxious weeds. They would like to get the CD involved in that project. They applied for several grants, Little Prickly Pear, Lincoln Snow Warriors and a county grant. Those should be decided in March. They are working with Powell County to develop a weed management plan in coordination with Lewis and Clark County, to cover roadways between counties. The MWCA annual meeting is the 12th-14th in January at the Heritage in Great Falls. The board did show interest in doing a 2nd Cheatgrass management seminar.

New Business

Evans will have to travel in January for 3-4 days. Department of Homeland Security was in our office in January 2015 to review a 310 permit file for Montana Gold and Sapphire, Inc. As a result of that meeting, DHS and a federal prosecutor met with Evans in late November to determine whether testimony as to the nature of the law and the specific permit would be required at a federal trial in Florida. It was determined by them that it was necessary and they will be sending a subpoena as well as making travel and lodging arrangements. When she knows when the travel will happen, she will notify Stan Frasier.

310 Permit Applications

LC-02-15—Chevallier Ranch

Location: Canyon Creek

When: ASAP

Purpose: Fix work done under violation

Dimensions: 600 feet of bank; no stream encroachment except for about 100 feet of riprap

Equipment: excavator, dump truck, front end loader

Materials: 33Cy Class II riprap, 36 CY Class I riprap, willow clumps every 10 feet of the 600 feet of bank; topsoil and seed.

Team report comments:

Decision: remains tabled.

LC-38-12-request for extension

They are requesting matching the deadline with the construction permit LC-30-14 and to leave the temporary crossings in through winter construction. Eric Roberts requested removal of culverts before high water, motion by Granzow, second by Bushnell to approve with those modifications; motion carried. Ryan asked about the vegetation status on the construction stream channel. Strong said that some of the vegetation has been installed, but they are going to gradually add the floodplain vegetation as they slowly move the stream into the new channel.

Due to the unknown travel time for Evans and the fact that training for site supervisors for the Big Sky Watershed Corps will be required in Bozeman the week of the regular January meeting, the January meeting will be rescheduled or cancelled depending on business requirements.

The next regular meeting will likely be February 11, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Helena USDA Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer

Date

Recorder

Date