

09/18/23
Cash Basis

Payments
August 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amou...
08/07/2023	DBT	Weather Shack	4 large Rain Gauges	201.2 · Rain Gaug...	171.80
08/07/2023	DBT	Amazon	2 Montana Women from the...	201.8 · Women in...	34.24
08/09/2023	182	Teton CD	Area III meeting registration	382 · Training Exp...	30.00
08/09/2023	DBT	Fastoolnow	1 Rain Gauge	201.2 · Rain Gaug...	31.40
08/28/2023	184	Cicon & Associates	2 Colored Map Books	201.1 · Maps	56.00
08/28/2023	183	HSA Bank	LCCD Contribution HSA acc...	130.1 · LCCD con...	34.58
08/28/2023	183	HSA Bank	Permissive Levy HSA contri...	130.2 · Permissiv...	433.82
08/31/2023	ACH	PERS	August Pers Pmt Diane Rob...	131 · Retirement	253.86
08/31/2023	185	Diane M Roberts	August net payroll Diane Ro...	Net Payroll	1,130.37
TOTAL					2,176.07

ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT: LCCD applied for an administration grant for the 2023/2024 physical year. The grant was submitted and approved for \$11,665. Funds were received on 9/6/2023 and deposited into the LCCD checking account.

ANNUAL LEAVE: Administrator, Diane Roberts, requested to take annual leave, November 10-17. This means that she will not be able to attend the MACD Convention in Billings, November 14-16. There are administrative funds to cover expenses for any supervisors that would like to attend.

NRCS Report – Misty Vermulm, DC, Shelby Office (not in attendance, written report)

September 21, 2023

NRCS Report

- *CSP23 Classic applications have been contracted. The 2023 funding was modest but expected to increase for 2024. Unfunded applications from 2023 will be sent a letter at FY rollover the end of Sept and their applications will roll to 2024 unless they request cancellation.*
- *CSP 2024 Renewal applications*
- *Program signup cutoff was announced as October 27, 2023, for FY 24 applications (CSP and EQIP). Any unfunded applications from 2023 will be rolled over to fiscal year 2024.*
 - *EQIP TIPs available in Liberty County include:*
 - *Liberty Soil Health TIP*
 - *Migratory Bird Resurgence (essentially seeding farmed potholes to grass)*
 - *Convert Expired CRP to Grazing land (water and fence on old CRP to graze it)*
 - *Marias River TIP (off stream livestock water to draw cattle off banks of river)*
 - *No More Dusty Trails (essentially strip-cropping along major roadways, applications to be put on shelf for the time being – staff shortages)*
- *Personnel: There were no applicants for the Soil Con nor for the District Conservationist in Chester. The Human Resources department is also short staffed, so hiring is a slow process. Our agency is planning to open the positions every 3 months until all are filled, but again this is somewhat hampered by lack of staffing in the Human Resources department. Zach Williams has accepted another position with NRCS and will be transferring out of the Chester Field office soon. Maverick Cady with Pheasants Forever is working limited hours for a time to help care for his son. Jenna Brown and Matti Osterman have been assisting the field office until staff can be hired.*
- *The USDA Fiscal Year ends Sept 30th. Should a federal budget not be passed, the office will be shut down. We will work through the steps provided and share those with Diane.*

Extension Report – Jesse Fulbright (not in attendance)

District Business

LOCAL ACTIVITY

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Diane has registered to be a vendor at the Harvest Festival in Chester on Sept. 23 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The table will highlight:

- *Tree Sales*
- *Website with new 310 digital application*
- *310 permit process*
- *Items for sale/rent*
- *Spinner Game*

LCCD pens have been purchased and will be given away to promote Liberty County conservation website.

TREE SALES: Tree sales opened at Montana Seedling Nursery September 18th. Seven tree orders have already been sent for a total of 3615 trees to be planted in Liberty County. Diane will also try to promote tree sales at the Harvest Festival. The inventory of trees at Montana Seedling Nursery is limited this year and producers are encouraged to purchase trees early. It was discussed that trees be purchased for CJI Ag in the Class in the spring. Diane will order 50 Blue spruce for the students at CJI.

AREA III Meeting: The MACD Area III meeting will be held on September 27 at the Stage Stop Inn in Choteau MT from 9-3 p.m. Diane has registered to attend.

Agenda items will be:

- Approval of 2022 Minutes
- Consideration of Current Year's Resolutions
- Election of Area Representatives to the MACD Board
- Next Year's Area Meeting Host – Toole County
- Area Auction/Raffle Donation for 2023 Convention
- Presentation of Longevity Awards
- Agency & Partner reports- NACD, MACD, NRCS, DNRC/CBD, MSCS, Montana Envirothon, FWP, MSU, FSA, MRCDC, MCDEO, SRWG/GID.

PERMISSIVE LEVY: A public meeting was held on September 21, 2023, at the USDA office at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the conservation district budget and answering any questions about the medical mill levy to cover the cost of FY2024. No comments were made from the public.

Motion was made by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones to approve the LCCD request to increase the permissive levy health benefit by \$61.02 a month for the 2023/2024 tax year. Liberty County Conservation District will pay \$34.58 / month(base). Total permissive levy health benefit \$529.42 monthly. Motion carried.

LWG MEETING: The NRCS has requested that the LCCD host a Local Work Group meeting on October 19 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the USDA office in Chester. They will provide a facilitator to discuss and determine resource concerns and potential funding opportunities. Diane will promote the LWG in the Chamber news and on Facebook and put flyers around town.

LCCD COST SHARE PROGRAM: Liberty County Conservation District realizes that one of the best opportunities to support and engage local landowners in a meaningful soil and water conservation project is to provide direct funding of those projects. Diane will look into posting the program information on the LCCD Website. Items included will be **Cost Share Instructions, Cost Share Application, Land Management Plan.** \$5000. has been set aside, from the savings, for the 2023/2024 FY to begin the Cost Share Program.

Motion was made by Megan Hedges, seconded by Kurt Matkin to approve and implement the LCCD cost share program.

MACD CONVENTION: The MACD convention will be held in Billings, MT on November 14-16, 2023. The LCCD will cover cost for any Supervisors who would like to attend.

REGIONAL AND STATE

Two handouts were presented as an update from Kasydi Lucas.

Next Meeting –October 19, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Diane Roberts, Administrator

Lanny Jones, Chairman

Diane Roberts

Lanny Jones

District meetings are held the 3rd 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