

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
316 North Park, Room 226
Helena, MT 59623
August 27, 2019

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
Jeff Ryan
Dick Sloan
Kammy Johnson (Departed @ 6:00 p.m.)
Ryan Leland
Amanda Harrow

Staff

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

Members Absent

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen

Guests Present

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 240th 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

Mr. Frasier announced that Board member elections would be on the September agenda. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June 25, 2019, minutes. Mayor Jamie Schell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Amanda Harrow seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. No public comment was given.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES PRESENTATION

Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Supervisor, and Valerie Stacey, Environmental Technician, presented the WQPD and Lake Helena 2019 Fiscal Year End Performance Measures (pages 8-13 of the board packet). Ms. McBroom and Ms. Stacey highlighted the goals and objectives, activities, successes and challenges. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. McBroom said she was not aware if the Montana Department of Justice has set aside any monies this fall for the Lake Helena Watershed Restoration Plan. Mayor Schell said that he would look into this. In answer to a question from Jeff Ryan, Ms. McBroom said that the Lake Helena Watershed Festival was not held this year so the committee can reorganize the festival to make it better for the community. Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, announced that the Family Preparedness Fair would be held on September 14, 2019, from 10-4 p.m. at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. Ms. Moore gave each board member an exhibitor application to share for those interested in having an exhibit. Lewis and Clark Public Health is handling the promotion of the fair. In answer to a question from Ms. Harrow, Ms. Stacey said she has tried to have the Montana State University (MSU) Water Extension

Water Quality Well-Educated forms change from an opt in to an opt out regarding the sharing of the landowners well samples data. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. Stacey said that at this time the county's main concern right now regarding the flood mitigation is public infrastructure. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. Moore said that she and James Swierc, WQPD Hydrologist, attended a meeting with the Lewis and Clark County Planning Department regarding the new subdivision regulations. The main discussion that was had at the meeting was land use and not water usage. Mayor Schell requested that staff invite the Planning Department to attend a WQPD meeting to discuss water quality and quantity within the new subdivision regulations. No public comment was given.

HELENA VALLEY GRAVEL PIT

Pete Schade, Water Quality Specialist, announced that a meeting was held for a new gravel pit proposal in the area of Forestvale, Mill and Kerr Roads. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has not issued a permit at this time. In the absence of an acceptable permit, Mr. Schade said any comments made at this time would be premature. Once the permit is reviewed, Mr. Schade recommended that staff draft a letter from the WQPD Board with their comments, to be submitted during the public comment period. No public comment was given.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watershed Updates: Ms. Stacey highlighted the Gallatin County's Watershed Interactive Map. The District is currently in the process of creating their own interactive map of the Helena Valley with the goal to have it completed by end of fiscal year 2020. No public comment was given.

Mr. Schade highlighted the Sevenmile Creek Flow Monitoring Station Permit Proposal (pages 21-24 of the board packet). Mr. Schade discussed the project objectives, proposed activities, expected outcomes, estimated budget, timeline and proposed partners. Mr. Schade hopes to have flow monitoring data by next spring. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

The WQPD purchased a new truck and should have it for staff to use by September 7.

Mr. Frasier announced that MSU is hosting a pesticide class on September 9, 2019, at the Jorgenson Inn and Suites. The purpose of the class is to help individuals maintain their current pesticide license.

Mayor Schell reminded the Board that the Montana Environmental Trust Group (METG) received \$100 million during the bankruptcy settlement in the mid-2000s to clean up the ASARCO site. Another \$5.8 million went to the Department of Justice Natural Resources Damage Program and another \$700,000 went to the Department of Interior and Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP). On August 23, 2019, FWP released a public notice regarding their draft restoration plan on how they would spend the \$700,000. The draft restoration plan proposes alternatives to restore natural resources and migratory bird habitat that have been injured by hazardous waste. Comments are due by September 22.

On August 22, the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 awarded the Montana Environmental Trust Group East Helena Team with the Excellence in Site Reuse Award – For Reuse and Revitalization of the East Helena Superfund Site. Additionally, Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded for superior achievement in environmental sustainability to:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Karen Nelson

- Montana Department of Environmental Quality: Jenny Chambers
- Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program: Harley Harris
- Lewis and Clark Public Health Environmental Health Services Division Lead Education and Assistance Program and Water Quality Protection District: Kathy Moore, Jan Williams, and Jennifer McBroom
- City of East Helena: Mayor James Schell
- East Helena Public Schools: Ron Whitmoyer
- Prickly Pear Land Trust: Mary Hollow

Mr. Ryan announced that the Spokane Creek Restoration Project (SCRCP) would accomplish 300 feet of restoration along Spokane Creek. A flood plain permit and encroachment analysis is needed to begin the project. Mr. Ryan announced that he received a 10-year-old memo from FEMA Region 10 granting approval in that region for a no rise encroachment analysis for stream restoration projects. Montana is in the FEMA Region 8 and the SCRCP will have to comply with FEMA's request for an encroachment analysis.

An Augusta flood workgroup was created to assess current and past flood damages that occurred in Augusta, and to work on flood remediation. The health department is paying for Mr. Schade's time for participation in the Augusta flood discussions.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Stan Frasier, Chair

Action Items from August 27 WQPD Meeting

- Staff will send invite to the L&C County Planning Department to attend a WQPD meeting to discuss the subdivision regulations.