



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
April 13, 2017, 1 p.m.**

Call to order – the meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Steve Granzow. In attendance were Steve Granzow, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl and Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were Travis Wilson, David Martin, John George and Chris Evans.

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

Motion by Nordahl to accept the financial report and pay the outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Correspondence

Biological Weed Control catalog

Signatures on grant contract

DNRC's Rangeland Improvement Loan program

AIS Summit

Summer Camps/Sponsorship for registrations

Public Comment

There was none

Reports

NRCS – John had current snotel data and gave a report on what's happening in the office. He made a trip around with Travis last week to show what kinds of things NRCS is doing. The office has sent out information on the Special Initiative for Forestry and they have seen an incredible response from landowners. They are targeting severe fire hazard areas. They've funded 2 county contracts so far, both are forestry. There's a 3rd application that John is fighting for funding for. They sent out fliers for the general EQIP that has a June 1 cutoff deadline for applications. Howe-Cobb asked if forestry was the direction that the office was likely to stay with for now. John responded that for now, probably. Range projects as they come into the office, just tend to not rank very well given the prescribed grazing requirement in RMS projects and the RMS level and prescribed grazing questions that are in the progressive pool. John asked about a contact in Augusta and Lincoln to get into the school to talk to students about vovag and FFA.

WQPD/LHWG – Ryan said it was a pretty good meeting. They are still discussing their year-long plan and what their direction is going to be. They're hiring a water technician. They discussed the willow planting on Prickly Pear Creek.

SRWG— Travis was present to make a report with the Group. They've had a water management workgroup meeting and water quality workgroup meeting since our last board meeting. He's been going to CD meetings and irrigation district meetings. He went to the stream restoration project in Meagher County. They've started up their flow gauges on the Sun River. Travis is going to the MWCC Watershed Planning training next week and the Summit in Great Falls for the AIS problem the following week.

Travis has made a request for the donation of a backpack sprayer again for the Weed Whacker Rodeo in July. Granzow will take care of that.

MACD/SWCDMI—Ryan was on the Board Conference call on Monday. They went over the new financial reports. Valley Conservation District has chosen to not host the convention in November.

Ryan said that he had been sort of supportive of holding on with MACD until the Floodplain Bill was tanked by the floodplain association letter writing campaign. The MACD membership was never asked to write letters or otherwise contact legislators in support of the bill. Granzow and Evans each had a visit from Jeff Wivholm after we sent our letter of concerns. Both felt that MACD in general was pretty dismissive of the concerns that we outlined in the letter we sent on March 20, that going through the letter and talking about our concerns was enough to assuage our concerns.

Martin was on the call as well and had some notes from the meeting. Gary Giem has been in to assist the MACD/SWCDMI office with getting their books straightened out and reports as requested by the CDs. There was concern on MACD's part about the level of detail requested in the financials. They said they don't want to overwhelm the CDs and give too much information with the idea that too much means CDs won't look at them. The concern about disclosing salaries/wages came up; some districts want to know what staff is being paid. There was concern about level of privacy but as members of the Association, CDs should be able to see what staff members are being paid. Nancy from Valley CD was on the call and indicated that after 2 years of asking for information, there's frustration.

There was a discussion about dues payments. Thirty three districts had paid dues as of Monday's meeting in the amount of \$62,440. Martin said that between the financials, Great Falls' letter and our letter, there was more concern about how they are doing business versus the financial concerns.

The last thing Jeff mentioned from the call was that the MACD is going to contribute a \$100 memorial to the Montana Envirothon in Jan Fontaine's memory. Jeff would like to see the CD contribute at least \$500. Motion by Ryan, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Ryan motioned to not pay dues for 2016/2017 and he would like to sever ties with MACD until we get answers in writing on every concern we sent them and to send that to them in writing. Second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried. Ryan will resign from the MACD board at the same time. Ryan will work with Evans on a letter to MACD.

Ryan said that there is interest at DNRC in assisting us directly with moving forward on the floodplain bill issue. He would like the CD to send a letter to John Tubbs requesting meetings to move forward on the issue in spite of the lack of assistance from MACD. Motion by Ryan to do that, second by Ingersoll; motion carried. Jeff will draft a letter and get it to Evans.

MRCDC—see report.

Weed District—see report.

Old Business

Earth Month event—there was a panel last night that Evans was asked to take part in in observance of the Earth Day/Month observances. It was local people from state and county as well as the city who work with water.

Follow up from Area Meeting emails—1/2 of the CDs in the Bozeman NRCS area have responded that they would like to have some kind of an Area work group to discuss prioritization of EQIP projects.

Ladies Day on the range—Evans will work with Scott Blackman on food for the day.

New Business

Flood Awareness Day-May 26

Juniper Encroachment range workshop-with the increase in juniper in range land and in riparian areas, including cottonwood and aspen stands, Evans and George would like to look into putting seminar together on the impact on water supply and improving range and how landowners can control the juniper encroachment.

Winter Grazing Seminar-Evans was asked by DNRC is the CD would be interested in hosting the Winter Grazing Seminar in January. With board approval, Evans will figure out what our responsibilities will be.

Weed Cost Share applications-around \$30,000 in approved requests this year. Evans asked if the board wants to fund them all, or just stay to the \$25,000. Motion by Granzow to approve increased funding, second by Ryan; motion carried.

310 Permit Applications

LC-04-17-Diamond Construction

Location: Canyon Ferry/Missouri River

When: ASAP

Purpose: Bank Stabilization

Dimensions: 75 feet of bank

Equipment: Excavator and skid steer

Materials: 150CY native rock and gravel from local pit, 30 CY Concrete, 65 LF of Wall blocks

Team Report comments: Problem with BOR, need to table pending changes

Decision: continues to be tabled pending more information from Applicant.

LC-09-17 Snowberry Properties

Location: Spring Creek

When: 3/17-12/18

Purpose: Ford construction, Fish habitat

Dimensions: 1800 LF of bank

Equipment: excavator with thumb, skid steer for moving materials, load to haul materials, dump truck to haul material

Materials: 100-140 CY Wood habitat structure

80-100 willows, aspen, cottonwood trees

100-140 CY sod mats

Team Report comments: We talked about minimizing turbidity by having two machines work downstream in tandem to eliminated machinery crossing the stream. We also decided to

dewater the stream too without fully dewatering it. A silt fence should be placed in the stream as described in the application. Pre- and post- project benthic invertebrates should be collected as a baseline for the project and to verify assumptions described in the permit. Ryen agreed to complete this work. Because of this project's high visibility, Paul agreed to meet with the downstream neighbors to make sure the project does not take them by surprise. Because of this project high visibility, and the potential for down-stream turbidity, I recommend project should get a DEQ 318 Authorization permit.

There are no bull trout or westslope cutthroat trout conflicts so there are no related spawning windows. However, the project should be completed by 10/1 so that it does not conflict with the brown trout spawning.

Decision: motion by Ingersoll to approve with recommendations, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-10-17 Wilbur

Location: Canyon Ferry/Missouri River

When: ASAP

Purpose: floating dock replacement

Dimensions: no physical alteration of shoreline. Dock arranged in a t-configuration with a 20' wide section along shore extending to a total of 24 feet outward into reservoir. Dock will float and will be moved in accordance with reservoir levels.

Equipment: launch with trailer, floated into position.

Materials: 2x6 treated planking, sealed floats and galvanized hardware, chain and cables connected to existing anchors

Team Report: No inspection; FWP sees no problems with project

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve; motion carried.

LC-11-17 Snowberry Properties

Location: Keep Cool Creek

When: April 2017 to April 2022 (Annual Maintenance Permit request)

Purpose: Propose to remove no more than 1/3 of each dam that we work on. Dam removal will be staged to lower water elevations slowly and limit amount of turbidity downstream. Dam removal will be halted once the majority of Keep Cool Cr. water is prevented from diverting into irrigation ditches and Spring Creek. Landowner will not work on all 12 dams; the main goal of this maintenance is to keep the majority of water in the Keep Cool channel.

Dimensions: no stream bank impact

Equipment: small excavator to remove dam material

Materials: N/A

Decision: motion by Nordahl to approve with recommendations, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

LC-17-16 Amendment request

Team comments: The idea is to pull the old undersized pipe (photo 3381 as originally proposed in LC-17-16) and to replace with much larger culvert about 200' downstream of the existing culvert (photo 3382). The new culvert has sufficient capacity for the stream and should be counter-sunk about 12-15". Complete the beaver dam removal projects on Keep Cool prior to the culvert work because that would greatly reduce the flow into the channel. This flow reduction would allow the operator to divert water around (i.e., isolate the project) and thereby

complete the pipe installation in the dry. After the installation of the new pipe, the stream could be put through the new pipe and floodplain restored.

Decision: motion by Nordahl to approve with a 30" minimum culvert, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

Other Business

Adjournment to Executive Session to complete performance evaluation.

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____