



# LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Dearborn Community Center**  
**5855 State Hwy 434 outside of Wolf Creek, MT**  
**June 9, 2016**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Call to order**—The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by chairman Stan Frasier. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Scott Blackman, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Ron Ingersoll and Bob Bushnell. Also in attendance were Diane Fitzgerald, Jeanette Nordahl, Larry Hoffman and Chris Evans.

Stan wanted to say that he thinks the latest newsletter was outstanding.

Motion by Blackman to approve minutes as sent, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.  
Motion by Bushnell to approve financial statement and pay outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

## **Correspondence**

**Public Comment**-there was none

## **Reports**

**NRCS**—Diane was present with the NRCS report. The office just obligated 2 new forestry, and on-farm energy and 2 new honeybee contracts. There are about 16 Ten Mile Contracts and 3 CSP contracts. John applied for a 2 year extension on the Ten Mile project. For '17 there are about forestry, on-farm, some grazing, some progressive grazing and some high tunnel contracts. There will be a 22,000 acre inventory later in the summer that the office will be working on. There was discussion about snowpack and streamflow forecasts.

**WQPD**—Stan said there was a long report on the groundwater/well monitoring project, and a report about the Prickly Pear rewatering project. They talked about the budget and there was some discussion about a possible WQPD fee increase. Next meeting they will be having an open house at the City County Building.

**SRWG**—no report.

**MACD/SWCDMI**—Spring board meeting is next week. Evans passed around the draft agenda packet but is uncertain as to whether an RSVP/registration is required.

Stan would like to see a resolution brought forward to legalize the growth of industrial hemp. The uses of hemp in cloth, rope, plastic, building materials etc. are a growing industry and it would open up a crop for farmers. Apparently the DEA can't tell the difference between hemp and marijuana.

Priority concern resolution—the board would like to see that resolution again and would like to have it forwarded across the state with background information. Water rights issue on the rewatering project. Let's see if there's a way to get around this by resolution or other legal means. Email out to administrators to see who all might be doing this without losing the water rights due to abandonment.

**Lincoln Area**—Tester was up last week and talked to the DAV and came down to the senior center to talk to them. Bushnell has a little information about what Celestine Duncan brought up at the Weed Meeting. He'd talked to the CD office about the concerns. She claims that NRCS contract holders are not being held to taking care of their weeds. Bushnell just wanted the board aware of what's going on.

**Lake Helena Watershed**—Running Water for Helena and the Festival.

**MRCDC**—Jeff is at the meeting today doing a river trip.

**Weed District**—Larry was present to make a report. They've initiated a producer program in Lincoln and Augusta. They were out at Jim Darcy School doing an education day. They are looking at some road sterilization program. They've completed most of an education campaign. The MDOA recycle program is underway and the Dearborn project is coming up next week. There are some more insects on the way. The Lincoln Community and Canyon Creek projects are coming up. They've collected about 80 pounds of garlic mustard.

The Right to Farm and Ranch issues came up and Larry has some questions for NRCS to gather information for the county.

**County Extension**—Lincoln weed class they had 25 people, and the one in Helena had over 65, Augusta had about 50 people.

### **Old Business**

Flood Awareness Day in East Helena in May went well, all the stations were done before it rained.

### **New Business**

Conservation Easement Workshop—August 17 at the USFS office in Helena in the morning.

### **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: Update: Ed now has an attorney involved who is trying to get the work approved under the farm exemption with the ACOE. Evans was contacted by the Regional ACOE person, David LaGrone, regarding details. He's hoping to have the matter wrapped up in May. Remains tabled.

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. The company has opted to not bore, they want to trench.

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Ingersoll to approve the change to boring; motion carried.

LC-05-16 – Missouri River Ranch and Eagle Canyon Ranch landowners associations

Location: Stickney Creek

When: May-September

Purpose: replace undersized culverts

Dimensions:

Equipment: Work to be completed by licensed road operator

Materials: 2 (or 4) 36 inch culverts to span existing road and 2 (or 4) 36 inch culverts 25 north of site

Team report comments: Jason didn't request an inspection. He did say that he doesn't usually recommend 2 culverts side by side but understands financial considerations. He recommended embedding culverts, not having them perched and incorporating a reinforced overflow channel into the road – a reinforced depression in the road – to pass flood flows.

In addition, a letter was received after the application was submitted changing the original 2 culverts to 4 at each site on the recommendation of Gordon LaFaver.

4/13/16 A further clarification was received that the plan is two 5 foot culverts with another 5 foot culvert and two 36 inch culverts about 25 feet north on the same lot.

Decision: Remains tabled pending application clarification.

LC-15-16 – Ron Redfield

Location: Sun River

When: 5/1-8/31/2016

Purpose: Diversion for irrigation

Dimensions: Exten 40' or less into river. Rest of work will be done in old river bed.

Equipment: 270 Skid steer, backhoe or excavator.

Materials: 8-10' long concrete diversion blocks

Team report Comments:

Decision: Based on comments from the outside technical review, the board had the following comments and modifications:

- A first step in the project should be an adequate cleaning of the ditches
- Material dug out of channel must be removed from the channel. In addition contact the Army Corps of Engineers at 406-441-1375 to determine if a permit is required through them.
- If this becomes a frequently traveled area, a designated route must be established.
- Temporary sediment control measures need to be put into place while channel is having material removed
- Call Conservation District at 405-449-5000 ext. 112 prior to placing blocks and removing them.
- Application says "40 feet" extension into river, the map shows "60 feet". The board will approve no more than 40 feet.
- Blocks can be placed after high water in spring and must be removed in the early fall when irrigation is done.
- This is a one year permit. A long term solution (such as change in point of diversion or other measure) should be sought for long term diversion of water
- A measurement device should be placed in the ditch and a fish screen needs to be put in place to reduce the risk of fish accessing ditch

Motion by Howe-Cobb, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

LC-17-16 – Snowberry Properties

Location: Keep Cool Creek

When: 6/15-9/1

Purpose: improve fisheries; mitigate beaver activity; eliminate CMP on trib to Spring Creek and replace with a bridge

Dimensions: 660'; 50'; 100'

Equipment: excavator with thumb; skid steer or other loader; dump truck

Materials: boulders/cobble 1-3 CY

Wood habitat structures, debris jams, brush trench overhang cover logs in substrate 10-20 CY

Live willow/aspens/sod 20-30 willow/trees and 5CY sod

- Team report Comments: Minimize alteration to riffles. Minimize elevation drop on riffle 520-535 to 0.3-0.5 feet
- No use of boulders because they provide no habitat value in the stream
- Narrow ford to bankfull width

- Overall project is beneficial and facilitates a natural (passive) recovery process
- Mark VanderVolden to supervise project on a bi-daily basis. Operators MUST read and follow conditions of 310 permit and 318 Authorization.

Decision: Motion by Blackman to approve with Team Report recommendations, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

LC-18-16 – Brayfield

Location: trib to Ten Mile

When: 6/15-6/30 2017

Purpose: install micro-hydro turbine to replace generator

Dimensions: less than 2 feet of bank at outlet, less than 1 foot at inlet

Equipment: none

Materials:

3" PVC	about 6 ft
2" black hose	about 250ft
Water buddy Micro turbine	
2 conductor aluminum gage wire	about 100ft

Team report Comments: No inspection, Eric doesn't think that there should be any problems with it

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

Local Workgroup meeting will follow the regular meeting on July 14, in Dearborn 8:30 a.m. Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

**APPROVED**

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Presiding Officer

Date

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Recorder

Date