



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2026 9:30 am

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 9:30 am. In attendance were Jeff Ryan, John Baucus, Elena Frederick, Stan Frasier, *Karl Christians*, and *Jeanette Nordahl*. Also in attendance were *Ron Kunz*, *Lisa Kunz*, *Tracy Wendt*, Fred Sargeson, Rebecca Boslough-King, Joe Kremer-Herman and Chris Evans. Italics denote Zoom attendance. Christians left the zoom meeting around 10:30 am.

Introductions—Introductions were made.

Public Comment—Rebecca Boslough-King was in attendance because she submitted an application to become an associate supervisor for the CD. Becca had the thought concerning data centers, and the concerns that people in districts have. She thinks there's a possibility that districts could get involved. Other interests could involve learning more about what the CD prioritizes and collaborative efforts. Jeff noted that there's an open seat at the Water Quality Protection District. Motion by Karl Christians to appoint Becca as an Associate, second by Stan Frasier; motion carried. Tracy Wendt noted that there will be a presentation at the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce in the fall. Tracy will pass on any information as she receives it. Karl Christians said that Northwestern Energy is always seeking rate increases and the PSC seems to approve across the board. The start up costs for starting up pumps this year is more than double what last year's cost was. Evans said that she's friends with an employee at the MEIC and they've been working hard on educating the public and gathering information about how citizens feel about Data Centers.

310 Permit Applications

CP-01-26 Trout Creek LLC—Joe said that this has been an ongoing issue, but there has been no site visit as of yet. There has been fill placed in a wetland area and there is now some runoff that the complainant indicates is impairing the stream. Floodplain in the county indicated that this site is not in the mapped floodplain. DEQ did an onsite visit already. Joe hasn't heard back yet from the Army Corps of Engineers. John Baucus asked what the material is, Joe said fill dirt and gravel. Karl asked about proximity of work to the channel. Joe said that it's away from the channel "a bit". Ron and Lisa Kunz were online regarding the complaint. There was some discussion between Joe and Ron about the invasive weeds and Lisa indicated that they are planning to work with the Weed District on a plan for weed control. Jeff Ryan indicated that the CD's jurisdiction is primarily the effects on the bed/banks of the stream. Issues with water quality are DEQ's jurisdiction, and the

wetland is the Army Corps' jurisdiction. They will work with Joe on scheduling a site visit to resolve the complaint. Ron said that they are on a 5 year plan with the ACOE to regrow the wetland and they are on year 2. They have to irrigate it and keep it growing to make the project successful.

LC-28-26 Pace-Greenhorn Creek up Austin Road. The applicant wants to put in culverts (for each permit, 2 different sites). The onsite visit is scheduled for 28 and 29. Pending site visit.

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LC-30-26 Morgan-This application is on Park Creek up Lone Pine Road. Joe said that the bank is about 8 feet high. Grass is growing in the channel and it doesn't look like much water has come through there recently, but the CD has historically permitted on Park creek due to the proximity to Birdseye Road. The applicant would like to put in a 30 inch, 30 foot long culvert (round culvert).

That would have more volume than a 3'x2' squashed culvert. John said that at a 1:1 the proposed culvert should be barely long enough. Motion by Ryan to approve with modifications: Increase the size of rip rap, use angular rock, don't bed in sand, use 1 inch minus gravel rather than sand; armored overflow is required that is several feet wide. Optional to mouth the culvert on the upstream end, and potentially increase the length a bit. Second by Frasier; motion carried.

LC-04-22-Dam that was never approved. DNRC Dam Safety should be contacted. The concern was that the landowner never provided plans to the district. Joe will follow up on it. Chris will fill out a complaint form.

Blue Cloud Creek concern—There is a potential Blue Cloud Creek issue-Joe will follow up on it.

Review Governance Calendar for June/July—The board reviewed the calendars for June and July. **Minutes**—motion by Ryan, second by Frasier to approve the minutes as sent; motion carried.

Financial Statement & Outstanding Bills—Jeanette presented the financials and provided a report in the meeting packet. Motion by Nordahl to approve the financial report and pay all the bills; second by Frederick; motion carried. Bills outstanding: Hearing (310 Rule change and Permissive Levy) advertisement bill; Credit Card Bill-Website domain cost; QBO monthly cost, ethernet cable purchase

Supervisor absences—Sarah is on a family vacation.

Correspondence

MACD Convention Planning has begun—They are requesting input. Areas 5 and 6 will be assisting, and Evans will sit in on the planning meetings.

Comments requested for the DNRC grants

Reports

NRCS—Andrew said they are busy working on obligations for the work unit for EQIP. They are doing certifications. They have until the end of July to get all the obligations done. They have an acting DC for 120 days in Whitehall. NRCS ran the announcements for that position and the Glasgow/Sidney offices.

DNRC—Written Report in the packet.

SRWG—Tracy Wendt spent the day in the field with the GID folks and their hydro projects coming up. Gibson is full, the Sun is full and it was a good day. Their watershed planning effort is underway. The Floweree preliminary engineering report is underway as well, seeking solutions for the intake structure and improving the river in that area. Their biggest effort has been the

Wadsworth Pond work. They have a number of grants ending in the next year so will be applying for more, and will be seeking letters of support. The Weed Whacker Rodeo is July 11.

MRCDC—Written Report in packet

LHWG & Helena CORE—Joe said that the Watershed Festival is the first Saturday in August. They haven't had a quorum the last few meetings for the LHWG. The final version of the Summer Walks has been published. The fun field stuff is in full swing.

WQPD—They are in the midst of strategic planning and Data Centers and PFAS (forever chemicals) are both coming up in their discussions. The local perspective on the part of state citizens is helpful for their discussions. They have a well and septic workshop next week at the East Helena High School on Tuesday. WQPD will give a presentation on the wells, water quality and testing, and Environmental Health will talk about septic systems. Lastly, their water quality specialist left last month and they have a new hire in place who formerly worked at DEQ. They still welcome someone from the CD as a board member. Fred said he thinks just a representative from the district could fit that position. The next zoom meeting is Tuesday the 23rd at 3:30 pm to 5:30. They are hoping to have a written analysis of the water sampling on Silver and Ten Mile Creeks that they've done.

Weed District—no report.

MACD—The NACD Regional mid year meeting and the MACD Spring Board meeting are later in June. If board members would like to participate, let Chris Evans know and she will get you registered. There will be a tour on Monday the 22 at 3 pm of the Brushy Toe Project.

Supervisor Reports

Ryan—Jeff said that he has a generator being installed today and is working on getting keys made for his new piece of furniture.

Christians—Karl will be attending the MRCDC meeting today.

Nordahl—There's a proposed huge gravel pit down near Bonner. Her pollinator seed is in and already up. Their house sold but they backed out. Copper Creek road is about completed.

Frederick—School is out! She's starting as a private contractor doing on-call work for translating duties in the courts, medical sites or the schools.

Frasier—The Baxendale Fire department had a pancake breakfast and raised a huge pile of money.

Baucus—The rain did a lot of good. Hopefully we'll continue getting some moisture. The Chevallier Ranch is up for sale and there is a rumor that it has sold. The highway project in the canyon continues on. Seven Up Pete got a permit to do core drilling. Of course there is concern about the screw worm fly issue that's happening in the southern US.

Staff Reports

Evans—written report in meeting packet.

Kremer-Herman—It's been a really busy 310 year for him with more permits already than we had all of 2025. On Monday he got to do a tour of Beaver Creek (east side) with the Bedrc group. Ali Russel led that tour. Water is flowing well, and the vegetation is in good shape. It's a little weedy but they are limited in management due to proximity to the water. He may or may not be attending the Old Salt Festival. The irrigation system is nearly complete on the Brushy Toe project. Events on Brushy Toe on June 22, and then in August for the Summer Walk.

Old Business

Status of Personnel Policy draft-DNRC has opted to take the "draft" model Personnel Policy back to review and edit it.

Status of Procedures manual-The CD's procedures manual is nearly completed. Evans will print it, and will have the table of contents up to date in the Google Drive. Sections in the table of contents will hotlink to the individual procedures, also in the Google Drive.

New Business

Board Member/Staff Page on Website-Evans previewed the page for the board and there was general consensus that we should move forward with the page. It will essentially be documents and links that the board will be able to access at need.

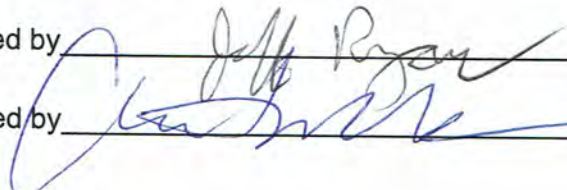
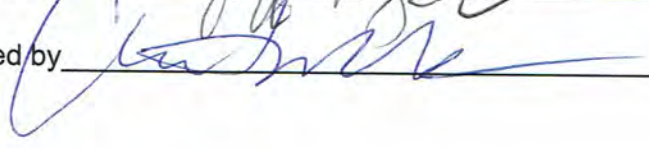
Statewide Employee Training-SET this year is in August in Miles City. Since the MACD convention will be in Fairmont and the Area 5 and 6 employees will be assisting, Evans has opted not to attend SET this year. Kremer-Herman hasn't yet decided.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Announcements

Next meeting—July 9, 2026, at the Augusta Community Center at 10:00 am. The August 13th meeting will be in Lincoln at 9:30 am.

Approved by  Date 7/9/26
Recorded by  Date 7/9/2026