

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226 So.
April 24, 2018

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen
Dick Sloan
Amanda Harrow
David Donohue
Jeff Ryan

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Pete Schade
Jolene Helgerson
Valerie Stacey

Members Absent

Kammy Johnson
Randall Camp

Guests Present

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 228th 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. Introduction of Board members and staff were made.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 27, 2018 minutes. David Donohue and Mayor Jamie Schell noted some grammatical errors and requested that on page 3 of the board packet, 4th paragraph, that the word dam be removed and in the 7th paragraph that the sentence read 'Mr. Ockey discussed potential nutrient reduction management strategies could be made to irrigated lands'. Mayor Schell made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Mr. Donohue seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FY 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Kathy Moore, Environmental Division Administrator, presented the WQPD 2019 Preliminary Budget (see Attachment's A & B") in which she discussed the proposed personnel, revenue, and expenditures changes for WQPD Fund 203, Donated Fund 140, and Lake Helena Fund 124. Ms. Moore noted that the District would see an increase in lab expenses as they are increasing their sampling for FY19. The Board discussed having a tour of the Prickly Pear/Lake Helena Restoration Projects in June.

CITY OF HELENA HVID

The Board continued their discussion from last meeting regarding the presentation by Travis Meyer of Morrison & Maierle on the evaluation of the Helena Valley Irrigation District (HVID) canal as receiving water for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharge. The Board agreed that they would like to see the City of Helena's proposed plan before working with Randall Camp on a letter addressing HVID canal receiving water for the WWTP discharge. With Mr. Camp not in attendance for the meeting, no further discussion was had regarding drafting a letter.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GW & SW Monitoring Plans: Peter Schade, Water Quality Specialist, presented the district's summer surface water sampling plan on pages 14-16 of the board packet. Mr. Schade said the district would follow up on last year's plan with high flow and low flow sampling, collect sediment and substrate metals, and complete some comparison sampling from past year's samples.

James Swierc, WQPD Hydrologist, followed up with the district's groundwater sampling plans. Mr. Swierc announced that he would be resampling wells that have not been sampled in a while. He is looking for well chemistry and nutrients changes and how those changes affect a properties septic system. An additional project added to this year's sampling plan is the effect of the HVID canal discharge to groundwater wells by studying the water isotopes. Ms. Moore announced that Frank Preskar, Sanitarian with the Environmental Services Division, requested that the district consider sampling a variety of streams for nutrients. Nutrient sampling would provide data for the sanitarian's non-degradation requirements for septic permits.

Board Leadership Training: Jennifer McBroom, Outreach and Watershed Coordinator, highlighted the Board Leadership Training on page 20 of the packet. Mr. Frasier, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Donohue and Amanda Harrow announced they are planning on attending.

Emerald Ridge Update: Mr. Swierc announced that he is working with the Montana Department of Natural Resources on a planning grant to develop a manage aquifer recharge system for the Emerald Ridge Subdivision. In answer to a question from Mr. Donohue, Mr. Swierc said the he would look at the HVID as a recharge system. Mr. Donohue recommended that the district look into deep irrigation wells as part of a reservation change out application.

Bureau of Mines and Geology Groundwater Investigation Proposal: Mr. Swierc announced he has submitted a groundwater investigation program proposal, similar to the scratch gravel proposal, to the Bureau of Mines and Geology (BMG) for the area around East Gate Subdivision and the Canyon Ridge Subdivision.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Jeff Ryan presented pictures of students participating in a rural planting project off Tenmile Creek. Mr. Ryan noted that 2,000 willows were planted along the creek.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District will be sponsoring Riparian Range Day on June 27. This will include a lecture in the morning and a field trip to the Sieben Baucus Ranch.

Mr. Ryan along with Valerie Stacey, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member announced that the cut willows that had been stored in the hay bales dried out over the winter. Ms. Stacey will set up a new willow-harvesting event on April 28 at the Regulating Reservoir to replenish the willows that they lost for the soil lift project on Sevenmile Creek.

Mayor Schell announced that in the East Helena Environmental Trust Group's corrective measure study there is a potential plan to cover the slag pile. Comments on the corrective measure study are due end of May. The District announced that they would be adding comments during the allotted time.

The meeting adjourned at 6.41 p.m.

Stan Fraiser, Chair