

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
316 North Park, Room 226  
Helena, MT 59623  
June 25, 2019

Members Present

Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen (Arrived @ 6:00 p.m.)  
Jeff Ryan  
Dick Sloan (Arrived @ 5:36 p.m.)  
Kammy Johnson  
Ryan Leland  
Amanda Harrow

Staff

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

Members Absent

Stan Frasier, chair  
David Donohue

Guests Present

Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair, called the 239<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:33 p.m. A quorum was established. Introduction of Board members were made.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda. No public comment was given.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Schell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 28, 2019, minutes. Mayor Schell noted an error regarding arrival time in the member's present section of the minutes. No public comment was given. Kammy Johnson made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Jeff Ryan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Supervisor, presented the final Lewis and Clark WQPD Strategic Plan 2020-2023 (see Attachment "A") for review and approval. After reviewing the plan, the following recommendations were made:

- Goal 1- Objective 1.1, Strategy 5: Integrate water quality education into the Helena and East Helena High School's curriculum.
- Staff will send to the Board an email link to Bozeman's public use groundwater interactive map.
- Goal 2-Objective 2.3, Strategy 1: Add news organizations, morning radio/talk shows, and YouTube videos.
- Goal 3-Objective 3.1, Strategy 3: Broaden the statement to read, attend county planning meetings monthly to communicate with city and county planning departments and attend planning meetings as necessary.

No public comment was given. Dick Sloan made a motion to approve the amended Lewis and Clark WQPD Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mayor Schell requested that staff email a copy of the final strategic plan to the Board.

## **UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

East North Hills (ENH) Update: Water quality sampling in the ENH is complete along with isotope data collection and will be incorporated into a full report this fall. The data will be presented to the Montana AWRA at their fall conference. James Swierc is preparing to host a public meeting this fall with residents in the ENH to present the water level and water quality data that has been collected.

Spring Flows Update: Streams are again flowing well above normal for the summer season. The District lost 2 stream flow-monitoring stations from high flows earlier in the spring. The Prickly Pear Creek Rewatering Project has triggers of 40 and 20 cfs at stations P2 and P4, respectively. Presently, streamflows remain well above Rewatering Project flow triggers.

Network Update: A high flow monitoring station will be installed on Sevenmile Creek where it crosses Birdseye Road. . The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) will assist with the high flow monitoring and Public Works will be assisting the District with installation of a wire weight gage for water stage measurement.

A new Silver Creek monitoring station will be installed at the John G Mine Road crossing.

Augusta Flooding: For the second year in a row, flooding has occurred on Elk Creek in Augusta. Peter Schade, Water Quality Specialist, met with Augusta residents to discuss water quality. Mr. Schade was asked by the County Commissioners and Public Work Director to participate in evaluations of the flooding on Elk Creek. The health department and the county will cover Mr. Schade's time. Discussion on how to fund Mr. Schade's time if he is to continue to assist the county and possible district expansion in Augusta were had. Mr. Schade will also provide a brief end of the season-expanded flood monitoring update to the Helena Valley Flood Committee in July.

## **BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Mayor Schell announced that the East Valley had a meeting with Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Program with the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Montana Environmental Trust Group to discuss the restoration plan that is continuing to move forward. There were some questions asked regarding the corrective measure study. 200 acres to the west of Highway 518 east of the slag pile may be potentially given to the Prickly Pear Land Trust Restoration Area. Additional projects are potentially to be funded including the WQPD Prickly Pear Creek Rewatering Project.

Jeff Ryan presented photos of willow restoration conducted by Valerie Stacey, Environmental Technician, along Spokane Creek. Ms. Stacey also commented that certain residents in Spokane Creek last year were concerned about water quantity that led to a water quantity study by Mr. Swierc. Ms. Stacey on behalf of the health department is continuing that study with assistance from DNRC.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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Mayor Jamie Schell, Vice Chair

Action Items from June 25 WQPD Meeting

- Staff will send to the Board an email link of the Bozeman's public use groundwater interactive map.
- Mayor Schell requested that staff email a copy of the final strategic plan to the Board.