



## 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  
January 19, 2017, 1 p.m.**

**Call to order**—The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Frasier at 1 p.m. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Steve Granzow, Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, Ron Ingersoll and Sarah Howe-Cobb. Also in attendance were John George, Vicki Sullivan, Mike Wirth, David Martin, Duane Walker, Larry Hoffman, Bud Breining, Nora Bazuin, Tom Buzuin, Rochelle Russell and Chris Evans.

Oaths of office will be re-done at the February board meeting since Steve Granzow is a Notary.

Motion by Granzow to retain current chair and vice chair for 2017, second by Howe-Cobb; there were no other nominations; motion carried.

Motion by Frasier to appoint Jeanette Nordahl to Bob Bushnell's term, second by Granzow; Evans indicated that to keep the election dates balanced between the 7 board members, she should file paperwork to run in 2 years for a 2 year term. Motion carried. Motion by Granzow to nominate Jeanette Nordahl as Treasurer, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Motion by Granzow to approve minutes as sent, second by Ryan; motion carried. Motion by Granzow to approve the financial statement and to pay the outstanding bills, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

Motion by Nordahl to approve the budget as presented, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

Motion by Frasier to approve the revisions to the APO, second Granzow; motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

DNRC report—Evans passed the DNRC Report around indicating the first story about the Dusenberry project for soil health and cover crops.

### **Public Comment**

Vicki Sullivan was present to discuss a proposed project on the east side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. DNRC has received a grant and loan request sponsored by the Broadwater CD, for the Avalanche Irrigation District. Part of the project is in L&C County. They're proposing adding 12,000 acres for irrigation. Source for the water has been under some debate, first it was proposed that high capacity wells would be used; now they're proposing pulling water for irrigation from Canyon Ferry/Missouri River. The grant/loan application ranked fourth on the list. The proposal in May specifically stated that landowners were planning to leave their water rights in Avalanche and Confederate Creek. Vicki had a letter from WWC Engineering stating that landowners were **not** planning to leave their water rights in the stream. November 8<sup>th</sup> a BOR public notice came out that the water would come from wells. The purpose of the presentation is to indicate the group's concern, especially about how the proposal has changed. Currently only 4 landowners are actually in agreement with the project. Frasier asked where the current process is. Vicki said that tomorrow the grant process hearing is tomorrow morning 8:30.

Discussion followed the presentation. There is significant concern about irrigation of non-irrigated lands, concern about the changing proposal. It was the opinion of the Board that they need to shelve the project because it's not clear what the plan is, there's no real Irrigation District at this point, goals are not clear and continue to shift, sponsor may or may not be on-board, landowners are not in agreement. Motion by Frasier, second by Granzow to go on record in opposition to this for those reasons; motion carried. Stan said that he should be able to attend tomorrow's meeting.

**Reports**

**NRCS**—George was present to make the NRCS report. The forestry initiative was approved for \$800,000 over the next several years to do work on private forest projects. The Two Chiefs project extension hasn't yet been decided. All of the backlogged projects and status reviews are complete. They have 13 forestry, 2 grazing, 1 progressive irrigation/grazing and 1 afo/cafo applications in the county. Rankings will be done in February. They are managing 62 contracts in the office. Deadline for CSP is February 3. Cutoff for special initiatives is February 17 for Organic, Honeybee pollinator and High Tunnels. FY18 sign up cutoff is June 1. John would like to encourage landowners to come in for progressive projects even though the single practice projects have not been funded in the past.

John informed the board that he was successful in applying for a detail in Utah. He did accept the 4 month detail. Jenny from Meagher County will be covering for John while he's gone. There were some hiccups with some details of the plan though and the decision isn't final right now.

John said he'd like to reach out more to the Augusta and Dearborn areas and would like some feedback from the board on how best to do that.

**WQPD**—They have a new Big Sky Watershed Corps member for the year. Jim Wilbur had a retirement event.

**SRWG**—Howe-Cobb was present to talk about the group. They are hiring a new coordinator. The group has asked if the CD's could give a one-time donation of \$1000 to help cover costs. The group had to hire accountants to take care of the books, and they have a shortfall. Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve the additional funding; motion carried. Frasier voted against.

**MACD/SWCDMI**—Ryan sat in on the conference call. There is concern about the legislative activities and also concerns that they are short on funding.

**Lincoln Area**—Nordahl said that she went to the MWCA in Great Falls. She said it was a good conference. The Noxious Weed advisory board meeting was today. They are going to open the grants back up to a small percentage for administrative fees. They are also changing the deadlines, probably early January.

**Lake Helena Watershed**— sharing a Big Sky Watershed Corps member with WQPD.

**MRCDC**— written report.

**Weed District**— Hoffman was present to talk about the Cheatgrass workshop. They're doing 6 certification credits.

The Weed District is bringing in almost 8000 insects this year. The Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable group is short on money this year. They used a drone for mapping that they are not being charged to use. They're going to map the corridors. The drone came from Germany.

**Old Business**

Cheatgrass workshop-Stan plans to attend.

**New Business**

There is a stream project in Meagher County that Ryan indicated might have potential for workshop involvement. Evans put a request in to Meagher CD about co-hosting a workshop. Lacey said she'd get back to us on CD involvement.

Martin travel request for workshop in Missoula – Ben Montgomery is at NRCS in Lake CD and they hold a conference/workshop and then they spin off and do pasture walks after those. He would like to see how their process works since they get good attendance. He'd like mileage and per diem and a motel for one night. Motion by Granzow, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

Christians' request for funding for ag day in East Helena Schools. Motion to fund by Nordahl, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

**310 Permit Applications**

LC-17-16 – Snowberry Properties-Another amendment request

Location: Keep Cool Creek

When: 6/15-9/1

Purpose: Move location of proposed bridge south of original location

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/ aspen/sod, 20-30 willow/trees and 5CY sod

Team report Comments: No inspection, Ron Pierce recommended approval of amendment

Decision: Motion by Nordahl to approve the amendment, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-43-16 BBCTU

Location: Park Creek (West side)

When: 3/15 through 11/15/17

Purpose: fisheries improvement. Removal of historic irrigation diversion that is no longer needed and consolidation of instream flows by reshaping a short reach of Park Creek where flows have unnaturally split due to past disturbances.

Dimensions: about 90 feet of stream and 20 feet of channel where structure will be removed

Materials: sodmats, native shrubs, slash all from on-site

Team report comments: Pierce was in favor of the project

Decision: Motion by Granzow to approve as proposed, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-44-16 Hunt

Location: Banner Creek

When: 5/2 through 9/1/17

Purpose: Removal of violation (berm and culverts) and installation of hardened ford

Dimensions: about 25-30 feet of bank

Materials: 12 CY 3" or small rock/gravel from site

Team report comments: have them contact the CD when work is finished so Stan and/or I can go take a look

Decision: Motion by Frasier to approve with the modification as noted, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-01-17 Walker

Location: Missouri River (Holter Reservoir)

When: 3/1-4/1/17

Purpose: rip-rap and bank work on steep section

Dimensions: 350 LF of bank and up to 85 feet encroachment into reservoir body, placement of large rock, and terracing of bank.

Materials: 4000 CY of Class 3 rip rap

Team Report comments: Roberts deferred decision to the board with the reminder that the CD board has historically not allowed for much encroachment into the water.

Decision: based on historical documentation of loss, steepness of current bank/slope, and the ability to vegetate the slope post construction, motion by Granzow to approve with the modification that they add willow, 10/foot, to the coffer dam; current depth of water marked at 24 inches deep to be used as guide for toe of rip-rap; reseed new slope maintaining until vegetation is established. Second by Ryan; Nay votes from Nordahl and Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-02-17 YPL

Location: Missouri River (Hauser Reservoir)

When: 2017

Purpose: To replace a segment of pipeline which is suspended in the reservoir and to bore in a new section.

Dimensions: Boring will not affect the bank, pipe removal will impact about 50 LF on each shoreline due to excavation of overburden to expose the pipe, stockpiling and access for equipment. Bottom of the reservoir will be disturbed about a distance of 1777 feet from bank to bank about 50 feet in width.

Materials: 2981 LF steel pipe  
~150CY excavated material in work areas  
Seed and mulch

Team Report Comments: There was no inspection. Roberts is in favor of approval as proposed

Decision: Motion by Granzow to approve as proposed, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

EME-01-17 Davis

Purpose: Replacment of dangerously unstable bridge

When: Work was completed 12/28/16

Materials: Used a RR flat car

Team Report: Inspection pending due to weather

**Adjourned p.m.**

**APPROVED**

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Presiding Officer

Date

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Recorder

Date