

Helena Valley Mosquito District
Craig/Wolf Creek Mosquito District

Lewis & Clark County

Joint Board Meeting

April 8, 2025

1:00 p.m. In person & Zoom Option

Noxious Weed Conference Room

Public Works Complex

3402 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602

Mosquito Board Members Present

Jim Dusenberry – Helena Valley

Jackie Laverdiere – Helena Valley

Mike Taylor – Craig/Wolf Creek

Dayl Taylor – Craig/Wolf Creek

Lewis & Clark County Staff Present

Andy Hunthausen –County Commissioner

Jessica Makus –Special Districts Coordinator

Jenny Chambers –Director of Public Works

Christian Lehnert –Noxious Weed & Mosquito Supervisor

Jade Wills –Administrative Assistant II

No Zoom Attendees

Guests Present

John Semple- JHS Contracting

1. Introductions – Roll Call (00:00:00)

- Meeting was called to order by Jim Dusenberry at 1:02 p.m.
- Helena Valley Mosquito District currently has 2 of 5 Board members and is not a quorum.
- Absent:
 - Craig/Wolf Creek: Dan LaFromboise

2. Minutes from last meeting held on February 6, 2025 (00:00:30)

- Staff will e-mail the meeting minutes from February 6, 2025.

3. Action Item(s) (00:01:01)

a. FY2026 Helena Valley Mosquito District Budget Presentation.

(00:01:13) Christian Lehnert presents the proposed Helena Valley Mosquito District for FY2026 highlighting a projected revenue assessment of \$310,270 and Contractor expense of \$238,805. Costs will be shared at 90% with the Craig/Wolf Creek Mosquito District. The members have a handout of the proposed budget(s) that highlights proposed changes.

- Jim Dusenberry questions the budget for travel and training. Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know that cost is for Christian Lehnert to keep his license as he is and has been the staff liaison. As the Noxious Weed and Mosquito Supervisor he provides assistance and directs complaints, he is more on the technical information side but works with the Contractor overall. Previously the Noxious Weed Budget has paid for these items however it should come out of the Mosquito District(s) Budgets. In the future if Board members would like to attend related training there is a possibility of them getting reimbursed for that as well.
- There is further discussion regarding the proposed budget and the lack of the Board(s) input on the Budget(s) and everything else. Jenny Chambers lets the members know if they do not agree with the proposed budget and there are items they want to add or take away from, they can do that. The purpose of this proposed budget is to present to

the Board(s) for their review before they are presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Staff then takes the proposed budget(s) to the Board of County Commissioners and relays if the Board agrees or relay if the Board is in disagreement about an item and at that point the Commissioners are able to decide.

- There are questions on the budget(s) and budget projection sheets included in the Board(s) packets. Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know that at the previous meeting the Board(s) had requested Staff prepare a Spray Year Cash Flow vs. a Fiscal Year Cash Flow for each district which is what is included in the Board(s) packets.
- Regarding the proposed budget(s) Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know there are no charges for staff wages, those are all paid from the General Fund. The only professional services fee is for JHS Contracting.
- Jim Dusenberry would like to know if we need to do an RFP this year. Jenny Chambers confirms that yes, this is the last year of JHS Contracting's 3-year contract.
- There is further discussion regarding the Helena Valley Board not having enough members for a quorum.
- Christian Lehnert worked with John Semple after last meeting to see if he wanted/needed a price increase in his contract for this years Contract Amendment which is what is in the proposed budget. Christian Lehnert presented those contract amendments to the Board of County Commissioners today.
- Although there is no quorum Jackie Laverdiere and Jim Dusenberry accept the Helena Valley Mosquito District proposed budget as presented.

b. FY2026 Craig/Wolf Creek Mosquito District Budget Presentation-

(00:26:28) Christian Lehnert presents the proposed budget to the Board(s) highlighting a projected revenue assumption of \$25,800 and Contractor expense of \$17,178 and explains costs are shared at 10% with the Helena Valley Mosquito District.

- There is a question as to why each District has a permitting fee and Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know that MT DEQ considers each District separately and they must have their own permit/application. Jenny lets the Board(s) know that if they wanted to in the future, they could dissolve the districts and create a new district to combine the permits.
- Craig/Wolf Creek members don't know that the mileage reimbursement for members is necessary as it is something that has never been paid before. Jenny Chambers lets the members know that it is typical for Boards to budget and pay for mileage reimbursement for members living a certain distance away and with the updated Resolution and Bylaws with the Board of County Commissioners this was added as it is a usual Board operating expense and equivalent to what is done for other Boards.
- **(00:35:08)** Mike Taylor makes a motion to accept the Craig/Wolf Creek Mosquito District proposed budget for FY26 as presented, Dayl Taylor 2nds this motion, motion passes unanimously.

4. Board Member Discussion and Comments (for each district):

a. Annual contract status update (amendment) (00:35:31)-

- Christian Lehnert lets the Board(s) know when he spoke with John Semple after the last meeting, John did request a \$5,000.00 cost increase for the Helena Valley Mosquito District Contract Amendment (only) for the increasing cost of operations and maintenance. These contracts for both districts have been drafted, signed by the Contractor, and were presented and signed today by the Board of County Commissioners

- The members and staff discuss this being the last year of the 3-year contract so the Board(s) will need to go back out for a RFP for next year which takes approximately 4 to 6 months for the whole process. May be a good idea to start this process in early Fall so it can be completed by March of April 2026.
- The Board(s) will help write the RFP and be involved in the whole process including evaluations and scoring criteria as. Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know if they would like to form subcommittees now, they can. After further discussion Staff will send out all of the prior RFP information, contracts, and amendments to the Board members via e-mail. Mike and Dayl Taylor would like printed copies mailed, Staff will get that information out and distributed to the Board(s) members.
- Jackie Laverdiere asks if there has been any interest in being on the Board(s), there has not. Christian lets the Board know Staff will work with the County Communications Coordinator to see if there are other places we can put the advertisement for these open positions.

b. JHS, Inc. presentation to Board(s) for end of 2024 season and workplan items for upcoming 2025 season. (00:49:44)

- John Semple with JHS Contracting states he did not prepare anything on paper but informs the Board(s) it was a slow season with the lack of moisture. He has been doing this for over 40+ years and knows where to go, in the past there was over 400 acres that needed managed if there was good rain but, with changing weather and more houses that is not the case. It is always helpful when complaints are directed to John so he can speak to the individual and see what the issue is and the area so he can better target on how to handle the complaint. These Districts were started over 40 years ago when there was a lot of flood irrigating in the area which has drastically changed and isn't as common.
- Jim Dusenberry asks John Semple if he still does container sampling. John informs the Board(s) that he does and its mostly in response to complaints. Most complaints come from the North Valley, North of Lincoln Road.
- Dayl Taylor asks John Semple if there is anything new on the chemical front, he lets the Board know the EPA has been doing good with testing products. He does both larvicide and adulticide, lately not as much larvicide though with the water being lower. After further discussion Jenny Chambers lets the Board(s) know Staff will send out the district maps for member review.
- There is discussion regarding hot spots in the district and mosquito issues correlating with agriculture. FWP land is also discussed, Jenny says Staff will try to reach out to FWP for information on their mosquito abatement plan and look into possibly having them as a guest to speak to the Board(s).

(John Semple Exits)

c. Board of Directors Members: (01:16:44)

- Christian, again, lets the members know he will work with Betsy on the BoCC Board Member recruiting and public outreach. All Board vacancies are listed on the website and advertised however there has not been any interest. Jenny Chambers also announces the vacancies during Government days in Augusta/Lincoln monthly.
- Board members would like some sort of Guidebook, with history, bylaws, resolutions, etc.. Staff will work on putting one together.

5. Public Comments

- None

6. Next Meeting: (01:23:56)

- To Be Determined, survey monkey will be sent out for meeting times in late August/early September.
- Will be a planning meeting for the RFP, and Christian will send out previous RFP information for members to reference.

7. Adjournment: (01:35:00)

- Meeting adjourned 2:38 p.m., motion made by Jim Dusenberry, 2nd by Mike Taylor.

Meeting Minute Outline:

Prepared by: Jade Wills; Lewis and Clark County Administrative Assistant II