

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59624
316 North Park, Room 226 So.
October 24, 2017

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
Commissioner Jim McCormick
Dick Sloan
Kammy Johnson
Amanda Harrow
David Donohue
Randall Camp

Members Absent

Jeff Ryan

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Pete Schade
Jolene Helgerson

Guests Present

Mike Bishop
Andrew Bishop

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 224th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was established. Introduction of Board members, staff, and public were made.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 26, 2017 minutes. Mayor Jamie Schell noted some grammatical errors and content changes. 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

No changes were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FINANCE REPORT

Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, presented the WQPD 2018 fiscal year cash flow statement on page 7 of the board packet. As of October 24, beginning cash is \$170,274; total revenues received are \$18,661 or 5% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$82,599 or 19% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$63,938; ending cash balance is \$114,187. Jennifer McBroom, Watershed Outreach Coordinator, and Ms. Moore presented a brief overview of the Lake Helena Restoration, Tenmile Superfund, and WQPD Donation cash flow statements on pages 8-10 of the board packet. In answer to a question from Mike Bishop, Dick Sloan stated that due to the budget restraints within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they will address arsenic issues in the lower levels of groundwater around the Lake Helena area when funding becomes available again.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Sloan gave a presentation on zinc loading in the Upper Tenmile (see Attachment “A”). Mr. Sloan stated that due to the mining of metals in the Upper Tenmile Creek, the EPA designated the area as a Superfund site. After the removal of waste to a repository, there is little funding left to address the continued zinc loading in the water supply from the Upper Tenmile Creek watershed which is causing effluent from the Helena waste water treatment plant to exceed the aquatic toxicity standard for zinc. The cost to modify or expand the treatment facility would cost between \$50-60 million. The goal is to reduce the zinc loading in the potable water from the Upper Tenmile watershed to reduce the treated wastewater zinc levels to compliance levels. Mr. Sloan highlighted the four diversions that are generating the zinc loading, the major zinc loading sources, the zinc loading strategy status, and the schedule and cost to reduce the zinc loading into the Helena portable water supply. Mr. Sloan is working to secure grant funding to complete this project. In answer to a question from Dave Donohue, Mr. Sloan stated that a long-term solution is needed to address the sludge going into the Luttrell Pit. At this time, the sludge is not hazardous waste and could be disposed of in a landfill. Mr. Bishop discussed a possibility of reversing the current water disbursement by piping the contaminated water and letting the portable water free flow down the stream. Then divert the portable water to the treatment plant. Mr. Bishop recommended that the WQPD work with the USGS Tenmile South Collaborative Group to combine presentations. Mr. Bishop will send contact information to Ms. Moore. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Mr. Sloan stated that at this time zinc contamination is the main issue for the treatment plant over other possible metal contamination.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWRA Poster- Ms. McBroom announced that the District and others attending the AWRA Conference toured Prickly Pear Creek and the Elliott Restoration Project. Ms. McBroom presented the Prickly Pear Poster at the poster session of the conference.

DEQ Reclassification of Prickly Pear Creek- Pete Schade, Water Quality Specialist, is in discussion with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the reclassifying a portion of Prickly Pear Creek. Mr. Schade provided a brief background on how the creek received the “I” Classification and the processes DEQ goes through when reevaluating classifications. The District will have further updates when they meet with DEQ in the spring. Mr. Schade noted that during the meeting with DEQ, they discussed the possibility of recalculating the 7Q10 stream flow permit for Prickly Pear Creek.

Lake Helena Watershed: Next meeting is October 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Montana City Fire Hall.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Amanda Harrow requested that at the next board meeting, the Board continue their discussion on communicating to the public on the research the District has done on water availability.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Stan Frasier, Chair