

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
316 North Park, Room 226
Helena, MT 59623
October 22, 2019

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Mayor Jamie Schell, vice-chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen (Arrived @ 6:30 pm)
Jeff Ryan
Dick Sloan
Kammy Johnson
Ryan Leland
Catherine Scott

Staff

Jennifer McBroom
Peter Schade
Valerie Stacey
Jolene Helgerson
Drenda Niemann

Guests Present

Members Absent

Amanda Harrow

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 241st 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 were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 27, 2019, minutes. Mayor Jamie Schell provided a memo of his recommended changes (see Attachment "A"). Mayor Schell made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written. Dick Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. No public comment was given.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Supervisor, presented the WQPD 2020 fiscal year cash flow fund statement budgets (pages 9-11 of the board packet) As of October 15, 2019, beginning cash is \$171,780; total revenues received are \$20,653 or 5% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$105,714 or 21% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$85,061; ending cash balance is \$109,659. Tax revenue assessments occur in November and May. In answer to a question from Mr. Sloan, Ms. McBroom explained that the September contracted services amount of \$21,882 was funding for a small grant to help an entity to write a larger grant in order for the WQPD to receive funding for the implementation phase of the Grizzly Gulch project. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. McBroom said that contracted services would be spent down. The Board requested that Ms. McBroom's letters of support asking for funding assistance for the water gauges be sent to the Conservation District and East Helena as soon as possible. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Ms. McBroom introduced new Board Member Catherine Scott representing the public. No public comment was given.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Mr. Frasier asked for nominees for FY 2020 WQPD Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Frasier nominated Mayor Schell as chair. Ryan Leland seconded motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mayor Schell nominated Jeff Ryan as vice-chair. Mr. Ryan nominated Mr. Sloan as vice-chair. After further board member discussion, Mr. Ryan withdrew his nomination. Mr. Frasier seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. After the approval of the elections, Mr. Frasier turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Mayor Schell. No public comment was given.

1ST QUARTER STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

Ms. McBroom presented highlights of the FY 2020 1st Quarter WQPD Strategic Plan Report (SPR) (pages 16-24 of the board packet). In answer to a question from Mr. Ryan, Ms. McBroom said that Goal 3-Section 3.2 allows for staff or representatives for the District to advocate for or against legislative bills that may affect the District. The Board agreed that advocacy work needs to happen before the legislative sessions begins. Mr. Ryan again recommended that staff participate in the fluvial geomorphology training. Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, recommended to the Board that they participate in Local Board training provided by the county. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. McBroom said that some staff presentations did not show up in the 1st quarter SPR because they were presented before or after the 1st quarter, which runs from July 1-September 30. No public comment was given.

UPDATES AND ANNOUCEMENTS

East North Hills Update: Ms. McBroom announced that James Swierc, Hydrologist, gave a presentation to the residents of East North Hills about his groundwater hydrology results pertaining to their concerns of groundwater depletion from residential growth. Mr. Swierc will give his East North Hills update to the board at the December or January meeting. Peter Schade, Water Quality Specialist, noted that the main take away from Mr. Swierc's report is that different areas with different water isotopes will have different recharge sources. The District will continue to monitor existing wells and add more monitors for future water level data collection. In answer to a question from Mr. Ryan, staff said that the general questions asked by those who attended the meeting were about subdivision development, county's role in water depletion monitoring and subdivision development, continued data collection, climate change, and wildfire influence. No public comment was given.

PFAS Update: Mr. Schade announced that Fort Harrison is looking into PFOA and PFOS water contamination within Fort Harrison from the use of fire retardant during trainings. PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). They have been used to make carpets, clothing, and fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and a number of industrial processes. The Health Department is assisting Fort Harrison with talking with a few residents living near Fort Harrison about possible well water contamination. Fort Harrison would like to sample 6 residential wells in that area. Mr. Schade said that 3 residents have approved the sampling, 2 residents have denied the sampling, and 1 resident has yet to be contacted by Fort Harrison. Staff presented a PFOA and PFOS

fact sheet for the Board to review (pages 67-71). Catherine Scott noted that this has been an issue in Clovis, New Mexico and recommended that staff review what they have done regarding the handling of PFOA and PFOS contamination. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Mr. Schade said that at this time, Fort Harrison is not sampling open space or stock wells. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may have to approve sampling of offsite wells. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Ryan announced that the Conservation District a 310 permit was issued for the remaining work on the Prickly Pear Creek near the ex-Asarco plant. Another 310 permit was issued for the last phase of Seven Mile Creek, which is scheduled to begin in 2020. 6 additional willows per square foot were added as a permit modification.

Mayor Schell announced that the restoration plan for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Natural Resource Damage Program (NRD) would be out the beginning of November. The plan is good for the District's rewatering program and for the Prickly Pear Land Trust area between Highway 518 and the slag pile, which will allow for the public to access the area that they did not have before. Mr. Schell noted that some individuals in East Helena were not happy that the City of East Helena would receive only a portion of the 5.8 million. There will be public access along that area that the Prickly Pear Land Trust is going to take over. Mr. Schell's comments regarding the restoration plan for the US Fish and Wildlife were sent on Saturday. His plan comments for the area east of Wylie Drive just before Pele Park on the left hand side were about his concerns of silt moving under the culverts and the bridge.

The Montana Environmental Trust Group (METG) is working on a new public water supply in East Helena, Wylie Well 3, a well between the creek and the selenium plume. The trust group is moving forward with relocating Wylie Well 3 over to the area of the East Helena's Waste Water Treatment Plant. Bob Anderson from Hydrometrics is in charge of the relocation. Mr. Anderson is starting to drill a test hole for pump testing.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Jamie Schell, Chair

Action Items from the October 22, 2019 board meeting

- James Swierc will give an update on East North Hills at the December or January board meeting.