

Lewis & Clark County Weed District Minutes

Wednesday Nov 2, 2016

1:00 PM

Weed Conference Room

Present:

Steve Johns – Chairman	Eric Griffin – Public Works
Bob Bushnell – Member	Susan Good Geise - BoCC
Joel Redding – Member	Greta Dige – city of Helena
Rob McDonough – Vice Chairman	Larry Hoffman - Coordinator

Call to Order: - Steve Johns – Chairman - Called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM with 4 board members present, exofficial persons and no guest/public present.

Introductions: - Steve Johns – Chairman – None needed.

Minutes: Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the September minutes as sent. Seconded by Susan Good Geise and approved.

Budget Report/Claims: - Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the budget report and pay all outstanding bills. Seconded of the motion by Joel Redding and approved.

Public Comment: - None

Correspondence: .

- Monthly Weed Post
- Blackfeet Weed Management Plan
- Lewis and Clark Conservation District report
- Upper Blackfoot Valley Stewardship Fair
- Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable Minutes
- Pesticide Training Update Listings

REPORTS:

BoCC – Susan Good Geise – New coroner – Bryan Backeberg. George Thebarg is working on the “right to farm and ranch” project. Issue will take time to update before it goes to the people. 12/29/16 roast for Mike Murray retirement. Tickets given out at the next meeting for the pig roast. Attorney developments in progress. Last week MACo met with DNRC and Forest Service for two days to build relationships. Commissioner Geise will be the BOCC chair in 2017. Board supports her to be on the weed board as commission representative.

Public Works – Eric Griffin – Finishing up on summer projects – Rimini shut down until spring, Marysville-railings etc. complete, Stemple, Sun Canyon, North valley and York done, New – Lake Helena and York round about and Blackfoot Bridge on Stemple in 2017. Preparation is ready for the winter season by the Road Department which has a full staff. Maria Penna is retiring. She will be missed.

City of Helena – Greta Dige – Forest Service will be supporting the south trail weed program with the 360 grant that will be handled by the weed district - \$156,000 –over the next five years. Greta Dige will submit the 2015 Weed Trust grant again for 2017 for \$14,000 to \$15,000. Greta is working with the Weed District on the new TRAKIT system which is scheduled to be activated within 2017. Susan Suter is on the Core Team representing the weed district

Board Reports:

Augusta Area: Mike Cobb – Not present.

Canyon Creek Area: Steve Johns – Producers are experimenting with a new soil bacteria for cheatgrass. Lewis and Clark Conservation District – Chris Evans is coordinating the project. Weed management along the road ways is in progress with fall moisture

Central Area: Joel Redding – Working with Conservation District on the cheatgrass soil bacteria program. It is a three to five year project.

East Area: Charles Butler – Not present

Lincoln Area: Bob Bushnell – Request for applications from the commission. Commissioner Geise will follow up on the appointment.

Helena/South Area: Orville Johnson – Not present.

West Area: Request for applications from the commission.

Wolf Creek Area: Rob McDonough – Good moisture means weeds in the spring. Houndstongue finally is bending over because of the weather.

Coordinator Report: Larry Hoffman – reviewed the 2016 season projects, district road data, special projects, recycling program, and winter projects.

Action Items:

Sponsorship of Lincoln Fair – request was made to sponsor advertisement of the event in Lincoln centered around weed management. Bob Bushnell made the motion to support the event by \$72 for advertisement. Seconded by Joel Redding and approved.

County Grant Approval – the county commission approved the grant request for \$7,500. Grant request was for computer and program needs for the new TRAKIT program, remote controls for spray reels

New Business:

Rimini Project – Larry Hoffman is in the process of developing a weed management plan and contract with the Forest Service to be used upon the completion of the construction of the roadway.

Budget Amendments – Susan Suter working with Audra submitted budget amendments involving contracts, grants and agreements.

Cheatgrass Management – Information was distributed to board members on the experimental bacteria for cheatgrass control that is sponsored by the Lewis and Clark Conservation District.

RMF Board Meeting – Minutes and budget information was distributed to the board members for review. RMF group are looking for interested persons to be on the board.

Drill – Extension Service has requested to take over the drill so that it can be used earlier in the spring and later in the fall. The district has had about 14 days use of the machine over the past several years. Income for maintenance of the drill is around \$700. Bob Bushnell made a motion to retain the drill at the district and to have it available for use earlier in the spring and later in the fall by putting it in the shop area that is easy to

Old Business:

2017 1-Ton – the truck (\$35,850) has been ordered and should be here in about 90 days. One of the spray trucks will be put up for auction this fall/winter. Equipment from the older spray truck will be used for the new truck.

Farm and Ranch Resolution – the weed district resolution has been put on hold while the planning department director is looking at options. Board was given the letter from George Thebarga along with the manual they are looking at to be developed for county use. Board members are requested to review the information and give their thoughts on the publication at the next meeting.

Calendars – 2017 – calendars are in short supply. Board indicated if possible to get another 100 calendars for distribution. Bob Bushnell made a motion for such, seconded by Rob McDonough and approved.

Shop Wrap Up – discussed by the coordinator and board wishes for 2017 fall season.

Final Seasonal data – Information was given to the board for review.

Other Business:

Capital Requests – the board members were requested to be thinking about any large purchase the district would like to have in the 2018 budget and bring their ideas to the next meeting. Wish list is needed to start the development of next years budget.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District Report – Bob Bushnell – CD Board meeting scheduled for November 10th at 1:00 pm in Helena.

Truck recall – The coordinator pickup truck has been recalled to have the airbag computer replaced.

Cards – Deck of cards were distributed to the board members to distribute them in their communities

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting – December 7, 2016 – 1-3 pm in the Weed Conference Room.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District Meeting: November 10, at 1:00 pm – Conference Room 790

Adjournment: Adjourned 2:30 P.M.