



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

790 Colleen Street • Helena, Montana 59601 • 449-5000 ext. 112

Regular Meeting Minutes

Dearborn Community Center, HWY 434, Wolf Creek, MT
July 13, 2017 8:30 a.m.

Call to order—the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Frasier at 8:35 a.m. In attendance were Stan Frasier, Scott Blackman, Jeanette Nordahl, Ron Ingersoll, Sarah Howe-Cobb, Steve Granzow, and Jeff Ryan. Also in attendance were Larry Hoffman, David Martin, Gary Giem, Diane Fitzgerald and Chris Evans. Mike Hansen joined the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Granzow to approve minutes as presented, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.
Motion Granzow to approve the financial statement and pay the outstanding bills, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Correspondence

Motion by Howe-Cobb to approve \$750 for RMFWRT, second by Blackman; motion carried.

Public Comment

There was none

Reports

NRCS—Diane Fitzgerald was present to make the NRCS report. John George is on detail to the state office for 2 months. He'll be in the office a couple of days each week. The forestry program is very active. Diane just finished a very large fuel reduction in Colorado Gulch. The first forestry plan is in motion where they are contracting with someone else to write the plan.

Sun River—written report

Weed District --Larry has been sending out complaint notifications. Ron Ingersoll asked about highway 200 and whether the state was going to do some weed control, especially in the cuts and fills, Hwy 434 to the state gravel pit is particularly bad. Larry said they've distributed over 60,000 insects in the county to-date. They start with the RID's next week. There's a FS special project and the South Hills and York areas are upcoming. There's a group trying to put together a NWTF grant in the Keep Cool Creek area. Spray Days went well, especially the Dearborn. They had one on Canyon Creek and in the Sun Canyon.

Supervisor Reports

Howe-Cobb-Augusta Area-Sarah said it's quiet and dry in the Augusta area. She said the traffic on Benchmark road has been heavy with the hot weather.

Ingersoll-Dearborn Area-Ron asked if Evans would look into Chuck Melaney's annual maintenance permit. They had a good day for the spray day, it wasn't hot or windy. They were a little short on landowners. There was a letter from one landowner indicating appreciation for

the assistance. He said the cheatgrass in the hay areas is bad. They will be getting some insects for St. John's Wort and leafy spurge. Stan asked where they are getting the insects from. The majority are coming from Bozeman, but also the Whitehall, Missoula and Choteau areas.

Blackman-MRCDC/Craig Area-Lots of fisherman, the sewer project is finally going in and causing traffic issues. He turned the MRCDC report over to Jeff Ryan.

Nordahl-Blackfoot Area-They had another sizable aftershock last night. Jeanette said that they had a really great meeting with the Department of Ag Trust Fund group last week. She said that they got to see some dogs trained to find noxious weeds. There's an event for the Blackfoot Challenge September 17th celebrating 30 years.

Frasier-WQPD/West Valley Area-Baxendale Fire Department has some weed issues that Stan will be addressing. Stan went to the WQPD meeting. Stan mentioned that Earl Wohlfrom had passed away and the memorial will be at the fire hall in Canyon Creek.

Ryan-LHWG/Birdseye Area-Jeff went on the MRCDC tour. They had a river trip on the Milk River irrigation projects. Part went to Canada and some stayed in the state. They looked at some of the siphons that go under the river. They are seeking \$200 million out of Congress for the Milk River irrigation complex. This was part of the quarterly meeting. They have another meeting in conjunction with the MACD meeting in November. Jeff missed the WQPD meeting. The Lake Helena group had a wetlands festival. Turnout wasn't the best. Birdseye area, Canyon Creek is having a 150 year anniversary party on Saturday.

Granzow-East Valley Area-houses continue to go up. They are trying to get the hay baled in his area.

Old Business

Evans made a report from the Employee Organization spring meeting. She was asked to sit on a panel discussion about longevity in working for CD's. There was lively discussion about why people choose to stay working for CD's and why they leave.

New Business

Karl Christians has offered to do some supervisor training. We should probably look at dates when the CD meetings are back in Helena.

Proposed realtor course-Dave Martin had a phone call from Mark Simonich on the board of realty regulations. There is some interest in a 4-hour training and Dave wanted to know if the CD would be interested in hosting something like this. The board of realty would be willing to put \$1000 toward the event. Frasier said that weeds, wells, septic systems and Granzow said mineral rights should be addressed too. Dave will work on organizing it, he'll send out a list of possible topics and presenters.

310 Permit Applications

LC-04-17-Diamond Construction-- Remains tabled

LC-14-17-Henry – remains tabled

LC-17-17-Charles

Updated activity

LC-19-17-BBCTU-Stew Schwartz

Location: Blackfoot River

When: 8/15 to 9/30

Purpose: upgrade to existing diversion with headgate, sluicgate, fish screen and armored riffle.

Dimensions: 700 feet of river

Equipment: hydraulic excavator, native grass seeding by hand

Materials: see designs page 7

Team Report comments: Recommended approval with the following modifications:

- 1) Isolate active construction area by diverting water around “immediate” project area
- 2) Work is to be completed by 10/1/17
- 3) Give 48 hours notice to Conservation District (Jeanette Nordahl) and FWP (Ron Pierce) regarding start of construction

Decision: Motion by Jeanette, second by Blackman to approve with modifications; motion carried.

LC-20-17 Mike Wirth

Location: Missouri River, Canyon Ferry

When: 11/1/17 to 3/1/18

Purpose: stabilize the current eroding bank and protect existing deck, patio and home.

Dimensions: 150' of bank

Equipment: Cat 320 Excavator, articulated haul truck

Materials: 500 CY class 2 and 3 rock – Mike also said that he plans to place soil just above the rock wall and will plant grass and shrubs

Team Report comments: approval as proposed – Granzow made the report on the application.

The site is particularly steep.

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

LC-21-17 Russ Greaves

Location: N. F. Stickney Creek

When: 8/15 to 11/1

Purpose: replace culverts that were damaged and washed out in May 2015 and replace the temporarily installed culverts.

Dimensions: 25-30 feet of bank

Equipment: backhoe

Materials: 40-50 CY various sizes of riprap, 2 four foot diameter culverts and 1 five foot diameter culvert

Team Report comments:

Decision: Ryan said that there needs to be defined depression, a foot or so lower than the existing grade as an overflow depression area, with armoring rocks being placed upstream and downstream on the culverts and the overflow area (N. Fork Road side). Motion by Ryan to table pending an inspection, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Other Business

MACD Discussion--Mike Hansen and Gary Giem were at the meeting to talk about CD issues with MACD. Granzow said that he and Evans went over to Elena’s office in 2015 to discuss some ongoing problems. There have been no results from that meeting. When Granzow has approached Elena about follow up, he’s been given the brush off from her with the response that it needs to be addressed to her board. There is a significant level of frustration at that since the CD feels that she should have been able to take our concerns to the board. At that time, she said nothing about us going to our Area Directors with our concerns.

Granzow said that on the financial side of things, districts need to be able to see the true picture of what has been going on, including what Elena is getting paid. The Floodplain bill was a huge problem with LCCD yet Elena has touted it as some kind of “success”. MACD never called in CD’s for testimony or even letter writing or emails. The legislators look at CD

supervisors and staff as real people, not lobbyists. Jeff Ryan said that at this session during the floodplain bill testimony, the floodplain people had testimony lined up from across the state, with email and letter writing campaigns and MACD did nothing to get their membership mobilized similarly. In fact, when CD's offered to testify, they were asked to not do so. Further, Granzow believes that there has been enough strife between MACD and legislators that the next session CDs will start out with 2 strikes against them in regard to getting their concerns fairly dealt with.

Scott Blackman said that the summit that Cascade put on a few years ago was a really good start. There were issues brought up then again about MACD's financials and Scott is concerned since the tax payer money is something Districts are responsible for spending appropriately. Our dues are paid out of taxpayer money. When Scott followed up with Elena, he received no coherent response about what MACD was doing to address those concerns. It took over a year for MACD to actually hire a bookkeeper. Rather than maintaining control over the finances, she needs to delegate that work out. Several CD administrators offered their assistance and it was not accepted.

Granzow is concerned that the executive board is meeting when the full board is available. According to the by-laws, that shouldn't be happening.

The defensive nature of MACD's response to district's concerns continues to be a problem.

Dave Martin gave a quick report on the Spring Board meeting discussion. There is another supervisor summit October 31 and November 1st, in Great Falls. There will be discussion on potential alternatives to MACD. Jeff encouraged Mike and Gary to attend. He's asked Lewis and Clark to help sponsor it.

Gary and Mike indicated that we as a CD have MACD's attention. Gary said that he would try to get a written response to our March letter back to us, but that we would likely not like some of the answers.

Local Work Group—since it's time and maybe past time to host the Local Work Group meeting, the CD will host it following the August 10, 2017 meeting at 11 a.m. The August meeting will be in Helena at the USDA Service Center to hopefully get some more people to the LWG meeting.

The next meeting will be in Helena at 8:30 am on August 10, 2017.

Scott asked if there was interest in hosting the 2018 Montana Youth Range Camp. Evans asked Scott if we could talk about it more before committing.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer

Date

Recorder

Date