

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226 So.
June 27, 2017

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair (arrived @ 5:40 p.m.)
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
David Donohue (departed @ 6:05 p.m.)
Dick Sloan
Amanda Harrow
Randall Camp

Staff

Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Gary Burton
Jolene Helgerson

Members Absent

Kammy Johnson
Jeff Ryan
Commissioner Jim McCormick

Guests Present

Jamie Schell, vice-chair, called the 221st 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 and staff were made.

MINUTES

Mayor Schell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 23, 2017 minutes. Dave Donohue noted a grammatical error to the second paragraph in the updates and announcements and requested to have the word “has” changed to “was”. Mr. Donohue made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Dick Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Introduction of new WQPD staff member Peter Schade has been moved to next month’s agenda.

WATER WATCHERS PRESENTATION

Gary Burton, of the WQPD, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 23rd season of the Water Watchers Program. Gary stated that the program is a community outreach program for all School District 1 and East Helena 4th and 5th graders. Water Watchers I consists of 4th graders who participate during the spring in classroom activities and a field trip to Prickly Pear Creek to learn about water pollution and the effects it has on humans and animals. Water Watchers II consists of 5th graders who participate during the fall in classroom activities and an all-day field trip to Moose Creek Campground and a tour of the Tenmile Treatment Plant or the City of Helena Waste Water Treatment

Plant. The program is currently funded by the WQPD with field trip bus transportation supplemented by a DEQ 319 grant.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Running Water for Helena/ Wetland Festival: The Running Water for Helena was held on June 24 at the Tenmile Water Treatment Plant. 50 runners participated and the event rose close to \$4,000 for wetland restoration. On the same day, the Wetland Festival was held at the Spring Meadow Resources Pavilion. 75-100, people attended the festival and were treated to a barbeque, beverages, music and educational booths. Mayor Schell stated that his augmented water sand box, which shows cases a topographic water movement with sand, was not as effective as it could have been due to outside light affecting the calibration. Mayor Schell said he would have curtains to block out the natural light at next year's festival. His augmented water sand box will be displayed at the Montana GIS Conference next April.

Tyran Project Update: Phase 1 of the Tyran Project has received a \$315,000 grant award from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). After first denying the grant award in the original application, DEQ grant board members attended a tour of the project to understand what was proposed in the application.

Rewatering Project Update: Jennifer McBroom announced that the initiation of the rewatering project has begun on Prickly Pear Creek after reaching the required cfs. If the cfs had not met the required measurements, the project would have started officially on July 1.

Groundwater Well Monitoring-Arsenic and Uranium Sampling: James Swierc announced that a well sample in the area of Sever Park and in Emerald Ridge has come back high for Uranium. Additional samples will be taken of both wells to confirm results. In addition to sampling for Arsenic and Uranium, Mr. Swierc will now be sampling for Fluoride. Energy Lab will be reviewing past samples of Arsenic, Uranium, and Fluoride in the monitoring wells sampled in the Helena Valley, Emerald Ridge, and Sever Park.

Flood Report: Mr. Swierc will make an addendum to the Lewis and Clark County Flood Report regarding groundwater and surface water based on the public comment.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Swierc announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given the Corrective Measure Study to their benefactors to review. The study should be available to the public by the fall of 2017.

Mr. Schell announced that the after the Corrective Measure Study is made available to the public, the NRD is looking to start a groundwater project in the area of East Helena.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Jamie Schell, Vice-Chair