

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226
October 27, 2015

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen
David Donohue
Jennifer Lowell
Randall Camp
Jeff Ryan
Amanda Harrow
Kammy Johnson

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jim Wilbur
Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Jolene Helgerson
Melanie Reynolds
Norman Rostocki

Guests Present

Members Absent

Stan Frasier called the 207th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes August 25, 2015. Mayor Schell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. David Donohue seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No additions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Norman Rostocki presented the WQPD 2016 fiscal year cash flow statement and comparison to cash flow analysis budget on pages 7-8 of the board packet. As of September 30, 2015, we are 25% through the fiscal year, beginning cash is \$86,140; total revenues received are \$36,076 or 10% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$86,831 or 25% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$50,754; ending cash balance is \$35,386.

APPLICATION FOR DEQ 319 GRANT-LAKE HELENA WRP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Jennifer McBroom, Outreach and Watershed Coordinator, presented changes recommend by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the application for the 319 Grant-Lake Helena WRP Implementation Project. Ms. McBroom stated that there is \$900,000 that is available for the distribution by DEQ and DEQ received \$1.1million in requests. Based off DEQ

recommendations, the district is asking for design and permits costs for the Tryan stream restoration as part of the application. The District has added into the application proposal the assistance of a Big Sky Watershed Corps member on the project. The final amended budget proposal is \$93,611, which breaks down to \$40,000 for the Tryan stream restoration; \$20,000 for BMP assistance; \$750 for monitoring; \$23,500 for outreach and education; \$9,361 for administration cost. The previous budget total was \$187,888.

LAKE HELENA WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Wilbur, Water Quality District Coordinator gave a presentation on Prickly Pear Creek Restoration Project in which he highlighted the purpose of the project; project activities, timeline, project changes and impacts; flood plain permitting and LOMR requirement issues; project budget; funding sources; and next steps. In answer to a question by Jeff Ryan, Mr. Wilbur stated that the total cost for the flood plain permitting and LOMR issues so far was about \$17,000.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watershed Group Activities: Water for Helena Open House will be held on November 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Tenmile Water Treatment Plant with tours available at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.

East Valley Controlled Groundwater-DNRC Rule Process: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, presented the East Valley Controlled Groundwater Area (EVCGA) Proposal summary (see Attachment "A") which she briefly discussed the background, site information, what was proposed in the petition, presented the timeline, and the EVCGA boundary map (see Attachment "B"). Ms. Moore noted that on August 28, 2015, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) reviewed the petition and approved a portion of the request to implement the controlled ground water area, but denied the temporary area. She stated the reason for this denial was due to regulatory control over the temporary area.

Helena Valley East Bench –GWIP Project Nomination:

James Swierc, Hydrogeologist, stated that the Helena Valley East Bench-GWIP which was to characterize available ground water resources in the Tertiary strata on the East Bench study area and to use modeling to evaluate different scenarios to provide portable water for urban growth in the area after noticing groundwater depletion in the Emerald Ridge Subdivision, was rejected by the Bureau of Mines and Geology. The application did not rank high enough for qualification. Staff will consider submittal of the application again in a couple of years.

Prickly Pear Re-watering Project: Mr. Wilbur stated that he meet with DNRC and the Prickly Pear Water Users Association to discuss changing of 20 irrigation water rights for next year. Currently land owners are leaving their irrigation water in the creek which is not protected as stream flow and is not a recognized use for their rights. The District wants to add that late season use to those water rights that participate in the project. The district will apply for a 2-year grant through NRD to fund this project with help from additional funding sources anticipated.

Big Sky Watershed Cops member:

Ashley Rivero, Big Sky Watershed Corps member, accepted the position to assist the WQPD, Lake Helena Watershed Group, and the Lewis & Clark Conservation District for 10 months with tech support and data management. Ashley begins her position in January.

BOURD MEMBER DISCUSSION

The Lewis and Clark Conservation District is continues to disburse their well testing vouchers.

The DEQ 319 Watershed Restoration Plan grant is ending December 31, 2015. Karen Filipovich is editing the plan. Public comment for the watershed restoration plan will be held on November 19 at 6:30 tentatively at the MACo building (note: public meeting will be held at the Helena Chamber of Commerce building conference room at 225 Cruse Ave). Staff will present the plan to the Board at the December meeting and will email a copy of the plan to the board prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Stan Frasier, chair