



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 406.502.8591 <https://lewisandclarkcd.org>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2026, 1 pm

USDA Service Center Conference, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT
And Zoom conferencing

Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by chair Jeff Ryan at 1 pm. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Jeanette Nordahl, John Baucus, Elena Frederick, Sarah Howe-Cobb, and Stan Frasier. Also in attendance were Pat Keim, Joe Kremer-Herman, Madison Colyer, Andrew Kretschmer, Becky Ayre, Mandy and Eric Dirk, Faith Doty, Jennifer Miller, Richard Sparrow, Molly Taylor, and Chris Evans. On Zoom, Miguel Ley.

Introductions—Introductions were made.

Public Comment—All public comments were for 310 permit applications

310 Permit Applications

LC-06-23 Shadel—This was a project that was approved in 2023 and has been extended twice. Motion by Frasier to extend for one more year, but the applicant needs to understand that this is the last extension, and Jeanette Nordahl will go take a look at the site, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried. Jeanette will go and take a look at the site.

LC-18-26 Dirk—this application is on the Missouri River/Holter Reservoir. The initial application had proposed a retaining wall, but that was tabled previously. The landowners are having pretty bad wave scour, primarily from the wake boats. They are trying to minimize erosion and tree loss with a project that doesn't need annual maintenance and retain the size of a space for a building site. The original application noted the possibility of utilizing sheet pile, but the required depth is beyond what the contractor can do at that site. The applicant would like to install a concrete retaining wall with a rip rap toe extending the property 12 feet out into the reservoir. The CD's permitting rules explicitly state that projects should not extend into the water body. The applicants referenced a 2021 permit application on Hauser Reservoir that was approved that had encroachment, however the rules, chapter 2, specifically state no encroachment. Motion by Frasier to deny the application as presented, second by Elena Frederick; Faith Doty asked if there was a way that if the applicants can resubmit with some assistance and recommendations from the Conservation District, the answer was yes, the applicant is always able to re-apply. Motion carried. John Baucus encouraged the applicant to reapply with a different plan to address the erosion concerns.

LC-19-26 Miller—This application was tabled in April; The applicant wants an ecoblock wall, with 8 feet of encroachment into the reservoir. The applicant resubmitted a new application, but it is still in the preliminary stage—has not been accepted as of yet. John asked if this structure is proposed

to be in the water or on the shore and how far out this would extend. The contractor said 6 or 7 feet most likely. Jeff Ryan said that use of rip rap alone at the existing shoreline would be completely adequate if it was properly keyed in at the toe of the bank. John asked if it was realistic to put the project right against the shoreline, and the applicant indicated that was the plan with the new application. This applicant has withdrawn by the applicant as of today's meeting.

LC-21-26 May-Dana's Point area on the Prickly Pear arm of the Missouri. They want to install 585 feet of rip rap on the bank line, with non-woven geotextile fabric behind it, reclaiming ground lost since 2009. They have maps dated to 2009 which they are basing the shoreline on. There are 2 bank sections that they are planning to stabilize. The more vertical section is primarily a problem due to the wake boats. There is a peninsula that is rapidly eroding and they want to reclaim ground in that area. The south section has some trees but the ground they are on is starting to erode as well. The applicant wants to arrest the erosion that is currently taking place. The current plan is to put in 18 inch minus sized rip rap, about 2 feet of key-in depth, extending the rip rap about 3 feet above the high operating water line. They plan to re-seed and revegetate the project. Resloping landward was a possibility, but the landowners don't want to lose any more of their usable property. John Baucus asked what the current slope average was. Miguel said it was about 5 to 1 on one bank, and nearly vertical on the steepest section. The applicant isn't planning to take the rip rap from the bank toe to the top of the bank. Ryan indicated that rather than the geotextile fabric, the board would recommend 1 inch minus rock to bed the rip rap for better root penetration. Miguel said that right now the plan is to revegetate above the rip rap, not the rip rap itself. John asked if this application has vegetation planned in the rip rap area itself, and the answer was no. Miguel will return to the landowners to determine where they want to go with it, but it's likely that they will withdraw and resubmit an application. Motion by Frasier to deny as proposed, second by Frederick; motion carried.

LC-23-26 NWE-Horizontal boring under the Blackfoot. They are requesting a waiver of the 15 day waiting period. Motion by Ryan to approve as proposed with that waiver, second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-24-26 Quisel-the applicant wants to replace the anchor for the boat dock, digging out the current structure that sticks out into the reservoir and replacing it with something flush with the bank. Motion to approve by Frasier, second by Ryan; motion carried.

LC-25-26 NWE-Horizontal drilling under the Blackfoot River; the current power lines run across the private bridge that is scheduled for replacement for which the CD has not yet received an application. Motion by Baucus to approve as proposed, second by Frasier; motion carried. Joe will follow up with the landowner about a permit for the bridge replacement.

LC-26-26 Morgan-Bridge on Park Creek off of Lone Pine Road. The applicant put in an application in 2022 or 2023, which was approved, but they didn't get the project done. The applicant put in the exact same application for this project. Motion by Frasier to approve the application as proposed, second by Baucus; motion carried.

LC-27-26 Juedeman-The applicant wants to put in some beaver dam analogs to slow the tributary. Adam had indicated that he wanted to do a site visit. There is some confusion as to whether it's a jurisdictional stream for the CD to permit on. Motion by Frasier to approve as presented, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Results of the morning meeting about draft 310 Permit Rules-Evans will draft recommended changes and will have the board review them prior to the public hearing.

Set Permissive Mill Hearing and 310 Rules Update hearing-The board opted to keep the combined public hearing as a virtual event rather than in-person. Evans will get the date set and will get the public notices to the newspaper.

Review Governance Calendar for May/June-The board reviewed activities noted in the May and June Governance Calendars.

Minutes—Motion by Ryan to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills-Jeanette Nordahl made a motion to approve the financial statements and pay all the bills, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Supervisor absences-Karl wasn't present due to a family related issue.

Correspondence-NACD and NCF annual reports.

Reports

NRCS—This work unit has record funding and there may be more to come. The area may have money for pre-approvals. They are hiring 3 positions in the state, one will hopefully be for the Whitehall office. Becky said that the initial EQIP allocation for the state was \$50-60 million. Montana requested more funding and they received about an additional \$74 million.

DNRC—written report in packet.

SRWG—Madison said that they've hit their busiest months. The Muddy Creek project is moving along. They also provided a written report.

MRCDC—Written report in the packet. Jeff Ryan said that they recently had an executive committee meeting. DNRC has indicated that MRCDC needs to have permission from their sponsoring conservation district in order to make decisions. Their quarterly meeting is in June at the High Plains CD.

LHWG & Helena CORE—They had a really short meeting last time for the LHWG. They did trash pick up in April on York Road. The watershed festival is the first weekend in August. Helena CORE is in their busy summer season. The latest CORE newsletter went out. The Summer Walk Series has been published

WQPD—Letter from WQPD.

Weed District—no report.

MACD—Our dues check will go in the mail after this meeting. Evans is working on a draft resolution to address the need for a District advisory group for DNRC grants.

Beaver Conflict Resolution Program-Molly from the Beaver Conflict Resolution group was present to talk about their program. She works with FWP. She provided some handouts on their programs. Evans asked She is working with PPLT and Gary Burnham on the current issue on Prickly Pear Creek.

Supervisor Reports

Ryan-The Brushy Toe project is starting to leaf out. Jeff noted that the office has ordered a time lapse camera to put up at the site.

Nordahl-Jeanette said that she's running Mike back and forth for PT so she's been watching the

river go up and down.

Frederick-Substitute teaching—schools are crazy.

Frasier-Stan said that he's mainly doing yardwork these days.

Howe-Cobb-They have beaver at the ranch, and bears are coming right down due to killed animals. Nilan Reservoir is just sitting half filled, due to senior rights going to Augusta.

Baucus-John has been busy lambing, calving, farming, etc. One thing of note is that anyone who doesn't think that it's getting drier is not paying attention. They've had 4 or 5 developed springs that are now dry. A 300 acre pasture is now unusable because there's more water in it.

Staff Reports

Evans-Evans provided a written report.

Kremer-Herman-Joe has been inundated with 310 permits and Rolling Rivers trailer stuff.

New Business

Potential change of financial institutions-Evans detailed some recent concerns on Jeff Ryan's part with Valley Bank. It will take a full year to make a move, given the newest CD that we created. Motion by Frasier to NOT move financial institutions, second by Howe-Cobb; motion carried.

Willow Creek Grant-Evans gave an overview about the grant for the benefit of board members who are newer. Motion by Howe-Cobb to end the grant, second by Frasier; motion carried.

Internet at the office/phones-Evans said that the office was approached by Spectrum to look at switching internet and phones. We would save money, even after the first year intro rates. Andrew will look into permission from the lease holder and building owner. The transition does take some time. Motion by the Baucus to approve, pending the hassle with the lease, second by Ryan; motion carried.

Strategic planning-No outside facilitator needed, we will plan to do a session for reviewing and updating the strategic plan as normal.

Potential resolution-Evans will continue working on a resolution for MACD. She will run it by the board prior to the June meeting.

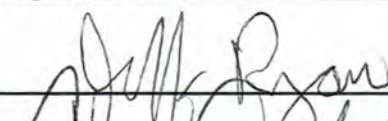
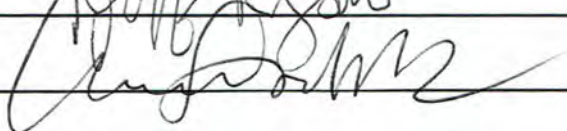
Training format preference-Evans outlined some discussion from a Training Work Group meeting that MACD and DNRC are working with. There was a comment that all Supervisor Training should be done in person, that 95+% of Districts prefer that. So Evans asked the board what they prefer. Overwhelmingly, they would prefer 1) small "bites" of training like the Ten Minute Trainings, or online modules; 2) the ability to watch recorded training. In person training was not a high priority.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Announcements

Next meeting—June 11, 2026, USDA Service Center Conference Room 9:30 am. The July 9th meeting will be at the Augusta Community Center, probably at 9:30. The August 13th meeting will be in Lincoln at 9:30 am.

Approved by  Date 6/11/26
Recorded by  Date 6/11/2026