

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226 So.
December 5, 2017

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair (dept. at 6:10 p.m.)
Dick Sloan
Kammy Johnson
Amanda Harrow
David Donohue
Randall Camp
Jeff Ryan

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jennifer McBroom
Pete Schade
Jolene Helgerson

Guests Present

Members Absent

Commissioner Jim McCormick

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 225th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:34 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 October 24, 2017 minutes. Mayor Jamie Schell noted a grammatical error. Mayor Schell made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Dave Donohue seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, requested time to discuss the WQPD Agenda Summary 2018 during Board Member Discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION

Peter Schade, Water Quality Specialist, gave a presentation on the water quality for Prickly Pear Creek (PPC) (see Attachment "A"). Mr. Schade provided a brief overview of the Department of Environmental Equality (DEQ) 2000 Review of the PPC not meeting DEQ standards, restoration and remediation activities since 2000, and implication of data analysis. Mr. Schade highlighted the August 2017 PPC Water Quality and Macroinvertebrate Sampling Sites in which he presented each site's 2017 low flow sampling results and 2012 high and low sampling results for total nitrogen, nitrates, phosphorus, and certain metals along with 2017 and 2012 macroinvertebrate sampling results. Mr. Schade's goals for 2018 is to continue low flow summer water quality sampling, adding a few sampling locations; conduct high flow sampling; analyze/evaluate previously collected aquatic assemblages for comparison; and to develop and update quality assurance documentation for the WQPD sampling and field activity. Mr. Schade announced that he would like to sample surface water

along the PPC near the Asarco site during low and high flow season for further data analysis. In answer to a question by Mr. Frasier, Mayor Schell stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is not using the by-pass channel at the Asarco site and that they are now using the regular creek channel. The Department of Justice will be planting some trees along the channel. The Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT) is working on purchasing land near the plant site for development. In answer to a question from Mr. Schade, Mayor Schell stated that EPA has completed interim measures and a draft corrective measure study for the Asarco Plant site and the surrounding area. Mr. Schell stated that he believes that the corrective measure study does not apply to the realignment area that PPLT would like to purchase because the realignment area did not have much contamination compared to the Upper and Lower Lake area within the Asarco Plant. Ms. Moore stated that EPA channeled the creek away from the contamination and lowered the groundwater around the South Plant Hydraulics area to eliminate as much contamination as possible. Mr. Schell stated that the creek along the walking trails would not require constant monitoring compared to the wells on the plant site.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Groundwater Discussion- Board members and staff discussed the need to expand the public knowledge regarding groundwater depletion and availability:

- Simplify the groundwater depletion maps for better understanding to the general public
- Discuss water conservation within city and county limits
- Speak with members from the Helena Waters Conservation Commission
- A main concern is how to incorporate the WQPD's Groundwater Depletion Study into the Subdivision Regulation.
 - ♦ Have the Groundwater Depletion Study peer reviewed by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and submit to journal
- How to get the message to the public
 - ♦ Group Discussions
 - ♦ Home Owners Association
 - ♦ HCTV
 - ♦ News Paper/ Your Turn Articles
 - ♦ Facebook and other social media sites
 - ♦ Mailings
 - ♦ WQPD web page
 - ♦ Discuss with other WQPD's in the state
- Workgroup needed for further discussion
 - ♦ January 4 at 3:00 p.m., Location TBA
 - ♦ Dick Sloan, Amanda Harrow, Dave Donohue, and Jeff Ryan

WQPD 2018 Agenda Summary: Ms. Moore will draft a proposed agenda summary for the board to review.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Ryan spoke briefly on an email from the Conservation District regarding agreement to avoid wetland delineation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Stan Frasier, Chair