



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
July 14, 2016
8:30 a.m.**

Call to order—the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Frasier at 8:30 a.m. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Steve Granzow, Scott Blackman, Ron Ingersoll, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Bob Bushnell and Jeff Ryan. Also in attendance were Ashley Rivero, John George, Diane Fitzgerald, Jeanette Nordahl, David Martin, Bob Flesher, Larry Hoffman, and Chris Evans. Kevin Stone joined the meeting just after 9 a.m.

Introductions were made.

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

Motion by Granzow to approve the amended meeting minutes from April 2016, second by Blackman; motion carried.

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

Motion by Bushnell to buy updated ownership maps and get a copy to each of the board members.

Evans talked about the reason for the change in the look of the financial statement. Districts are being required to update their Chart of Accounts to the BARS coding, and because the Department of Administration uses those, Evans had to get them done prior to submitting the annual financial report the end of June. There was some account rearranging in order to make the accounts fit right, and the financial statement is much longer due to the process.

Public Comment-there was none

Reports

NRCS—John and Diane were present. John updated on contract numbers for the fiscal year. Lewis & Clark did well for getting stuff done, with 33 new contracts. One for irrigation, one grazing project, 2 high tunnels, 2 honeybee/pollinator, an on-farm energy project, 5 forestry through the general fund, 18 new Ten Mile applications and 3 new CSP contracts. There are a total of 75 active contracts for the office. Ryan asked about the increase in activity and why it happened. John said that office staff has been doing a significant amount of outreach and education. Technical assistance to landowners and word of mouth have both brought a lot of newer projects in. For the upcoming year, there are 26 new applications in general EQIP. There will be some national initiatives coming out in the next several months, and he's asked for an extension in the Ten Mile Project too. He expects the number to jump to 50-60 at some point. The majority of those are forestry, some range, with 2 in the progressive pool. John talked

about the difference in funding between the RMS and Progressive pools and how people can apply. Cut off for general EQIP was June 1. They continue to take apps for FY18 though.

Every year NRCS is supposed to talk to the Board reviewing the cooperative agreement between the CD, NRCS and DNRC. There are no changes to the current document. Bushnell moved to have Stan sign the agreement, second by Granzow; motion carried. The other issue that John needed to talk to the board about is the Civil Rights document and how the NRCS/CD work with the public and with each other.

John asked for input from the supervisors about whether there were issues in their areas that he needed to know about. Ryan thanked John for the activity with Billy Gehring.

John will be out of the office a bit for the Strikeforce activities. They are holding some town hall meetings in the 13 counties near the reservations the end of September/October.

WQPD—Stan said the last meeting was a tour of the ASARCO site. Jeff said that later this summer they should be turning water into the new channel. They are still working on the section near the slag pile to protect the stream from sloughing slag. They've put in a lot of willows with a drip irrigation system to keep them wet since there's no water in the channel right now. Ashley asked about monitoring of the groundwater table. Stan said that they've lowered the groundwater table about 10 feet. They've lowered the stream about 15 feet so hopefully the arsenic and selenium plumes will be reduced. Ryan said that they got good life on the willows. The upper reach is a natural channel design and very deformable. As the creek comes around the slag pile it's a much less deformable channel due to slag pile, railroad and bridge restrictions.

Stan also mentioned the WQPD Open House on the 26th from 2-7. Evans updated the water rights discussion on the re-watering project on Prickly Pear. Jim Wilbur will be talking about it at the Open House.

SRWG—Kevin Stone had asked the board to approve the support money for the year. Granzow, Bushnell; motion carried. Kevin had a quick report for the board on weed projects, MCC on Ford Creek and spray days on Ford Creek and Elk Creek and Sun Canyon. Last weekend was the annual knapweed pull in Sun Canyon. About a month ago, the manager at GID and Kevin attended the drought advisory meeting. They gave some short presentations on how state resources could assist them and heard a number of reports on drought conditions in the state. GID's meeting this week, their irrigation season is winding down, and they probably won't even be able to run to mid-August. Kevin said the 10 year work plan has received some funding from BOR. Kevin looks forward to feedback from Lewis & Clark on the 10 year work plan.

MACD/SWCDMI—Granzow said he's been busy but isn't planning to run again for the state association. Evans gave out the SWCDMI proposed by-laws and a copy of the resolution on priority resource concerns. Ryan said he went to the Spring Board meeting. The two-day meeting was a lot of discussion about by-laws and budgets. They said they're making reorganization progress. Stan plans to get an industrial hemp resolution put together by the September board meeting.

There was discussion about the priority resource concern resolution and the discussion at the NRCS area/state level that Chris' email started yesterday. There was significant discussion about the current draft of the resolution and questions from the board on funding pools at NRCS to give solid background on the reasoning for the resolution. John George reiterated that Lewis & Clark has fared very well on the funding side of things. Evans talked about her concern about limited resource producers who can't afford the RMS contracting being shut out of competition since the RMS pool is much larger than the Progressive pool. We as a

CD don't want to see people turn away from NRCS programs simply because they can't afford the contracting. Frasier asked for any other resolutions before the September meeting. Jeff said there'll be a site visit August 17th with a representative from FEMA. They will visit 2 sites. They'd like to convey the concerns about some of the regulations being unreasonable on small streams.

Lincoln Area—Bushnell said there was a bike rally last weekend and it was pretty calm. Bob said that they got the Lincoln cemetery into county control. Evans passed around the newsletter from DEQ on the Mike Horse project. There is interest by the board to do a tour after the September board meeting/lunch in Lincoln.

Lake Helena Watershed—The run is coming up on the 30th, the Watershed Festival is August 20th. They are looking for people to set up booths and talk about water issues. They are working toward the non-profit status as well.

MRCDC—Jeff volunteered as primary and Scott as secondary representatives. Ryan said he went to the annual meeting. They're concerned about long-term funding with the coal tax money diminishing. They went on the River Rendezvous the next day on the Missouri looking at projects. He said they saw some pretty promising projects.

Weed District—Hoffman said that the weed control projects are going along well. Tansy Ragwort will be the target of a spray day next Wednesday in the Lincoln area. They'll do a walk through survey Tuesday. The Ponderosa Snow Warriors have been very involved in that. The Fair is coming up and Larry welcomes any involvement in his booth. They're doing the recycling program, a total of 320 pounds of jugs were collected. They 16 participants in the producer program for the year. The Dearborn project was coordinated by Ron Ingersoll and Mike Bay this year and was very successful.

New Business

Dave Martin is interested in becoming an associate supervisor to the CD. With his upcoming retirement from DNRC and going part time til he retires, he would like to get more involved at the local level. He has some education ideas that he'd be able to work on and contribute to. Motion to approve by Blackman second by Ryan; motion carried. Martin reminded the board about the DNRC survey and encouraged them to put together some thoughts and submit that survey. DNRC is working on a workplan.

Bob Fleisher talked a bit about his background and new job as the 310 coordinator at DNRC. He will be helping CD's with 310 permitting and public outreach. He's been to 3 CD meetings so far and would like to go out on some inspections if possible. He has a degree in geology from MSU and has worked in a lot of the geology/hydro topics.

Dave Martin also updated the board on the Rolling Rivers Trailer issue. The DNRC attorney looked at the project and sponsorship issues. As a result DNRC will continue to host the trailer; LCCD won't need to take it over.

310 workshop--Evans would like to look at doing a 310 workshop for supervisors/CD's/landowners/contractors and utilize the Rolling River Trailer during that. It might be interesting to have a morning session with supervisors/district/FWP and then open up the afternoon to landowners and contractors.

Cheat Grass Workshop, need to set a date--ate January or Early February (check with Sarah). Larry will work with Jane Mangold on a date that would work for her and we will plan around that.

Small Acreage workshop November 5th at the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds—look at possibly having a 310 section and the trailer maybe.

Square: More and more people are using just credit/debit cards. Blackman wanted to encourage the CD to start using Square as an option since it makes registration for meetings and sale of stuff like ownership maps easier. He talked about the specifics of the unit. Motion by Granzow, second by Blackman to get it; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

CP-03-16—Johnson

Location: Wolf Creek

When: 6/8

Activity: Person was using a ford without permission, and pulled out a beaver dam without permission.

Decision: motion by Frasier that the activity was a violation, second by Granzow; motion carried. Evans will send the letter to Johnson.

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: David LaGrone from regional ACOE met with Chevallier to view the site. So far, we've heard no updates. Remains tabled.

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: There has been no further submission of information by the applicant.

Decision: Permit remains tabled.

LC-15-16—Sun River Ranch

Location: Sun River

When: 5/1-8/31/2016

Purpose: Diversion for irrigation

Dimensions: Extend 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: The property sold and Redfield is no longer manager. He will pass on the need for the new owner to contact the CD.

Decision: Permit is withdrawn due to ownership change.

LC-19-16 – YPL

Location: Beaver Creek

When: 7/1-7/22

Purpose: work on pipeline crossing sites

Dimensions: total for all 7 sites, approximately 1589 square feet

Equipment: trackhoe used from banks, Support trucks for hauling rock, hand methods for seeding and placing matting.

Materials: 23-30 CY 24-36" rock, 150 Square feet matting, Seed as necessary

Team report comments: Recommend approval as proposed. Eric, Jeff and Ashley went on the onsite and Eric was fine with the project as proposed but had some additional comments/concerns moving forward. Given the nature of the stream and the type of high water that they get this is probably going to need a long-term solution. Ryan would like to see a letter sent to YPL reflecting those concerns, as well as to the USFS and FWP. They need to make a better case as to why it's impossible to lower the pipe at these sites--put pipe below scour analysis depth.

Decision: Motion to approve this application but to push toward a real fix for long term by Ryan, second by Frasier; motion carried. Letter needs to go to all the concerned agencies with our concerns for long-term sustainability of the pipeline.

LC-20-16 – Mike Wirth

Location: Log Gulch

When: 7/1-8/1

Purpose: pond and stream lining

Dimensions: pond is about 85000 sq ft, about 500 lineal feet of stream

Equipment: excavator, dump truck, dozer, scraper and skidsteer, never working in water

Materials: all native materials will be used, rubber liner

Team report comments: Roberts had no concerns about this project.

Decision: Motion by Granzow, second by Blackman to approve as proposed, waiving the 15 day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-21-16 – Myron Laib

Location: Silver Creek

When: ASAP

Purpose: Install something to assist the pivot over the creek.

Dimensions: each crossing (two) 10' by 18" culvert.

Equipment: backhoe, 10' by 18" culverts

Materials:

Team report comments: Ryan went onsite to take a look at the project with Eric Roberts. They were concerned about the ability of an 18" culvert to pass the amount of water that occurs during run-off.

Decision: Blackman wanted to know why they wouldn't just use pivot bridges for crossings. They're easier and cheaper and work more effectively long-term than culverts do. Motion by Ryan to deny for culverts but that they should come back with a modification request for pivot bridges, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-22-16 – Vision Net, Inc.

Location: Ten Mile

When: TBD

Purpose: Utilities

Dimensions: minimum 42" under the stream, boring for fiber optic cable, 1.25 inch innerduct

Equipment: directional bore machine

Materials: inner duct and fiber optic cable

Team report comments: no inspection needed, Eric was fine with the project

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Ingersoll to approve as proposed, waiving the 15 day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-23-16 – Mitch Tuttle

Location: Sevenmile Creek

When: 9/1-10/1

Purpose: Culvert

Dimensions: 30 Feet

Equipment: mini excavator, dump trailer and compacter

Materials: 36" -48" culvert

Team report comments:

Decision: Ryan went out on this one last night. The bankfull width was much bigger than the proposed culvert. FWP does have some bridge stringers that could be used. Ryan made a motion to deny the application and for the landowner to reapply for a bridge, second by Blackman; motion carried.

Other Business:

Bushnell said that he had a phone call about someone being in the Blackfoot by Stemple Bridge. He said that he went and took a look but the work being done was on the bank, not in the river. He and Jeanette went and looked twice at the activity. The section just above that (south side of the river, north side of Stemple Bridge) was purchased to allow access to the river for fishing etc. Bushnell mentioned at the Chamber/Commissioner’s meeting that law enforcement will need to keep an eye on that site for people putting a rock dam across the river as they have at other recreation sites.

Drought Advisory Committee Report – Rollo had comments, Stone said that the group is trying to shift to a more proactive approach and seeking to have more impact leading into drought conditions.

Granzow said that the current owners are trying to sell the flood water rights between June and July off of Ten Mile, the old Schatz ranch.

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

The next meeting will be August 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Dearborn Community Center.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____