



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
August 11, 2016
8:30 a.m.**

Call to order—The meeting was called to order by chairman Stan Frasier at 8:33 a.m. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Scott Blackman, Bob Bushnell, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Ron Ingersoll and Jeff Ryan. Also in attendance were Jeannette Nordahl, David Martin, Kevin Stone, Larry Hoffman, John George, Erin Fairbank and Chris Evans.

Motion by Bushnell to approve as sent, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Motion by Bushnell to approve the financial statement, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Evans said that the Partner's account will be mostly cleaned out soon so the balance will be transferred to the main checking account to cover some of the weed cost share program.

Correspondence-Evans passed around the Range Tour and WAWG tour information as well as noting the Request for Comment for the EA near Marysville.

Public Comment-there was none

Reports

NRCS—the office is looking at a total of 34 projects obligated with a nice variety of project types. About 40 new projects, obligations should be done by the end of August. They had a few people withdraw for FY17. They don't know if the 2 Chiefs project will be extended yet. The state resource assessment went in last month to help NRCS determine outlook on needs for the state. There's a request for the 10 Mile extension and a special initiative request for L&C, Broadwater and Meagher counties. The office would like to do some outreach on some of the smaller initiatives with the help of the Conservation District. EQIP applications are accepted on an ongoing basis with a spring/summer cutoff.

WQPD—Frasier said there was an open house but no meeting. Jeff and Stan both attended the open house.

SRWG— Kevin Stone was present and talked about the watershed. There will be 3 spray days this fall. He credited the RMFWRT for their assistance. Year to date they've leveraged over 550 hours in spray/pull time. He included some graphs in his written report showing the water supply drop. He said it was a short irrigation season. They are working on their water quality sampling. Partners have expressed interest in the Helena/Lewis and Clark Forest plan. The draft plan should be out for comment this fall. Forests in the region will likely be adopting similar topics in their plans, especially specific to the grizzly bear. The BOR grant information was summarized in Kevin's written report.

MACD/SWCDMI—Evans updated the board on the Meet and Greet date change, Cascade's resolutions, the Area meeting agenda and the potential for a bus for the convention. No one from the board has committed to going to Sidney in November.

Stan discussed the industrial hemp resolution and background. There was a comment to add "cover crop" to the uses for hemp. Motion by Ryan to approve the resolution, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Lincoln Area—They had their spray day last month, with over 40 people, 4 counties with lots of ATV's UTV's and spray trucks. They covered about 6 sections for the tansy ragwort. See if the IR will print the article from the BVD.

Lake Helena Watershed—Festival on August 20th.

MRCDC— written report from Rachel. Blackman said there was a Sage Grouse meeting where they learned about predation on the animal. Apparently the cows being present inhibit predation by coyotes.

Weed District—Hoffman updated the board on the Right to Farm and Ranch issue. They thought it would be a dead issue with the commissioners, but apparently there is a lot of support from the commission for it. They've been advised that there's some purple loosestrife in the York area. They are contracting with the USFS to do a number of projects throughout the county. There've been over 150 inspections in the past month, with 89 not in compliance. 345 pounds of chopped up containers have been collected with the MDOA recycle project. Larry thanked the Nordahl's for all the work they've done with the Tansy ragwort project.

Extension—Stan said they are having a class on vole and ground squirrel pest management.

RMFWRT—Erin was at the meeting to talk to the board about their projects. She said their summer efforts are winding down. They've had several weed spray/pull events in their 3 million acres. They had 5 spray days within Lewis & Clark County along with 2 weed pulls. They have been doing a lot of IWM, with about 100 releases of insects. That program saves about \$30,000. There was an insect purchase with the last of the Partner's money and Erin went to a collection day for some additional insects. They are finishing up their CIG which encompassed about 117,000 acres. The Dearborn had about 29,000 acres treated. They are done with treatments, are now analyzing data and will get their final report completed and distributed. They saw some significant weed reductions even after only 3 years so look forward to the numbers on the final report.

Old Business

Sarah asked why we meet at the Dearborn 3 times at 8:30 in the morning. She would like to propose that we meet once at each satellite location and Helena the rest of the time. There was some discussion as to the benefits of meeting in the satellite locations and some discussion about meeting times. Nothing was resolved.

New Business

Dave volunteered to keep track of stuff at the convention if none of the board goes. He won't be at the next board meeting.

There's a meeting scheduled on the floodplain resolution from last year on the 17th at the fishing access. They have the regional director from FEMA on that visit with several DNRC people along with FWP, WQPD and will visit 2 other sites. Ryan isn't hopeful that they'll accomplish a lot, but that it's worth a try at least. The communications with DNRC haven't been going particularly well and he doesn't think that they'll get cooperation from DNRC. Ryan is of the opinion that we'll end up going to the state legislature to work that issue out.

Grant request-Intermountain Childrens' Home would like to get a 223 grant to put in a community garden. They missed this last deadline, but would like to move forward with the project.

310 Permit Applications

Extension Request LC-14-15 Expires in September

LC-14-15 Greaves

Location: North Fork Stickney Creek

When: Fall or early spring

Purpose: placement of side by side culverts

Dimensions: 4 foot diameter, 16 foot long

Materials: 4-6 inch crushed rock and 1 inch road mix

Equipment: backhoe

Team report comments:

- 3 4-foot culverts or 1 large culvert, 12 feet or 2 6-foot culverts.
- Recommend the larger culverts the better.
- Reinforce upstream and downstream ends and stream bank with rip rap 24-36 inch.
- Incorporate overflow into roadway.

Complete during dry conditions.

Decision: Motion by Bushnell to approve a 1 year extension, second by Blackman; motion carried.

CP-04-15 – Kollars

Location: Stickney Creek

Complaint that a bridge was built without a permit

Status: Following up with landowner still

EME-03-16 – YPL

Location: Missouri River (Hauser Reservoir)

Activity: Placement of around 4500 cement grout bags to shore up pipeline support

Team comment:

Decision: Motion by Blackman to table pending more information, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

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: Motion by Frasier to table with the modifications recommended by ACOE, including the modifications noted by the CD, 2nd by Ryan; motion carried.

EME-03-16 – YPL

Location: Missouri River (Hauser Reservoir)

Activity: Placement of around 4500 cement grout bags to shore up pipeline support

Team comment:

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Ryan to approve, with a letter to YPL regarding our concern about a more permanent solution to the problems they are facing on Beaver Creek and Missouri River crossings; motion carried.

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

Location: Stickney Creek

Decision: Withdrawn, new application under review.

LC-24-16 – Frank Thompson

Location: Green Creek

When: 8/1 to 11/15

Purpose: replace rotten bridge

Dimensions: 60 feet of bank

Equipment: dozer, backhoe and truck

Materials: 6' culvert(round) and 60cy shale rock from the site

Team report comments: with the availability of free bridge stringers, it was recommended that the applicant:

- replace the old bridge with a new bridge, using 8 (18"x18"x26') stringers from FWP
- Use concrete blocks for footers buried in road off channel
- Decking with 1 inch gap
- Filter as needed to stop run off
- If needed use rock to armor below concrete and upstream edge
- Grass seed disturbed areas
- If needed, install drain drip in road to prevent run off
- Retain as much natural vegetation as possible including upstream alders

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Frasier to approve with recommendations. Ingersoll abstained from vote.

LC-24-16 – Ron Ingersoll

Location: Green Creek

When: 8/1 to 11/15

Purpose: replace rotten bridge

Dimensions: 18 feet of bank on each side

Equipment: backhoe

Materials: culvert or bridge (using stringers from FWP)

Team report comments:

- Replace old bridge with culvert or bridge depending on cost/feasibility
- If using a culvert, use 6 foot minimum width and embed 20% and armor upstream and downstream ends with rip rap (1-2 foot rock)
- If using bridge use same design as in LC-24-16 and same recommendations
- Use BMP’s as described in LC-24-16 regardless of culvert or bridge

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Bushnell to approve with recommendations; motion carried. Ingersoll abstained from the vote.

LC-26-16 – MRR/EC Landowner Associations

Location: Stickney Creek

When: 8/1 to 9/30/16

Purpose: replace undersized culverts

Dimensions:

Equipment: Work to be completed by licensed road operator

Materials: 150 CY fill, 2 60 inch arch culverts

Team report comments: Jason did not want to inspect but his comments were:

- Recommend embedding the 5ft culverts 20% to keep them from getting perched and allowing them to pass bedload
- Recommend incorporating a reinforced overflow channel into the road (in other words, a reinforced depression in the road) to pass flood flows

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Howe-Cobb to approve with recommendations from FWP; motion carried.

Bob Bushnell noted that he would like Evans to contact Lynn Barker in Lincoln about his stream violation on the Blackfoot River. It would be good if we could see action and a repair on that project by December 1.

Ingersoll noted that Sun Mountain Lumber would be sending in a permit application on a branch of Green Creek similar to his and Thompson’s crossings.

No further business the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Lambkins in Lincoln.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer	Date
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Recorder	Date
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