



LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

18 Main Street
PO Box 669
Chester MT 59531
Phone: 406-759-5778, ext. 102

The Liberty County Conservation District Board of Supervisors met March 10, 2022

Present:

*Lanny Jones
Gail Cicon*

*Megan Hedges
Kurt Matkin*

Rod Oraw

Absent/Excused:

*Robert Pugsley
Ray Morkrid
Tyler Jones*

*Fred Skierka
Tyler Streit*

*Rodney Svenson
Michael Nelson*

CALL TO ORDER – *Lanny Jones, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.*

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Motion by Rod Oraw, seconded by Megan Hedges to approve the minutes of the December 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Rod Oraw to file the Treasurer's Report for December. Motion carried.

Motion by Kurt Matkin, seconded by Megan Hedges to pay December bills. Motion carried.

Motion by Kurt Matkin, seconded by Rod Oraw to file the Treasurer's Report for January. Motion carried.

Motion by Rod Oraw, seconded by Megan Hedges to pay January bills. Motion carried.

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Kurt Matkin to file the Treasurer's Report for February. Motion carried.

Motion by Kurt Matkin, seconded by Megan Hedges to pay February bills. Motion carried.

**Payments
December 2021**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amo...
12/02/2021	DEBI	Indeed	Job Ad - TCCD	480000 · Conservation Expenses	40.00
12/15/2021	4991	MCDEO	Employee Organization	332 · Dues Expense	30.00
12/31/2021		PERS	December	131 · Retirement	234.57
12/31/2021	4992	S Gail Cicon	December	Net Payroll	1,409.92
12/31/2021		United States Treasury		141.1 · Federal	830.60
TOTAL					2,545.09

**Payments
January 2022**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
01/04/2022	DEBIT	USPS	Postage for mass mailing	310 · Postage	69.60
01/04/2022	4993	U-I Contributions		141.3 · Unemployment	12.43
01/10/2022	4994	Department of Revenue	2021 WTH	141.2 · State	660.00
01/14/2022	DEBIT	USPS	Postage	310 · Postage	59.36
01/21/2022	4995	Liberty County Chamber o...	Dues	332 · Dues Expense	95.00
01/27/2022	4996	Montana State Fund	2022 bill - Worker's Comp	140 · Workers Compensation	339.11
01/31/2022		PERS		131 · Retirement	214.60
01/31/2022	4998	S Gail Cicon	January	Net Payroll	1,327.29
01/31/2022	4997	U-I Contributions	unemployment correction	141.3 · Unemployment	1.62
01/31/2022		Sam's Club	Refreshments for Workshops	212 · Promotions	37.12

**Payments
February 2022**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
02/01/2022		Bandcamp	Gail used wrong card number - repaid...	212 · Promotions	8.00
02/03/2022	4999	Hawks, Cory	cropping workshop	381 · Workshop Expenses	150.00
02/03/2022	5000	Kory Fauque	cropping workshop	381 · Workshop Expenses	150.00
02/03/2022	5001	John Wicks	cropping workshop	381 · Workshop Expenses	150.00
02/03/2022		IRS	correction	141.1 · Federal	6.34
02/03/2022		IRS	correction	141.1 · Federal	172.31
02/03/2022		Chester Supermarket	Food for cropping workshop	212 · Promotions	43.74
02/15/2022		PERS	Correction - PERS said they would ref...	131 · Retirement	80.00
02/28/2022		PERS	February	131 · Retirement	207.12
02/28/2022		S Gail Cicon	February	Net Payroll	1,308.69
TOTAL					2,276.20

NRCS Report - Laurie Massar, DC, Chester Office

Liberty County Soil Health Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP)

County or Counties: Liberty

Primary Resource Concern: Aggregate Instability

Time Frame: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2024

Project Description

It is only through adopting all four soil health principles and the fifth, where possible, that real results can be achieved. The overall purpose of this tip is to target producers that are very interested and have received education regarding soil health methods of farming but have not yet applied all the principles on the land.

Currently have 18 applications for the Liberty County Soil Health TIP (described above) If applications are not funded this year, they will be deferred to 2023. Currently have 17 applications for CSP Classic. If applications are not funded this year, they will be deferred to 2023. Ranking deadlines were last week so we are waiting for preapprovals.

CRP signup 58 is open until March 11th. Emergency grazing is available in counties D2 or higher drought status, which is currently most of the state.

The office is currently staffed at 75% and producers allowed in office by appointment. Laurie will be teleworking until March 28th due to family medical needs. Other staff alternate telework and in office work, but there is at least one NRCS staff in the office daily.

It is planned for FPAC employees to resume normal work schedules on May 2, 2022. This return date is contingent on the status of the pandemic.

February 3rd Erosion & Drought Resiliency Workshop was a success with over 50 people in attendance. Article was published in the Liberty County Times. We know of one organic producer who felt they had too much erosion and are moving towards continuous cropping and adding cover crops.

Extension Report – Jesse Fulbright *(not in attendance)*

District Business

LOCAL ACTIVITY

Oaths to be Signed

Lanny Jones

Young Ag Couples Conference

Geoff and Matti Osterman attended the 2022 young Ag Couples Conference held January 19-22, at the Delta Colonial Inn in Helena with 25 other “young” couples. Speakers discussed everything from estate planning and water rights to the state’s agricultural organizations and developing leadership skills. There was a tour of the Rocking Z Guest Ranch, the first night, and a costume contest to round out the event.

Some of the highlights included Montana State University’s Marsha Goetting’s presentation on estate planning, and just networking with other couples in the ag community. There were couples in attendance from Havre, Big Sandy, and Conrad to name a few. Matti and Geoff thanked the district for the opportunity to attend.

Ag Day for Elementary Students

Jesse Fulbright from the MSU Extension in Chester, and Gail Cicon have been planning for a morning with the elementary students for some time. This plan was interrupted by the Covid-19 virus. They have been in conversation with the 3rd and 4th grade teachers from CJI, and are planning to have this event on Friday, May 20th from approximately 8:30-11:30 at the CJI School. So far, there are plans for Pheasants Forever representative, Matt Strauch who is located in the Chester USDA office, Matti Osterman with NRCS, Gail Cicon with Aquatic Invasive Species, and Jesse Fulbright who will each give mini lessons on subjects relevant to their area of employment. Others will be added as the group progresses.

Waste Water Treatment Project

Robert Peccia and Associates sent a letter concerning the Chester Water System Preliminary Engineering Report. The letter came with a map and asked for comments concerning the project. The LCCD board had no further comments other than if outside funding was available, the board was in support of the project. Gail Cicon will call the above mentioned firm to find out exactly what the financial situation will be for this project. Otherwise, the board was in agreement that it was a necessary project.

Tree Orders

Four producers ordered trees through the Montana State Seedling Nursery. The trees will be delivered late morning of May 4 to the USDA building.

Resignation

Liberty County Conservation District Administrator, Gail Cicon thanked the board of supervisors for their support for 10 years, working in this position. She submitted her letter of resignation and hopes to have another administrator in place by May. Gail is willing to train that person as needed.

REGIONAL AND STATE

Shelby – Toole County Conservation District

The Toole County CD now has their own administrator who has taken over many of the expected duties of this job. Gail still helps her with the financial reports.

Future Workshops

Some possibilities for workshops were discussed: bee hives, herbicide resistance, humic. Gail will discuss this further with the NRCS for their input on the topic.

DNRC

The Department of Natural Resources Conservation from Helena sent a letter with current updates concerning grants, trainings, and a letter from Mary Hendrix, the CD Specialist who is assigned to our area (3).

Next Meeting –??

ADJOURNMENT

Gail Cicon, Administrator

Lanny Jones, Chairman

District meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the USDA Service Center, Chester, 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noticed.

MISSION: TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE, IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

VISION: Having a community that is economically stable with the natural resources conserved by:

- 1. providing education and encouraging control of nuisance weeds and eradication of noxious weeds**
- 2. having no soils blowing above their tolerance level—ideally no soil or water erosion**
- 3. sustaining and improving water quality, with rivers and streams running clear.**

4. encouraging tree planting for shelterbelts and wildlife
5. encouraging recycling
6. working jointly with all other agencies/organizations to enhance conservation practices within the District
7. improving the public perception of the Conservation District