



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 February 11, 2016, 1 p.m.

Call to order—the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Frasier. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Bob Bushnell, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Jeff Ryan and Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were Larry Hoffman, Ashley Rivero, Zack Wirth, John George, Keri Bilbo, Susan McNeal and Chris Evans. Steve Granzow joined the meeting at about 1:15.

Introductions were made.

Election of Officers—Motion by Bushnell to nominate Stan as chair and Scott as vice-chair, second by Howe-Cobb. There were no further nominations. Stan and Scott were re-elected by acclamation.

Motion by Ryan to nominate Bushnell as treasurer, second by Howe-Cobb. There were no further nominations so Bushnell was re-elected by acclamation.

Minutes—Motion by Bushnell to approve the December minutes as sent, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Motion by Bushnell to approve financial statement as presented and pay the outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Budget for 2016—motion by Howe-Cobb to approve the 2016 budget, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

APO for 2016—motion by Bushnell to approve, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Election information—Frasier said that they have changed the form and you don't need signatures anymore, but the form does need to be notarized. It also needs to be into the County by March 14th.

Correspondence

DNRC Notes

Mt. Biological weed control

Ten Mile Mural Ribbon cutting

Public Comment

There was none.

Reports

NRCS—John was present to give the NRCS report. They have 30 apps for FY 16 so far. There is a nice variety including some AFO/CAFO, general forestry, range apps, irrigation applications, and on-farm energy applications. They are working on eligibility and preparing to rank the applications. Deadline for ranking is March 11. No one showed up at the first of the Ten Mile forestry meeting, the second meeting is still to come. Hopefully they will get enough good applications to make that project work. There is a larger project at the mouth of Colorado Gulch that has a lot of beetle kill and encroachment. Because of the time commitment, they will be requesting an extension of those funds for another year or two. Darcy Goodson has offered to assist the Bozeman area Soil Health Team. She would like to know if the Board thinks that there might be soil health issues in the county that aren't currently being addressed. There is a good potential for her to work with the Hutterite colonies in the county on their larger operations.

Keri said that the general fund is sitting a bit better for the Bozeman area than last year. There are some special funds that are specific to sage grouse, honey bees and some other projects. There was a conversation between Evans and Bilbo regarding funding/budget issues on the state and area level and ended up with a discussion about the need to educate landowners on planning needs and addressing their resource concerns.

WQPD—Jeff Ryan talked about the meeting. Kathy Moore discussed their long range planning. One of the last goals on their list was to do some work on getting resources for Board Members for training and such.

SRWG—they are still advertising for that position.

MACD—there was discussion about the Area 3 “supervisor summit” and the survey that was sent out. Evans forwarded it to all districts in Area 6 and the administrators in Area 6 are planning to meet at the end of March to discuss that among other issues.

Lincoln Area—Bushnell said that the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship is trying to add significant acreage to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Lake Helena Watershed—there is a ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. for the mural. Ashley is working on outreach for the watershed group.

MRCDC—see report.

Weed District—Larry Hoffman was present to make the report. They will be working on the Dearborn project on June 14th. February 18th in Three Forks will be a private/commercial applicator training. They are working with BLM and FS on an “adopt a trail” program. On Feb 17 they will be working with the insectary in Augusta on upcoming season. New insects are coming on houndstongue and white top. The Weed District is going to try to get a “right to farm and ranch” into the county growth policy update. The Weed District will likely be asking for a letter of support for that. They are working on an educational awareness series and will be checking in with the CD for comments and potential funding. They’re going for a Lincoln Snow Warriors application and Canyon Creek West application from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund. They’ll be starting roads and railroad programs prior to spring. The county has a new engineer who will be housed in the weed facility building.

USFWS—Sue is retiring the end of April and will be missed. She wanted to thank the CD for all the support for the Partner’s program. The last agreement that we had with USFWS has a bit of money left and there is a stream project outside of Augusta that they would like to utilize those funds for. The CIG grant that has been going on in a portion of the Dearborn area has been extended for an additional year. Sue asked if the CD would consider using the remaining funds for purchasing biological controls for noxious weeds. In the original agreement the money was tied to only Lewis & Clark County. Sue would like to be approved to take some of those insects outside of the county. Motion by Granzow to approve the inclusion of St. John’s Wort bugs and go outside the county, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried. Sue also wanted to remind the board about the herbicide cost share program in the Dearborn. After the money is gone from the USFWS fund they won’t participate any longer. The CD and the Weed District will need to take that program over.

New Business

Bushnell/Ingersoll carried, pollinator

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.

Decision: Remains tabled pending resolution with ACOE

EME-01-16—Ingersoll

Location: Middle Fork Dearborn

When: 12/3/15

Purpose: To remove jam on beaver dam flooding hayfield

Equipment: backhoe

Materials: NA

Team Report Comments: No inspection requested by FWP-work done okay

Decision: Motion by Bushnell to approve, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-26-15—Nistler

Location: Missouri River-Hauser Reservoir

Purposes: bank stabilization and boat ramp-to assist with a Corps violation

Dimensions: 195 feet

Equipment: excavator, tracked skidsteer, hand rake and shove when wet, silt fence

Materials: Concrete boat ramp 30' x 12'=14 yards concrete block

Sand-180' x20' @ 4" deep=45 yards

Team Report Comments:

- Reduce encroachment of the sand mat into the water as much as possible
- Incorporate willow at applicant's discretion
- Not necessary to place retaining wall into the lake during construction

Decision: Motion by Granzow to approve with modifications and waive 15 days, second by Bushnell; motion carried.

LC-01-16-YPL

Location: Beaver Creek

Purposes: bridge/culvert/ford construction

Dimensions: 12-15 feet on each bank, each site (5)

Equipment: excavators

Materials: 5 cabled timber mats 12' by 20' untreated wood

Team Report Comments: No inspection requested, however in the interest of fish FWP would recommend the structures not be placed until June 15 to minimize disruption to spawning rainbow and cutthroat trout, and remove by October 15 to minimize disruption of brown trout and brook trout spawning. Pushing back to June 15 also insures spring runoff is completed prior to installation.

Decision: Motion by Frasier to approve with modifications, second by Ingersoll; carried.

LC-02-16-NWE

Location: Black Diamond Creek

Purposes: Utility- plowed electric cable

Dimensions: 12-15 feet on each bank, each site (5)

Equipment: cat mounted plow, possible use of mini excavator to install line depending on size of rocks

Materials: 440' cable

Team Report Comments: Pierce would like to inspect after snow has diminished to the point where the site can be viewed.

Decision: motion by Bushnell to table pending inspection, second by Howe-Cobb; carried.

LC-02-16-Zack Wirth

Location: Little Prickly Pear Creek

Purposes: Irrigation diversion and bank stabilization

Dimensions: 75' to 100' of stream bank

Equipment: excavator and loader

Materials: 1/2 cy native stone per foot

Team Report Comments: From FWP: The design of the “rock jetties” is beyond the scope of what was discussed at the site visit and I would recommend not using them for the following reasons. Rock jetties often have the unwanted effect of excessive erosion on the opposite downstream bank, as well as erosion upstream or downstream from the constructed jetties from swirling currents. Much of the proposed bank has robust riparian vegetation present resulting in stable banks with the exception of some short areas of cut banks. These areas of stable banks with ample riparian vegetation may become less stable with the addition of the jetties. As discussed on site, a preferred alternative would be to use rock along the toe (and as high as the bank full height if the landowner desires) with willow planted behind the rock to reestablish riparian vegetation. The banks may need be reshaped slightly to increase stability or could be done as is using the techniques similar to what was provided in the drawings by landowner with the biodegradable fabric. However, this technique does not require the excessive rock that would be deposited 6 to 7 ft into the channel with jetties.

I support the headgate plan of using the concrete blocks onsite, installing them after runoff and removing them after the irrigation season. I also support an annual plan of operations to allow them to adjust the blocks seasonally, within the scope of the permit.

Decision: There was discussion about using blocks and FWP’s recommendations. Motion by Ryan to approve with rock along toe, willow cuttings behind that with soil overlayment and use of different blocks as temporary diversion structures to be installed after spring high water and removed after irrigation season and as a 5 year maintenance permit for the diversion blocks, with option to extend. Second by Bushnell; motion carried.

Zoo Montana project workshop tentatively schedule for March 29 and 30, other one will be near Ennis on Jack Creek March 30 and 31.

Adjourned at 2:45 pm.

The next regular meeting will be March 1011, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Helena USDA Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____