



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
July 19, 2018, 1pm**

Call to order—the meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by chairman Scott Blackman. In attendance were Scott Blackman, Jeff Ryan, Steve Granzow and Ron Ingersoll. Also in attendance were David Martin, John George, Christian Lehnert, Jennifer McBroom and Chris Evans.

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

Correspondence—

MACD dues request-Evans said the 2nd dues notice was received. The Conservation District may want to put together a note to them to indicate what the markers of measurement will be in order to make dues payments. The new Executive Director is Dan McGowan and he starts on the 30th. Evans worked with Dan when he was the State DES person during the fires in 2000 and 2001. He should be a great step forward for MACD.

RMFWRT bug collection info-Apparently the bugs are not at the numbers they need to be at for collection.

Public Comment-There was none.

Reports

NRCS-John said there's been an uptick in work the last few months. They have had multiple new contracts obligated and awaiting obligation. Their workload for FY 19 70 interested (66 forestry, 3 range 2 irrigation) that the staff needs to visit with. FSA ECP sign up is going on until August 24. NRCS will be covering the technical aspect of that program. A new state conservationist is starting on Monday. He was in Oregon prior to this hire. The Local Work Group met this morning and kept things pretty much the same as last year with some language clarification on a Priority 1 concern.

Sun River—Rollo had sent in a report. They are moving forward with hiring a coordinator and working on the work plan.

Weed District—Christian was here to talk about what the Weed District has been up to. The flood in the Dearborn area stopped the Dearborn Spray day. The Weed District has been working on a lot of non-compliance concerns. The complaints that are coming in are pretty widespread. It's more concentrated in the valley, but it's all over. They got the Lincoln revegetation grant and the fire response grant as well. Ryan asked about how the compliance program works. There's a formal letter that goes out to landowners who have had a complaint filed against them. Christian says that the first contact letter is more of an education program. The

2nd letter that goes out is a little more intense and comes from the County Attorney's office. Ultimately if the landowner doesn't take care of the problem, the weeds get sprayed by the weed district and the landowner pays for it on their taxes. The county attorney's office has been reorganized too so it's been a process. John asked if there's been discussion with the weed board about the whitetop problem that is popping up all over the valley. Christian said, they've talked about doing a more intense education program and increasing the noncompliance letters to landowners. Evans offered to put an article on the website and in the newsletter. There's a possibility that we could do a seminar similar to those we did on cheatgrass specific to whitetop. The last few years have really seen increased growth and with a flood year it's going to be worse.

WQPD – Jennifer McBroom was here to talk about the tour they took last month. They went out to the Tryan project. The project has grown by 3 additional properties. The construction/restoration project should start this fall. They went back to the new fishing access site and took a look at how it had healed up. Jeff added that they wanted to do the soil lift demo on Sevenmile and it's too late for that. They'd like to use those funds on the Tryan project instead. They're doing tree revetments and root wads and could use some big trees. Their next meeting has a landowner in the North Hills who is asking for a controlled groundwater area through DNRC. They're seeing declines in groundwater across the WQPD.

LHWG-Watershed Festival is August 4 from 9-1 at Women's Park. Running Water for Helena was in June and is part of the outreach that the City does for water quality. There are a bunch of volunteers sprigging willows on Sevenmile tomorrow that the CD is providing lunch for.

Supervisor Reports

Howe Cobb-Augusta Area 1-Sarah wasn't here to give a report but Evans said that the area is undergoing flooding recovery. We have likely just started with emergencies and permits.

Nordahl-Blackfoot Area 2-the Challenge had a tour a few weeks ago.

Ingersoll-Dearborn Area 3-fire area had some serious run-off especially from the state section that burned in the Alice Creek Fire last summer. Multiple culvert cleanings in order to get the fences rebuilt.

Blackman-Craig Area 4-there's been some major deposition especially at the Dearborn bridge. Scott says he thinks of Cobbs every time he cleans out the pivot nozzles at Vaughn.

Granzow-East Valley Area 5-the Hamlin subdivision is planning to run sewage to East Helena, but Steve says that he thinks they're planning on using the federal easement for the canal. Technically that won't work because it's only an irrigation easement. Evans will call Krystal Ness about that. Cheatgrass is a real problem this year.

Ryan-West Valley Area 6-the river rendezvous was last week in Great Falls, they toured the river; the willow being sprigged tomorrow was cut at the Regulating reservoir last spring; the Gehring Ranch designation was done last weekend. He said it was a really nice gathering.

Frasier-West Valley Area 7- the Eagle Scout project mostly washed out with the flooding that happened this spring.

Associate Supervisor report-David Martin is back from Scotland.

Old Business

Riparian Grazing Day report-one landowner, good speaker. It's an ongoing struggle to get landowners to these events.

Permissive Mill Levy Hearing report-no one came, no changes to the levy.

Local Work Group meeting report-the group kept the priority resource concern pretty much the same, with some clarification in language.

310 Permit Applications

EME-05-18 MRL

Location: Sevenmile Creek

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve work and recommend that they revegetate the site this fall with an approved 310 permit; motion carried.

EME-06-18 MRL

Location: Sevenmile Creek

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve work and recommend that they revegetate the site this fall with an approved 310 permit; motion carried.

EME-08-18 Wirth

There were no further comments, the action taken at the June 2018 meeting stand.

EME-09-18-BBCTU

Location: Stonewall Creek

Team Report Comments: Inspection not requested

Decision: Motion by Granzow, second by Ingersoll to approve action taken

EME-10-18 DuBois

Location: Lyons Creek

Team Report Comments: See if county could revegetate road right of way. If culvert is replaced or other work is done, need a 310 permit.

Decision: Motion by Blackman, second by Ingersoll to approve work done; motion carried.

EME-11-18 Cobb

Location: Willow Creek

Team Report Comments: Emergency work needs to be done to get irrigation water and stop flooding of field.

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

EME-12-18 Sun Canyon Lodge

Location: Home Gulch

Team Report Comments: Alan Rollo commented that the area is going to need a 310 for future work to finish the project work. They need to level some gravel that was piled up and they really need to do some bank work so the river doesn't take the corrals at next high water.

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve work done with the understanding that a 310-permit application will be filed for further work; motion carried.

EME-13-18 GID

Location: Beaver Creek

Team Report Comments: Rollo indicated that a 310 will be needed to redo the bridge

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency, with the understanding that they will file a 310 for further work; motion carried.

EME-14-18 GID

Location: Blacktail Creek

Team Report Comments: 310 will be needed to address damage in a long-term way.

Decision:

EME-15-18 Cobb

Location: Eddy and Shed Creeks (pond)

Team Report Comments: Needs a rock weir installed to enable water to get into the ditch.

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve, with the modification that the rock needs to be in a weir in order to get water into the irrigation ditch.

EME-16-18 Cobb Charolais

Location: Ford Creek

Team Report Comments: Rollo indicated that a 310-permit app will be necessary to finish project as noted on inspection photos.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency with the understanding that a permit will be applied for to do further work; motion carried.

EME-17-18 Cobb Charolais

Location: Ford Creek

Team Report Comments: Rollo indicated that further rock needs to be placed on upstream abutment to ensure stopping erosion-see photo on report.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency; motion carried.

EME-18-18 Cobb Charolais

Location: Ford Creek

Team Report Comments: Rollo recommended using material that deposited to make the new cuts less steep.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency with the understanding that a permit will be applied for to do further work; motion carried.

EME-19-18 Cobb Charolais

Location: Ford Creek

Team Report Comments:

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency with the understanding that a permit will be applied for to do further work; motion carried.

EME-20-18 Cobb Charolais

Team Report Comments: Rollo indicated that further rock needs to be placed on upstream abutment to ensure stopping erosion-see photo on report.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve work done under the emergency; motion carried.

LC-10-18 Broken O

Location: Elk Creek

Team report comments: Will likely need emergency action for part of current project (see inspection notes in file); consider long term options such as a cross-vein or weir. Recommended approval with modifications that they submit an amendment showing proper landowner name and signature.

Decision: Motion by Granzow, second by Ingersoll to approve a 3-year maintenance permit, waiving the 15-day waiting period, with the understanding that any other work that needs to be done to address flood damage will be done under a separate 310 permit; motion carried.

LC-11-18 Broken O

Location: Sun River

Team report comments: Floweree diversion work needs to have an emergency notice submitted for work currently being done. Alfalfa diversion needs a separate 310 permit app for major modifications required so it will actually work. Need more detail of current configuration to changes; remove gravel bedload from mouth of Willow Creek Reservoir feeder canal. Recommended approval with modifications.

Decision: Motion by Granzow, second by Ingersoll to approve a 3-year maintenance permit, waiving the 15 day waiting period, with the understanding that any other work that needs to be done to address flood damage will be done under a separate 310 permit; motion carried.

LC-13-18 Nordahl et al

Location: Spokane Creek

Team report comments: The inspection team went out on this one prior to the June meeting. It was tabled because the team thought there was interest in a bridge. The applicant amended the application to show 2 alternatives, they wanted both alternatives approved. One was a squashed culvert, the other was additional round culverts (multiples).

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve only alternative 1 (squashed culvert), waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-15-18 YPL

Location: Beaver Creek, 7 sites

Team report comments: FWP sent the CD a letter with comments; email from Tim McNew at the Corps about site specifics. FWP's recommendation was to deny the whole application or only approve sites 3 and 4. Jeff reminded the board that at the onsite inspection prior to the June meeting, he and Adam had discussed with applicant representatives the option of a concrete cap, and possibly approving the 2 sites that were not very suitable for lowering in place. The board tabled the application at the June meeting pending more information from the applicant about the concrete caps. After sending notification of tabling, we received an email from Jean Ramer, that YPL did not want to propose caps, that they wanted us to proceed with the evaluation for weirs.

With the photographs provided by the applicant, and the letter from FWP, as well as the concerns with continuing to "band-aid" the system, he recommended denial of the who application, with the recommendation that the applicant come up with more appropriate long-term solutions.

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to deny the entire application based on the recurrence of the problem and the high gradient nature of this stream; motion carried.

LC-18-18 Ward

Location: Home Gulch Creek

Team Report Comments: inspection not requested

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Ingersoll to approve as proposed, waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-19-18 Whetham

Location: Missouri River (Holter Reservoir)

Team Report Comments: Add concrete pad to anchor concrete logs to.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Blackman to approve with the modification and waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-20-18 Bar X Lazy D LLC (Wilkins)

Location: Willow Creek (west side)

Team Report Comments: inspection was not requested

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Granzow to approve as proposed, waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-21-18 Eskildsen

Location: Silver Creek

Team Report Comments: re-align existing 40" culvert in line with stream channel; place new 48" culvert parallel to realigned 40" culvert; embed both culverts to prevent scour and provide for fish passage; embed large rock (3'x3') at the toe of the slop on the upstream and downstream side of the crossing to prevent scouring; suggest adding an armored relief channel on the road.

Decision: Motion by Ryan, second by Granzow to approve with the modifications as noted and waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-22-18 BBCTU

Location: Poorman Creek

Team Report Comments: No inspection was requested.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve as proposed, waiving the 15-day waiting period; motion carried.

LC-27-18 Cobb Charolais

Location: Ford Creek

Team Report Comments: Alan Rollo's report captured pretty much everything that Dave Yerk wanted on paper. John will likely need some guidance on the "how-to" of some of the activities.

Decision: Motion by Ingersoll, second by Ryan to approve with the modification that before the sediment is moved, the applicant should dig a trench at the base of the new bank, put willow cuttings in vertically and then push the gravel and sediment up against them; motion carried.

Calendar of upcoming events

Range Day-August 14th. Deadline to register, August 3. If we don't have enough attendees, we're going to cancel. Scott Blackman, and Ron and Linda Ingersoll plan to be there.

Supervisor Summit-August 29-30

August meeting- August 16 at the Dearborn Community Center, 8:30 a.m.

September meeting- September 13, Lincoln at 9:30 a.m.

October meeting-October 11, Helena Field Office, 1 p.m.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer _____ Date _____

Recorder _____ Date _____