

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
East Helena, MT 59635
325 Manlove St.
August 25, 2015

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair, dep. at 5:55 pm
David Donohue
Jennifer Lowell
Randall Camp
Jeff Ryan

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jim Wilbur
Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Jolene Helgerson

Members Absent

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen
Amanda Harrow

Guests Present

Stan Frasier called the 206th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:32 p.m. A quorum was established.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes May 26, 2015. Jennifer Lowell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jamie Schell seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No additions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FEE INCREASE

Kathy Moore, Division Administrator for the Environmental Services Division, announced that the Lewis and Clark County Commission approved the recommended 10 percent WQPD fee increase. Staff will continue to review the city and county tax reports for fee errors.

APPLICATION FOR DEQ 319 GRANT-LAKE HELENA WRP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Jennifer McBroom, Outreach and Watershed Coordinator, presented the application for the 319 Grant-Lake Helena WRP Implementation Project on pages 8-11 of the board packet. Ms. McBroom highlighted the overall goals of the project, methods used for proposed Tryan stream restoration project along Prickly Pear Creek, the types of monitoring that will be used to measure project effectiveness, a sediment BMP implementation program, education and outreach components of the project, and the proposed budget and timeline for the grant and project. Ms. McBroom requested the board approval to proceed with the grant application. Jeff Ryan made a motion for the WQPD staff

to proceed with the application for 319 Grant-Lake Helena WRP Implementation Project. David Donahue seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS APPLICATION

Jim Wilbur, Water Quality District Coordinator, presented the Big Sky Watershed Corps Application Form on pages 13-17 of the board packet. The application between the Lewis and Clark Conservation District, Lewis and Clark County WQPD, and the Lake Helena Watershed Group allows for the 3 entities to share the time of a AmeriCorps volunteer under the Big Sky Watershed Corps program to fulfill the unmet needs within each entity. Mr. Wilbur highlighted the job duties that the volunteer would perform, the length of the contract, and the shared cost for the person. Mr. Wilbur requested board approval to proceed with the Big Sky Watershed Corps Application as presented and the financial commitment by the WQPD. Ms. Lowell made a motion for the WQPD staff to proceed with the Big Sky Watershed Corps Application. Randall Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

HELENA VALLEY EAST BENCH –GWIP PROJECT NOMINATION

James Swierc, Hydrogeologist, presented the Helena Valley East Bench-GWIP Project on pages 19-34 of the board packet. Mr. Swierc stated that the purpose of the project is 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. The WQPD will work with Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to facilitate cooperation with local landowners for access to wells, or potential drilling locations for new wells and to provide water depletion data collected in the Helena Valley.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watershed Group Activities: The Annual Lake Helena Watershed Festival was held on August 22, 2015, from 9-1 at Women's Park next to Farmer's Market and was attended by over 500 people with 20 educational booths.

East Valley Controlled Groundwater Area Proposal: Ms. Moore presented the East Valley Controlled Groundwater Area Proposal on page 36 of the board packet.

Lake Helena Watershed Restoration Project Application for DEQ Unspent 319 Funds: Mr. Wilbur presented the Lake Helena Watershed Restoration Project application for DEQ Unspent 319 Funds on page 37 of the board packet.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Wilbur announced that he will be a presenter at the Stream Restoration Course at the Montana State University Water Center. Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Swierc will also be presenters at the AWRA Annual Meeting October 7-9 in Missoula.

After the meeting, the board toured the former ASARCO Smelter and Prickly Pear Creek Project.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Stan Frasier, chair