



## LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

790 Colleen Street • Helena, Montana 59601 • 449-5000 ext. 112 • Fax (406) 449-5039

Local Workgroup Meeting  
Dearborn Community Center, Wolf Creek, MT  
July 14, 2016

**In attendance:**

Stan Frasier, Steve Granzow, Scott Blackman, Ron Ingersoll and Jeff Ryan. Also in attendance were Ashley Rivero, John George, Diane Fitzgerald, David Martin, Bob Flesher, Larry Hoffman, Kevin Stone and Chris Evans.

The meeting was called to order by Conservation District Chairman, Stan Frasier at 10:55 a.m.

John George discussed the past years applications that have come into the field office. A variety of project types have come in and they are expecting more.

Dave Martin discussed how some LWG meetings have become a rubber stamp every year for NRCS program delivery. If the LWG was a brand new group they'd go *through the 33 concerns* that are possible. In the past the group has fine-tuned the procedure to look at the types of concerns that are coming into the Field Office and CD and to re-visit the other methods of determining concerns, specifically land use, geographic area, etc. John wanted to know if there's a new resource concern base in the County that he's not aware of.

NRCS wants a recommended resource concern or a geographic area for EQIP allocation. With a geographic area, the funds would be targeted toward that area. Other landowners can apply but the priority for funding would go toward the geographic area selected. After being asked by the CD board what would be more effective for the landowners who are seeking assistance, John said that using the resource concern basis seems to be more effective for Lewis & Clark County.

Blackman said that as long as the NRCS staff is looking at the resource concern rather than the sale of programs, he's satisfied with the way things are right now. John said that while they look at all of the concerns, they want to really target the concern of the landowner. Given the varied geography in the county, plant health and vigor has worked well to address the real concerns of landowners.

There was discussion regarding program delivery versus technical assistance. John talked about "random acts of conservation" and how addressing conservation needs through our current LWG resource concern and Land Uses leaves flexibility in place for a variety of project types which is really what the LCCD Board wants. They don't want targeted areas, or to tie landowners into a targeted project type or single land use treatments.

Resource Concern: Improve plant health and vigor in Lewis and Clark County by implementing NRCS conservation management practices.

Ranking Question 1: Does the application involve the contracting of a management system that will reduce the impact of pests, invasive species or inefficient of irrigation water.

Ranking Question 2: Does the conservation plan include irrigation water management, prescribed grazing or forest stand improvement/fuel break.

A back-up concern was agreed upon in case the state office rejects the #1 concern.

**Resource Concern (Backup):** Improve and protect grazing lands to promote grazing health, vigor and production on naturalized and introduced pastures, native rangeland and all riparian areas.

Motion by Frasier to approve the wording as noted above, second by Blackman; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.

**APPROVED**

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Presiding Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Recorder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_