



## 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 February 20, 2024*

*Present:*

<i>Lanny Jones</i>	<i>Tyler Jones</i>	<i>Megan Hedges</i>	<i>Geoff Osterman</i>
<i>Diane Roberts</i>	<i>Kurt Matkin</i>	<i>Tyler Streit</i>	<i>Mike Nelson</i>

*Absent/Excused:*

<i>Robert Pugsley</i>	<i>Ray Morkrid</i>
<i>Rod Oraw</i>	

***CALL TO ORDER: Lanny Jones called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.***

### ***DISTRICT BUSINESS***

***Motion*** by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones to approve the minutes of the December meeting. *Motion carried.*

***Motion*** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Megan Hedges to file the Treasurer's Report for December. *Motion carried.*

***Motion*** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Megan Hedges to pay December bills. *Motion carried.*

***Motion*** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Megan Hedges to file the Treasurer's Report for January. *Motion carried.*

***Motion*** by Tyler Streit, seconded by Megan Hedges to pay January bills. *Motion carried.*

***DUES TO NATIONAL OFFICE:*** There was a discussion about the amount to pay to the NACD for 2024 dues. It was agreed that the contributor amount of \$50.00 be paid to the NACD for 2024 dues.

***Motion*** by Megan Hedges, seconded by Mike Nelson to pay contributor amount of \$50 to the NACD for 2024. *Motion carried.*

**2024 CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP:** We received the membership application from the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce for 2024. The membership dues are \$95.

***Motion*** by Tyler Jones, seconded by Megan Hedges to renew LCCD membership for 2024. *Motion carried.*

***MACD Dues:*** The LCCD received an invoice for 2024 MACD Dues. In previous years, MACD dues were a percentage of the amount of mill levy funds a district received. At the 2023 Annual Convention in Billings, conservation districts voted to support changing the dues to a flat fee of \$4000 per district. All conservation

districts are eligible to apply to CD Admin Grants for \$3500 to help offset the dues amount. Dues need to be paid by June 30, 2024. Paying the full \$4000 dues will be contingent on the second phase of the CD Admin Grant being approved and funded.

**Payments  
December 2023**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
12/01/2023	201	Cicon & Associates	2 Wall Maps	201.1 · Maps	50.00
12/07/2023	202	Cicon & Associates	10 Map Books	201.1 · Maps	255.00
12/07/2023	203	Montana Department ...	Young Ag registration, Van D...	Young Ag Couples ...	200.00
12/11/2023	204	Diane Roberts	Coffee & filters	210 · Office Supplies	15.10
12/15/2023	205	Rod Oraw	T & E July-December 2023	370 · Travel	50.70
12/15/2023	206	Geoff Osterman	T & E July- December 2023	370 · Travel	25.35
12/15/2023	207	Lanny Jones	T & E July- December 2023	370 · Travel	208.00
12/15/2023	208	Tyler Streit	T & E July - December 2023	370 · Travel	58.50
12/15/2023	209	Our Saviors Lutheran...	Facility Fee Cropping Seminar	381 · Workshop Ex...	50.00
12/18/2023	210	HSA Bank	HSA December Contribution	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
12/18/2023	210	HSA Bank	HSA December Contribution	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
12/27/2023	DBT	PERS	Pers Contribution Diane Rob...	131 · Retirement	240.29
12/27/2023	211	Diane M Roberts	Net December Holiday Pay 4...	Net Payroll	54.05
12/29/2023	BP	Diane M Roberts	December Net Payroll	Net Payroll	1,030.76
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>2,801.75</b>

**Payments  
January 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
01/05/2024	DBT	United States Treasury	4th QTR 941 Payroll Taxex	141.1 · Federal	783.42
01/08/2024	DBT	Montana department ...	Montana State Payroll Taxes...	141.2 · State	594.00
01/10/2024	212	United States Treasury	Adjusted 2021 941 4th QTR...	141.1 · Federal	214.24
01/17/2024	213	St. Mary's Catholic ch...	Peer to Peer Workshop Ren...	381 · Workshop Ex...	50.00
01/17/2024	214	Montana State Fund	Workers Comp Insurance pa...	140 · Workers Com...	468.14
01/19/2024	215	HSA Bank	LCCD Contribution	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
01/19/2024	215	HSA Bank	Permissive Health Levy	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
01/22/2024	216	Staples	Ink for printer	210 · Office Supplies	59.89
01/24/2024	DBT	Uline	Pink Survey Flags	201 · Merchandise	40.50
01/29/2024	DBT	Sam's Club	Coffee for office	210 · Office Supplies	11.98
01/29/2024	DBT	Walmart	SCWA board meeting suppli...	210 · Office Supplies	6.24
01/31/2024	DBT	PERS	Pers Contribution Diane Rob...	131 · Retirement	244.37
01/31/2024	BP	Diane M Roberts	Net Payroll Diane Roberts	Net Payroll	1,141.18
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>4,177.96</b>

***NRCS Report – Misty Vermulm, DC, Shelby Office (not in attendance, no report)***

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

**District Business**

**LOCAL ACTIVITY**

***ELECTION OF OFFICERS:*** There was a discussion on the election of officers to serve as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Treasurer for 2024.

***Motion*** was made by Tyler Streit, seconded by Megan Hedges, that officers stay the same for FY2024. Lanny Jones as Chair, Rod Oraw as Vice Chair and Megan Hedges as Secretary Treasurer. Motion Carried.

**ADDITIONAL SIGNER ON FIRST BANK OF MONTANA CHECKING:**

Diane checked with FBOM to see what steps need to be taken to add an additional signer to the checking account. They need a copy of the approved minutes from the December 14, 2023, board meeting with the motion to add Kurt Matkin as the additional signer and then each board member will need to go into the bank and sign a new signature card. This needs to be done by April of 2024 to be in compliance with the DNRC's accountability assessment. Diane will contact FBOM and submit paperwork needed to add Kurt Matkin as an additional signer on the bank accounts.

**310 RENEWAL PERMIT DUGOUT WATER ASSOCIATION:** The LCCD received a ten year 310 Maintenance renewal from Dugout Water Association. Their current 310 permit expired in 2023. Dugout Water Association has a water line pickup from the Marias River. The only maintenance that will be done is back flushing the water pickup semiannually. This will not disturb the existing bank condition, bank slope, height, or nearby structures.

*Motion was made by Megan Hedges and seconded by Tyler Jones to approve Dugout Water Associations 310 renewal with no changes. Motion Carried.*

**2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE OF FUNDING FOR THE CDA ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS:** The Conservation Districts Bureau staff recently completed the review of the first cycle of CDA grant applications. The LCCD was approved for \$11,665.00 in the first cycle which brought the base operating budget up to \$52,186. for FY 2023-2024. The 2023 Legislature passed HB 321, which establishes a conservation district trust fund with the coal severance tax trust fund. In accordance with legislative intent, any new funding that becomes available through HB 321 will be allocated to stabilize CD operations. Based on initial projections, funding through the CD account will be available to **increase the CD operations base budget to \$60,000 for FY24**. The LCCD would be eligible for \$7814. in additional funding. Diane would need to submit the application for additional funds by March 1, 2024, to be reviewed by CDA for additional funding.

*Motion was made by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones, to apply for additional funds through the second phase of the CDA grant applications.*

**PEER TO PEER WORKSHOP:** The NRCS and LCCD, will be hosting a Peer to Peer Workshop for those producers who are currently enrolled in the soil health TIP. Marni Thompson will review Soil Health tests results. It will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chester MT, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. **LCCD will be hosting the lunch.**

**AUDIT REVIEW:** Due to conflicting events the internal audit was postponed until March 21, 2024.

**UPDATE PUGSLEY BRIDGE PHASE II:** Diane received an email from FWP Zachary Shattuck updating the progress of the Pugsley Bridge Phase II project.

“Hi Diane,

Apologies for being so out of the loop on this stuff. As far as an update, FWP's design and construction folks have been in contact with River Design Group (John Mulhfeld) and are in the process of contracting the work out to do the assessment, feasibility, alteration analysis, and preliminary design. I believe all the paperwork on my end is wrapped up and I believe John is in the process of reaching out to the landowner, and likely you all with the Conservation District. If you have concerns or suggestions on anything else that should be in the works, definitely reach out to Luke or I.”

**LCCD WORK PLAN 2024-2027:** An updated 2024-2027 work plan was created for review. This is a working document and can be changed and adapted as needed.

**Motion** was made by Tyler Streit, seconded by Mike Nelson to approve the 2024-LCCD Work plan document.

**REGIONAL AND STATE**

**Two handouts were presented as an update from Kasydi Lucas.**

**Next Meeting –March 21, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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*Diane Roberts, Administrator*

*Lanny Jones, Chairman*

*Diane Roberts*

*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