



**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 December 14, 2023*

*Present:*

*Lanny Jones                    Tyler Jones                    Megan Hedges                    Geoff Osterman  
 Diane Roberts                Kurt Matkin                    Tyler Streit                    Rod Oraw*

*Absent/Excused:*

*Robert Pugsley                Ray Morkrid  
 Mike Nelson*

**CALL TO ORDER:** *Lanny Jones called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.*

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

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

**Motion** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Kurt Matkin to file the Treasurer’s Report for October. *Motion carried.*

**Motion** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Kurt Matkin to pay October bills. *Motion carried.*

**Motion** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Kurt Matkin to file the Treasurer’s Report for November. *Motion carried.*

**Motion** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Kurt Matkin to pay November bills. *Motion carried.*

**5 AMI  
 11/23  
 h Basis**

**Payments  
 October 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Num</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Memo</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Paid Am...</b>
10/04/2023	191	Montana State Treasu...	Trees for AG in the class	201.5 · Trees	90.72
10/11/2023	192	Diane Roberts	Reimburse Deposit Slips fr...	210 · Office Suppl...	33.56
10/11/2023	193	United States Treasury	3 QTR payroll taxes	141.1 · Federal	830.80
10/11/2023	194	Ponderosa Publicatio...	1 year subscription	212 · Promotions	30.00
10/18/2023	195	Diane Roberts	Local Work Group Supplies	381 · Workshop Ex...	78.44
10/23/2023	196	Cascade Conservatio...	MACD live auction donation	350.1 · Convention	50.00
10/23/2023	197	HSA Bank	LCCD HSA contribution	130.1 · LCCD cont...	34.58
10/23/2023	197	HSA Bank	Permissive Health Levy con...	130.2 · Permissive...	529.42
10/30/2023	ACH	PERS	Pers contribution October D...	131 · Retirement	233.51
10/30/2023	198	Diane M Roberts	Diane Roberts Net Salary	Net Payroll	1,047.03
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b><u>2,958.06</u></b>

udi

12/11/23

Cash Basis

Payments  
November 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Am...
11/22/2023	DBT	U-I Contributions	Unemployment Insurance P...	141.3 · Unemploy...	25.00
11/22/2023	199	HSA Bank	LCCD HSA Contribution	130.1 · LCCD cont...	34.58
11/22/2023	199	HSA Bank	Permissive Levy health Con...	130.2 · Permissive...	529.42
11/29/2023	200	Diane M Roberts	November Net Salary	Net Payroll	1,035.78
11/30/2023	DBT	PERS	November Contribution Dian...	131 · Retirement	171.06
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b><u>1,795.84</u></b>

*Date set for financial audit: February 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. by Audit Committee*

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

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

**District Business**

**LOCAL ACTIVITY**

**SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS:** Tyler Jones and Mike Nelson are up for election in 2024. Tyler Jones has submitted Declaration for Nomination form to Davin at the courthouse. Mike Nelson will submit his form before February 12, 2024. According to subsection (5)(c) of MCA 76-15-303, if an election is not held, the governing body shall declare elected by acclamation the candidate(s) who filed a nominating petition for the positions. Oaths of office would need to be signed in May of 2024 after election day.

Tyler Streit has submitted his notarized Oath of Office form for Urban supervisor and the Town of Chester will send the approval of appointment letter to the LCCD in January.

**YOUNG AG CONFERENCE:** Matt & Madison Woods and Ivan & Jennifer Van Dessel have accepted the invitation to the Montana Department of Agriculture’s 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Young Ag Conference in January. The conference will explore contemporary issues facing family-operated agribusiness as well as the development of leadership skills needed to survive in the cyclical economic climate of agriculture. The LCCD will cover the registration fee of \$100. per couple plus travel expense.

**LIBERTY COUNTY / CHOUTEAU COUNTY SIGN:** The installation of the Liberty County / Chouteau County highway sign is complete. A board member from Chouteau County completed the frame for the sign and Jackson Bramlette, the CD administrator, installed the sign with the permission of the landowner. The sign was placed in the same spot as the previous sign. There is no additional cost to LCCD for the installation of the sign.

**MSU ANNUAL CROPPING SEMINAR:** The Annual MSU Cropping Seminar will be held on January 12, 2024, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Chester, MT. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the seminar goes from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Marni Thompson will be speaking on the LCCD’s behalf at 11:00 a.m. The LCCD will not be holding a winter workshop this year but has offered to contribute \$50. towards the rental fee of the Fellowship Hall at Our Savior’s Lutheran church.

**Motion** by Rod Oraw, seconded by Tyker Jones to contribute \$50 towards the rental fee for the MSU Cropping Seminar. Motion carried.

**310 RENEWAL PERMIT TWIN HILLS COLONY:** The LCCD received a ten year 310 Maintenance renewal from Twin Hills Colony Inc. There current 310 permit expires in 2023. Twin Hills Colony has a water intake from the Marias River. There will be no maintenance on the intake but there is some repair work that needs to be done on the building. The wood plate on the bottom is rotted and needs to be repaired. Diane has forwarded the application to Luke Holmquist at FWP for review and he said the application looks good and requested that we let him know when the LCCD approves the maintenance permit.

*Motion was made by Megan Hedges and seconded by Tyler Jones to approve Twin Hills Colony 310 renewal with no changes. Motion Carried.*

**DNRC ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT:** New funding provided by the legislature in the 2024 session is expected to bring with it increased legislative scrutiny. Therefore, beginning in FY24, districts, will be required to complete an assessment as a condition of funding to receive CD Administrative grant funds. If issues of non-compliance are found, the CD Bureau will work with districts on a plan and schedule to correct non-compliant items. The assessment was reviewed at the board meeting and there was one non-compliance found with the check signing. Currently the two signatures needed for checks are one supervisor and the administrator. The assessment stipulates that checks must be signed by two supervisors. Diane will forward the assessment to Kasydi Lucas at the DNRC for review and a timeline for making corrections.

**ADDITIONAL CHECK SIGNER AT FBOM:** It was discussed that a third signer be added to the checking account at FBOM in order to be in compliance with the DNRC's regulations of two supervisor signatures on all checks. Currently, Megan Hedges and Rod Oraw are the only two supervisors listed on the accounts. It was suggested that Kurt Matkin be added as the additional signer.

*Motion was made by Tyler Streit, seconded by Tyler Jones that Kurt Matkin be added to the account as the additional signer.*

**REVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN:** The Liberty County 2019 Strategic plan was reviewed and an updated. A new 2024-2029 Strategic plan for Liberty County Conservation was completed and signed by the supervisors.

*Motion was made by Tyler Streit and seconded by Tyler Jones to approve the new 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.*

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:** Due to numerous vacancies on the committee list the following committee appointments were made:

LCCD COMMITTEES:

AUDIT: Megan Hedges Rod Oraw Tyler Jones	EQUIPMENT: Rod Oraw	PERSONNEL/DIST. OPS Lanny Jones
DROUGHT ADVISORY Lanny Jones	WATER Geoff Osterman Kurt Matkin	WEED DISTRICT Jim Ghekiere Diane Roberts
COUNTY PLANNING BOARD Megan Hedges	ENERGY Tyler Streit	WILDLIFE Mike Nelson

MACD COMMITTEES:

SOIL RESOURCE & LAND USE  
All board members

EDUCATION  
All board members

WATER RESOURCES  
All board members

DISTRICT OPERATIONS  
All board members

LEGISLATIVE  
All board members

OTHER COMMITTEE/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS:

Sage Creek Watershed Alliance – Lanny Jones, Tyler Jones  
Liberty County Planning Board – Megan Hedges  
Marias River Management – Geoff Osterman, Kurt Matkin  
Marias River Basin Weed Mgmt. – All board members.  
Triangle Conservation District (part of MSCA board) – Lanny Jones

*Motion was made by Tyler Jones, seconded by Megan Hedges to approve the committee appointments.*

**REGIONAL AND STATE**

*One handout was presented as an update from Kasydi Lucas.*

*Next Meeting –February 15, 2024*

**ADJOURNMENT**

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*Diane Roberts, Administrator*

*Diane Roberts*

*Lanny Jones, Chairman*

*Lanny Jones*

District meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

