



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
February 9, 2017, 1 p.m.**

Call to order—the meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by chairman Stan Frasier. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Scott Blackman, Steve Granzow, Jeff Ryan and Jeanette Nordahl. Also in attendance were John George, Larry Hoffman, Jennifer McBroom, Valerie Stacey, Travis Wilson, Alan Rollo and Chris Evans.

Oaths of office were administered to Stan, Jeanette and Scott by Steve Granzow (notary).

Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes as sent, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

Motion by Nordahl to approve the financial statement, second by Blackman; motion carried.

Travel time for Stan for Cheatgrass workshop, signing checks too. 25 both

Nordahl did an audit, one for a 10 year cycle and one for 5 year cycle. She had a couple of recommendations and a few issues but she thought it looked good.

Correspondence

There was none

Public Comment

There was none

Reports

NRCS—George was present to make the NRCS report. They have 21 participants between the 2 offices and finalized rankings in the last couple of days. They ranked 34 applications. Area office will be here on the 16th of February to review the rankings. Rollo asked about funding lock downs on the part of the new administration. George said that he hasn't heard anything other than business as usual. They are taking applications and the FY18 cutoff is June 1. He said they are also taking sign ups for Organic, High tunnel and Pollinator programs. He had some Sno-Tel data to pass around. High 80's and low 90's for our area currently. He withdrew his application to do the detail due to lack of payment for travel/lodging.

WQPD—Jennifer McBroom said that they met a few weeks ago. Some of the updates: DEQ did some arsenic testing, an intern last summer did some additional sampling. They still have a long list for sampling arsenic and uranium. The area includes the Birdseye area and has expanded to the Helena Valley. It will stay within the District boundary. Granzow said that a company did some drilling for uranium in early 1970's. They have a BSWC member this year again. They did a legislative update as well. Jennifer said that the groundwater awareness week is coming up the beginning of March. She wanted to make sure that the CD is still doing their program.

SRWG—Travis thanked the CD for the contribution that they made this year. He started February 1 and is trying to get up to speed, getting background and the history of the watershed work. He has a number of partners that he's been meeting with including irrigation districts, conservation districts and agencies. They are also working on their fundraising plan.

MACD/SWCDMI—Ryan said they will be having a Monday morning conference call. They are honed in on legislative concerns. The meet and greet was not as well attended due to the State of the State address being the same night. Ryan said that they have been doing a reasonably good job of representing the floodplain resolution. Evans passed around the emails from Steve Hedstrom and Elena about the NACD event. In anticipation that we will be receiving a phone call or letter soon about dues payment and why it hasn't been done, Granzow recommended that we have a small group get together to put together reasoning on why we have not yet paid dues. Ryan, Granzow, Martin and Evans will sit down and put some thoughts together to get to them. Rollo would like to be in the loop on the comments too.

Lincoln Area—Jeanette said they've had a lot of snow but it was warming up this morning.

Lake Helena Watershed—They had applied for funding at DEQ to do a project out on Prickly Pear, including Weber, Cloninger, Tryan and Taylor properties. It's going to be about double the size of the Elliott project. They have funding to start the first phase, which is design and obtaining materials as well as the floodplain permit. They have been asked to re-apply for the 2nd phase. When they were denied, they actually brought DEQ out to look at the actual project site. As a result, DEQ is going to try to find the funding for the project. Total price tag is roughly about \$160,000 for construction. Ryan said that he did send a note to the Independent Record regarding the Floodplain issues that have been ongoing and is hoping to get some press about the issue. The watershed group is determined to be a non-profit in 2017. They have some outreach events that they're looking at for the year.

MRCDC—report included in the packet. Ryan said that toward the end of the report they mention a training video that looks like a great project, especially aimed at realtors. Stan said that Rachel had a display set up at the Rotunda.

Weed District—Dave Lewis is their new board member for the east side of the valley. Larry said that the Cheatgrass seminar was a good turnout and well put together. He thanked Evans for her work in planning and executing the seminar. Blackman said it was really interesting.

Old Business

Cheatgrass workshop report—there were almost 60 people registered for the day. Other than losing a speaker to illness the day was filled with good information.

Report from meeting with NRCS/DNRC/MACD—Evans, Blackman and Ryan were all present at the January meeting with NRCS, an MACD representative and a few DNRC folks. Lots of funding issues were discussed along with program requirements and Keri Bilbo again went through the differences between the Progressive fund pool and the RMS fund pool. Specific questions were asked about the ranking questions in the Progressive fund pool. It's unclear as to who develops the local and state ranking questions. Keri did say that the Area Office welcomes feedback on those questions. There was no effective resolution on issues at this time.

New Business

Stream project in Meagher—Ryan said that at the planning meeting the CD talked about a stream workshop. Right after that Jo Christianson called him about a project near White Sulphur Springs. The stream is called Jumping Creek. Jo is doing the planning and most of the work. Jeff offered to co-sponsor with Meagher CD's blessing. The workshop is April 3-5 out of

White Sulphur. The first 1/2 day will be a lecture/workshop setting. In the afternoon everyone would go out to the site and do a willow soil lift. The project is pretty small. There will be an opportunity in March to cut dormant willow.

310 Permit Applications

LC-03-17 Weber, motion by Granzow to approve as proposed, second by Blackman; motion carried.

LC-04-17 Diamond Construction, Evans received an email from the BOR yesterday indicating that the landowner was in non-compliance with some of their requirements and that the design of the project was going to have to change. Motion by Granzow to table, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

EME-01-17 Davis, motion by Frasier to approve work as completed, second by Granzow; motion carried.

Adams: No design, no map; affidavit from other landowners. The board directed that the application be returned to him as incomplete. As part of the application the board is requiring that a certified contractor do the work.

Having no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on March 9, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Conference Room, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____