

**LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Hybrid – Zoom
January 28, 2025

Members Present:

Patrick Johnson, Chair
Brie MacLaurin
Ryan Leland
Jeff Ryan
Adel Johnson
Diana Hammer
Ed Kerins, Vice Chair

Members Absent:

Andy Hunthausen

Staff Present:

Jennifer McBroom, Gary Burton, Kegan
McClanahan, Natalie Emerson, Drenda
Niemann, Janet Janus

Patrick Johnson, Chair, called the 281st meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors (Board) to order at 4:05 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of Board members and WQPD staff were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

It was discussed that the tour of the Water Treatment Plant would be postponed until March, due to construction issues.

Jennifer added two additional items to the agenda:

- Saying goodbye to Natalie
- Discuss any bills for the current legislative session.

MINUTES

Mr. Johnson brought forward that there is a revision to the December minutes – That a quorum was eventually established later in the meeting, but the October minutes were not addressed. It was discussed that the October minutes would be reviewed during the February 25, 2025, meeting.

Motioned approved and seconded for the December minutes, as amended: The Board voted unanimously to approve the December minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – QUARTER TWO

Ms. McBroom presented a summary of the Quarter Two Financial Report. As of January 17, 2025, we are 50% through the fiscal year. Total expenditures are at \$206,155.76 or 41.35% of the budgeted amount; total revenue to date is \$199,063.32 or 48.98 of the budgeted amounts leaving a cash balance of \$344,055.05. There was a question regarding printing costs being well over the projected amount. Jennifer advised that this was a onetime occurrence due to the printing being outsourced instead of being done in house per the norm. Ms. Neimann mentioned that the goal is to have a 90-cash reserve which is at \$124,000.

Fund 140, which is the Re-watering Project has a balance of \$40,126.00 with additional funding from the Natural Damage Resource Program. While discussing Fund 124, the Grizzly Gulch Placer Mine Project, there was an in-depth discussion about the project. Jeff talked about coordinating discussions about the project with the board and discussed the possible need for expanding the amount of willow cuttings being used for this specific project, as well as getting volunteers to do the cuttings. There was additional discussion about the length of the permit issued being sufficient.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Ms. McBroom brought up Natalie Emerson leaving, thanking her for her hard work. Gary will be managing the well duties. Ms. McBroom also discussed that she will be keeping track of any bills involving water for the current session. Drenda did comment that MACO (Montana Association of Counties) is also keeping track of any bills involving water. It was discussed that if the board wanted to support any legislation there would have to be an executive committee formed to talk about it. Ms. Hammer asked about a nutrient's standards revision bill; Ms. McBroom advised that there was little information available on it at this time. Mr. Ryan voiced concerns about the new administration developing a task force to investigate FEMA and how that would affect Montana. Mr. Johnson asked about the possibility of the current flood plain administrator coming to speak to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Next meeting will be February 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.