



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center Conference Room
790 Colleen Street, Helena MT
1 pm

Call to order—the meeting was called to order at 1 pm by vice chair Jeff Ryan. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Ron Ingersoll, Steve Granzow, Jeff Ryan, Stan Frasier and Jeanette Nordahl. Also in attendance were John George, Dan McGowan, Darcy Goodson and Chris Evans.

Introductions were made.

Motion by Granzow to approve minutes as presented, second by Ingersoll; motion carried.

Motion by Nordahl to approve financials as presented and to pay all the bills; second by Granzow; motion carried. Ryan commented that his travel check was a big one but was for 5 months.

Correspondence—put in for the money from DNRC

Public Comment-there was none

Reports

NRCS—John said the office obligated a total of 36 new apps, 30 in Helena. 27 contracts for forestry, 3 for High Tunnels bringing them to 78 active contracts. There is a signup that ends October 19 that ties into the Two Chiefs and the area funding pool.

There is a new state conservationist, Tom Watson. They had an all employees meeting last week where the direction for the state was outlined. There is a re-alignment happening in the state in the next few weeks. Effective October 1, Lewis and Clark will now be part of the Missoula area as will Teton County. John will no longer be supervising Meagher county, but will be supervising Jefferson and Teton Counties. Between the 3 counties, they'll be managing 165 contracts.

Along with that change, the state will now be looking at focused conservation. The office will now be submitting project proposals that address a resource concern on a land use in their county—specifically what Lewis and Clark Conservation District has been trying to avoid. John asked that the supervisors start thinking about targeted resource concerns that so that they can start doing the legwork on getting landowner interest assessed. Jeff asked if the 303d list of impaired streams was something that the state office is looking at using as a measure. John said that no, that was not specifically mentioned, but that we could use that as a way to get started.

Sun River—the new coordinator, Tracy Wendt, has been hired. She'll be trying to get around to all of the partners soon. The Neal family has pulled out of having the sediment pond put in place on the Willow Creek feeder canal system, so the watershed is reassessing which direction to go with the work that needs to be done. Alan said that they are still spraying weeds in the watershed.

Weed District—no report.

MRCDC—there wasn't much of a call at the last meeting. The Living on the Bank website is moving forward. We're relying on one of the Big Sky Watershed Corps members to finish that up. Jeff doesn't think we're floundering, but there's still a lot to do.

WQPD—There was a request from a landowner to do a groundwater study and a groundwater protection area. They declined to get involved. Stan said there was more discussion about that at the last meeting. The board agreed that there was a problem but they instructed the staff to get the testing completed and they'll look at it again.

LHWG—Jeff said their evening meeting is next week. The big discussion is the upcoming Tryan project. They're thinking about doing a willow soil lift demo on that project. FWP required 9000 willow on that project. The willows have to be dormant, and that means leaf-off before we can cut them.

MACD—Dan McGowan was at the meeting to give an update on the new job. He wants to open up some discussion about the direction of MACD and bringing Districts back together. He said that the association is about the membership, that Districts are the reason that they exist. He wants to know what services the association should be providing to their membership.

Dan wants to look at all of the organizational components to make sure that everything fits and that it's strong. The dues always come up and in order to really look at that, the foundation of the organization needs to be reviewed. Maybe there are ways to bring other funding in to make the dues part of less concern. Disparities across the state lead to disparities in dues because of the way CD money is figured out at the county level. The question shouldn't really be "what are our dues buying our district?" it should be "are the resource needs of the state being addressed". Dan has more of a concern about partnerships, including DNRC and NRCS. Communication is important and the new District Dispatch is supposed to address that need within a smaller group, including CDs, the watershed councils, DNRC and NRCS and others.

The Montana Conservationist will remain, but the District Dispatch is supposed to address more immediate concerns. There will be a legislative committee formed soon. That committee will be reaching out to the districts during the session for help testifying on bills. Dan will be working on prioritizing different issues and elements.

Granzow asked what the board was doing about the strategic plan. Dan said that the board has approved it and it's out. Dan has a long background in planning and while the board wanted him to take a look at it, he would rather have them move forward with it and they will adjust it as they go forward. He said that it's a good start but that it's not perfect and it's not done.

The standing committees have come up with questions on their purpose and function. The standing committee chairs and such will be in a meeting right before the convention so that those committees will hopefully be more effective in the future. Jeff Ryan brought up the floodplain resolution and moving forward with that project. Dan would be willing to be involved in that work.

There was some discussion about the District requests for being excused from full dues payment. They approved our request, but there were several others that weren't excused at that meeting. Jeff Ryan was unhappy about the tone of the discussion during that call. Dan talked about the importance of the dues payments and the importance of payment of dues. MACD had requested a reason for why the district couldn't pay their full dues and at least a few that submitted a letter didn't have a reason for why they couldn't/wouldn't pay their full dues. They are asking again for rationale as to why they can't pay their full dues prior to the convention.

Supervisor Reports

In the interest of time, there was a roundtable question put to supervisors to see if anything specific was going on in their areas. Nothing specific.

Old Business

Meagher CD agreement-John would like to move forward with that CTA agreement – the office will continue servicing that office through December. Payment has already been made to Meagher CD for our share of the cost.

Supervisor Summit-Evans said that the Summit came off pretty well in spite of the frustrations of the planning process with a fairly sizable committee.

New Business

Evans put the question to the board about reimbursement to Alan Rollo for his work on the 310 inspections in the Augusta Area this year. There was some discussion on what would be fair, but the board decided to revisit this issue at their next meeting.

Montana Youth Range Camp-We have agreed to host in 2020. Evans has a couple of potential venues and would like to pursue the one on the Dearborn River.

There was discussion about the Helena Valley Irrigation District 223 grant application. The board opted to revisit it at their next meeting.

Evans discussed the MPERA reporting problem that happened which may result in a fairly sizable fine

310 Permit Applications

Extension request LC-21-17 Greaves

Needs an extension of time since he was waiting on the other work to be complete before he started his project. Motion by Granzow, second by Ryan to approve the extension for one year; motion carried. This should be the final extension for this one since it's the 2nd extension approved.

EME-22-18 Broken O-Sun River-used an excavator to clean out gravel and cobble bedload that had deposited behind the headgate. Also, the bankfull bend that ties into the top of the irrigation structure was rebuilt to attempt to match pre-existing condition. Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve work done; motion carried.

EME-23-18 Broken O-Sun River-the highwater event washed out the entire Floweree diversion structure which spanned the entire width of the Sun River below the confluence with Willow Creek. Used an excavator to rebuild the structure to ensure adequate flow to the Floweree diversion structure. A notch was reconstructed in the center of the structure to encourage movement of bedload. Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve work done; motion carried.

EME-25-18 Ingersoll-Unnamed tributary to Green Creek-unplugged culverts twice to keep water from washing out road. Motion by Nordahl, second by Granzow to approve as proposed; motion carried. Ingersoll abstained.

EME-26-18 Ingersoll-Middle Fork Dearborn-placed rocks to back water up to go through irrigation pipe. Motion by Nordahl, second by Granzow to approve as proposed; motion carried. Ingersoll abstained.

EME-27-18 JJ Mule Ranch-new bridge abutments were put in to raise the bridge 1' above the high-water mark from the flood on June 19. Abutments were set back and consisted of a quantity of 5 30"x30"x60" concrete blocks weighing 4000 pounds each. The banks were then lined with riprap to prevent damage to abutments. The bridge was then reset on the new abutments and secured. Motion by Granzow, second by Ingersoll to approve work as completed; motion carried.

EME-28-18 Hunter's Lair--Motion by Frasier to table pending inspection, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

EME-29-18 Century Link-bored a crossing. They had planned to run it under bridge on Ten Mile and Country Club Ave, but there was a gas line that they couldn't put it next to. Motion by Nordahl to approve work done, second by Frasier; motion carried.

EME-30-18 Lee—need to table. Motion by Granzow, second by Frasier to table pending an inspection; motion carried.

EME-31-18 Swanson-Elk Creek-Upstream of buildings and corrals, cleaned log and debris jam out of stream and gravel out of the streambed. Need to riprap channel downstream from bridge in photo with horses and red tie. Comment from inspection team was that the large gravel berms alongside the stream need to be removed as applicant works in the area. Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve work done otherwise; motion carried.

EME-32-18 Melaney-Middle Fork Dearborn River-Roll back gravel bar and rip rap eroding bank. Stream was put back in original banks. Motion by Nordahl to approve work done, second by Granzow; motion carried.

EME-33-18 Diamond Bar X-Motion by Frasier to table pending inspection, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

EME-34-18 Young-Little Willow Creek-Emergency work done on headgates in Sections 16 and 17 which washed out in flooding. Motion to approve #1, request a 310 app for 2 and 4, and consider 3 and 5 informational by Nordahl, second by Frasier; motion carried.

EME-35-18 Edens-Ten Mile Creek, move headgate. Motion by Frasier to approve work done, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-12-18 Petersen

Location: Sevenmile Creek

Team report comments: Tabled pending more information.

Decision: remains tabled

LC-25-18 Weisner

Location: Smith Creek

Purpose: Bridge replacement

Team Report Comments: Team recommended a clear span bridge if they could afford it, concrete abutments, when designs are complete get those to the CD office, leave trees that are upstream, rip rap up and downstream, revegetate as able, gravel bed load "dipped" area—clean out to old channel shape. The team recommended approval with these modifications.

Decision: Motion by Frasier to approve with modifications, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-34-18 Kroeger

Location: Unnamed trib to the Middle Fork Dearborn-Elk Meadows Sub

Purpose: Stream crossing

Team report comments: Evans and Ingersoll and Mullen went out and looked at this one. Their recommendation was to embed the culvert a bit (10%-20%) for fish passage, armor up and downstream, and create an overflow dip on road that is armored.

Decision: Motion by Granzow, second by Nordahl to approve with recommended modifications; motion carried.

LC-35-18 Schweitzer

Location: Hope Creek

Purpose: stream crossing

Team report comments: Frasier, Ryan and Lindstrom went out on this one. They team recommended approval with the modifications of: Maintain existing bridge; however, if a culvert is used as a replacement, the pipe size shall be increased to 72" diameter. Culvert shall also be embedded approximately 20% of the culvert diameter. Culvert shall be rock armored at the inlet and outlet to prevent scour and erosion.

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Granzow to approve with modification; motion carried.

LC-36-18 Beck

Location: Smith Creek

Purpose: Bank stabilization/flood protection

Team report comments: Alan and Sarah looked at this and the team recommended approval with the following modifications: rip rap toe of stream ban; slope bank; move gravel bedload/cover rip-rap; put dirt over gravel; embed willow clumps or sprig willow into bank. Site 2 should have a separate permit application, and Rollo will get old photos and aerials.

Decision: Motion by Nordahl, second by Frasier to approve with recommended modifications; motion carried.

LC-37-18 Geise

Location: Elk Creek

Purpose: Bank stabilization

Team report comments: Alan and Sarah went out on this inspection and recommended approval with the following modifications: plant willows on bank in the berm; level berm/pack; if large/medium angular rock is available, place on outside bend of berm (some rock on side channel); move headgate upstream with new 310 permit application.

Decision: Motion by Frasier, second by Nordahl to approve with recommended modifications; motion carried.

LC-38-18 Steinbach

Location: Dearborn River

Purpose: Debris removal/irrigation purposes

Team report comments: Mullen, Ingersoll and Evans looked at this one and recommended approval as proposed with the note that Ty should look at getting an annual maintenance permit for this site.

Decision: motion by Frasier, second by Nordahl to approve with recommended modifications; motion carried.

LC-39-18 Melaney

Location: Middle Fork Dearborn River

Purpose: Flood damage repair

Team report comments: Ron has requested that Jeff Ryan come give them some direction on moving forward with permitted activities.

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

LC-40-18 Willard motion by Granzow to table pending inspection, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-41-18 Beck-motion by Granzow to table pending inspection, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

LC-42-18 Lee

Location: Sun River Canyon/Home Gulch

Purpose: cabin access

Team report comments: No inspection. Alan Rollo discussed the permit app with him and reviewed the extra drawings. His recommendation was to go forward as proposed.

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

LC-43-18 Swanson

Location: Elk Creek

Purpose: Stabilize bank after flooding

Team report comments: recommended approval as proposed with the comments that the only reason the bank eroded was because a tree fell during the flooding causing an eddy; Since it was stable for so long, filling the "hole" with gravel and then placing a few rocks along with the new gravel should work fine.

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

LC-44-18 Collins

Location: Prickly Pear Creek

Purpose: address erosion issues and restore access to residence and livestock

Team report comments: Strainer would like to take a look at this one.

Decision: Motion by Frasier to table, second by Nordahl; motion carried.

Follow up and comments on LC-01-17—Evans shared the violation notice from Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant and contractor went far beyond the bounds of the permit that the CD and ACOE approved. Motion by Frasier to send violation letter, second by Granzow; motion carried.

Calendar of upcoming events

MACD Area 6 meeting-September 26 hosted by Park CD

October meeting-11th in Helena
November meeting-8th in Helena
MACD Convention November 13-15, Billings
December meeting-13th in Helena

Having no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

APPROVED

Presiding Officer

Date

Recorder

Date