

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226 So.
January 23, 2018

Members Present

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

Staff

Jennifer McBroom
Pete Schade
James Swierc
Valerie Stacey
Jolene Helgerson

Members Absent

Stan Frasier, chair
Kammy Johnson

Guests Present

Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair, called the 226th 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

Mayor Schell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 5, 2017 minutes. Mayor Jamie Schell requested that on page 3 of the minutes they should read “Mayor Schell stated that the EPA has completed the interim measures and a draft corrective measure study for the Asarco Plant site and the surrounding area”. Mayor Schell made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Amanda Harrow seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Jennifer McBroom, Watershed Outreach Coordinator, presented a revised agenda to be used in place of the agenda found in the board packet (see Attachment “A”).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION

Pete Schade, Water Quality Specialist, presented the Emerald Ridge Subdivision Groundwater Story Map for the Board to review and provide feedback. A story map was created by staff at the request of the Board. The storyboard provides a simpler way to present the Emerald Ridge Subdivision groundwater depletion information and data to the public. After reviewing the story map, the Board noted the following changes:

- Replace the current picture of a well diagram with a pitless adapter diagram
- Move the water flow video into the introduction
- Possible story map presentations to the following groups:
 - AWRA

- State Wide
- Emerald Ridge Home Owners Association

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tryan Restoration Project Update: Ms. McBroom provided a brief explanation on the current 3 year, \$110,000 Watershed Restoration Plan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Grant and the new 2 year, \$330,000 DEQ Tryan Restoration Grant (see Attachment “B”). Jeff Ryan requested that Ms. McBroom look into a storage facility to store dormant willows for the project. Ms. McBroom said that they would be planting up to 7,000 willows.

Prickly Pear Rewatering Project Update: Ms. McBroom presented the final report on the 2017 Prickly Pear Rewatering Project (on pages 10-23 of the board packet). Ms. McBroom noted that in 2017 Prickly Pear Creek has had water running through it for 10 years. Ms. Harrow suggested running an article on the success of 10 years of keeping water in the creek. Ms. McBroom stated that continued funding for the project is \$15, 220. Bonneville Environmental Foundation will fund \$10,000 and North Western Energy fund \$5,000. The remaining \$220 is funded from the new DEQ grant.

WQPD Data Collection, Documentation, & Management Quality Improvement Project: Mr. Schade presented the WQPD Data Collection, Documentation, & Management Quality Improvement Project (on pages 25-26 of the board packet) which will develop quality assurance and control for data collection and management operations conducted by the WQPD. In answer to a question from Dave Donohue, Mr. Schade stated that current data collection is stored in various laboratories, agencies, and in-house locations and format.

Nutrient Pollution in Lake Helena: Mr. Schade highlighted the DEQ Nutrient Pollution in the Lake Helena Watershed report (on pages 28-36 of the board packet) in which it summarized the nitrogen and phosphorus pollution to the lower valley of the Lake Helena watershed from streams such as Prickly Pear Creek. Mr. Schade stated that the report focuses mainly on quantifying point source reductions. Randall Camp addressed his concerns regarding the report to a reporter who has yet to write his article in the newspaper. Mr. Camp stated that if you took out the annual contributions you would still have an impaired stream. He also stated that the report provides only summer time low flow graphs, rather than annual loads, as was the focus of the TMDL. Mr. Camp stated that the best solution to nutrient loading is to allow for discharge to the irrigation canal but due to surface water classification regulations, the City is not allowed to discharge to the irrigation canal. Dick Sloan requested that the WQPD draft a letter of support in order to assist the City of Helena with their efforts for a permit to discharge. After further discussion of what should be in the letter of support, the board agreed that Mr. Camp would draft the letter to the DEQ addressing the issues and solutions with board review of the final draft. Mr. Schade stated that he would research the possibility of canal discharge reclassification. Mayor Schell made a motion that Mr. Camp would draft a letter of support for the board to review and edit at the next meeting. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

WQPD 2018 Agenda Summary: Ms. McBroom presented the 2018 Agenda Summary (on page 37 of the board packet). She noted that the agenda may change and that if the Board had any additions or changes to let her know.

Upper Tenmile: Mr. Schade spoke with the City Engineer Jamie Clark regarding potential metal reduction projects for the Upper Tenmile. Mr. Schade stated that it would be beneficial for Mr. Clark to speak with Dick Sloan regarding the work he is doing on the zinc reduction grant for the Upper Tenmile. Mr. Camp briefly discussed the need for future rechanneling of the Upper Tenmile stream to the Tenmile Wastewater Treatment Plant.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Camp announced that due to the large amount of snow so early in the season, the City of Helena is working on alternative cost saving options for snow removal within city limits. One pilot project they are considering is the use of ground wood chips in areas free of storm sewers. They are also looking into various salts but there are hazards to waterways and damage to structures because of the salt.

Mayor Schell made a correction to a statement that he made at the last meeting which he said that the corrective measure does not include the realignment area when in actuality the corrective measure does include the realignment area but the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will not take any more action and will just realign the creek.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Jamie Schell, Vice Chair