

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING

Zoom
April 28, 2020

Members Present

Mayor Jamie Schell, chair
Jeff Ryan, vice-chair
Stan Frasier
Amanda Harrow
Ryan Leland
Kammy Johnson
Catherine Scott

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jennifer McBroom
Peter Schade
James Swierc
Jolene Helgersen

Members Absent

Commissioner Susan Good Geise

Guests Present

Mayor Jamie Schell, chair, called the 244th^{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 were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mayor Schell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 25, 2020, minutes. Mayor Schell made grammatical changes to the minutes. Catherine Scott made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Kammy Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. No public comment was given.

FINANCE REPORT/FISCAL YEAR 2021 UPDATE

Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Program Supervisor, presented the WQPD 2020 fiscal year cash flow statement and cash flow analysis budget (on pages 8-9 of the board packet). As of April 21, 2020, we are 75% through the fiscal year, beginning cash is \$189,251; total revenues received are \$265,591 or 64% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$305,865 or 62% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$40,274; ending cash balance is \$154,446. Ms. McBroom and Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, announced that due to COVID-19 effect on the economy, revenue from property taxes might be down due to delinquent payments and low development of new properties. In answer to a question from Ryan Leland, Ms. McBroom listed a variety of partners who donate to the District for operational costs associated with the USGS gauging station at Williams St. He requested that Ms. McBroom send him an email for a request for donation from the City of Helena. No public comment was given.

COUNTY FLOODING OUTLOOK

Pete Schade, Water Quality Specialist, gave a brief update on the hydrologic forecast for Augusta, Elk Creek, and Tenmile Creek (on pages 11-14). Ms. Moore asked that any new updates to these areas be sent to Ms. McBroom and Mr. Schade. No public comment was given.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ms. Moore announced that Lewis and Clark County has 16 cases of COVID-19, and that public health nurses are doing contact tracing. Lewis & Clark Public Health is working on identifying solutions for housing of the homeless for those who test positive. Four families from God's Love have moved to Camp Child to help lessen the number of residents living at God's Love. Public health sanitarians are working on developing guidelines for businesses when they reopen. Ms. Johnson added that the health department is working hard to provide a safe way to have businesses open without contributing to an influx of new cases. No public comment was given.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Draft North Hills Work Plan: James Swierc, Hydrogeologist, presented an overview of a draft work plan for a study in the North Hills (on pages 17-28 of the board packet). The study is a follow up to the MBMG - GWIP study from a decade ago, and will obtain data to determine whether changes in water levels and water quality have happened over that time. There are two wells showing significant depletion at this time, so characterizing the magnitude of groundwater depletion is a goal of this study. After board member discussion, Mr. Swierc said the next steps for the plan is to continue measuring water levels this year with a plan to expand the program over the next year. Also to install water level data logging transducers in some wells, purchasing some new ones for the project, and to implement a water quality sampling this fall and into next summer. No public comment was given.

Support Letters: Ms. McBroom announced that the district would be sending support letters for the Grizzly Gulch Reclamation Project, Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Modeling Web App (on pages 29-32) and to Robert Peccia & Associates for a DNRC RRG grant for completion of the East Helena Waste Water Systems project. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Ryan announced that willow cutting and surveying along Spokane Creek was postponed due to COVID-19. Willow cutting will begin again in the fall.

Members from the Conservations District, Jason Mullan, Fishery Biologist from Great Falls, along with some fishing techs completed some willow sprigging along Prickly Pear Creek banks, 20 miles north of Helena. Highlights from that day will be featured in the Conservation District's newsletter.

Stan Frasier requested that board packets continue to be mailed out.

Mr. Leland highlighted Biobot Analytics Inc., a company that uses technology to transform sewers into public health observatories. The City of Helena is currently sending in wastewater samples from the treatment plant for the detection of COVID-19. 150 cities in the nation are working with Biobot. In Montana, Livingston, Great Falls, and Helena are some of the smaller cities participating. Based

on the results Great Falls received from Biobot, the concentration levels estimated that active COVID-19 cases should be about 5.6. Great Falls had 7 active cases at the time. Mayor Schell announced that Scott St. Clair has retired and the new Public Works Chief is Kevin Ore. The City of East Helena is also considering using Biobot Analytics for testing of COVID-19.

Ms. McBroom announced that the FY2020 3rd quarter performance report could be found page 37-73 of the board packet.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Mayor Jamie Schell, Chair