



LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

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

The Liberty County Conservation District Public Meeting September 19, 2024

Present:

<i>Lanny Jones</i>	<i>Tyler Jones</i>	<i>Megan Hedges</i>	<i>Geoff Osterman</i>
<i>Diane Roberts</i>	<i>Mike Nelson</i>	<i>Kurt Matkin</i>	<i>Rod Oraw</i>
<i>Chris Austin (Beaver conflict resolution Program Great Falls)</i>			

Absent/Excused:

<i>Robert Pugsley</i>	<i>Ray Morkrid</i>	<i>Tyler Streit</i>	<i>Rodney Svenson</i>
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CALL TO ORDER: Lanny Jones called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Kurt Matkin to approve the minutes of the July meeting. *Motion carried.*

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

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones to pay July bills. *Motion carried.*

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

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones to pay August bills. *Motion carried.*

**Payments
July 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
07/08/2024	5R	Cascade Conservatio...	Reverse of GJE 5 -- For CHK...	350.1 · Convention	-50.00
07/10/2024	235	Cicon & Associates	2 wall maps and 3 colored m...	201.1 · Maps	140.00
07/15/2024	DBT	HSA Bank	July Contribution	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
07/15/2024	DBT	HSA Bank	July Contribution	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
07/19/2024	236	Diane M Roberts	T & E Marias Fair	370 · Travel	114.98
07/19/2024	DBT	Chester Supermarket	Water for Fair	380.4 · Fair Booth	3.79
07/22/2024	DBT	Marias Fair 4-H Booth	T & E Maria's Fair	370 · Travel	12.00
07/31/2024	Ach	PERS	July Pers Contriburtion Diane...	131 · Retirement	234.87
07/31/2024	DBT	Diane M Roberts	July Net Pay Diane Roberts	Net Payroll	1,129.22
TOTAL					<u>2,148.86</u>

**Payments
August 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
08/05/2024	DBT	Hi-Line Harvest Festival	Booth fee for Harvest Festival	332 · Dues Expense	30.00
08/07/2024	DBT	HSA Bank		130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
08/07/2024	DBT	HSA Bank		130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
08/19/2024	DBT	Walmart	Office Supplies, Coffee, filte...	210 · Office Supplies	18.76
08/30/2024	Ach	PERS	Pers- August Diane Roberts	131 · Retirement	188.71
08/30/2024	BP	Diane M Roberts	August Net Pay Diane Roberts	Net Payroll	1,047.27
TOTAL					<u>1,848.74</u>

FY 25 Conservation District Administrative Grant:

The LCCD Administrative Grant application for FY2025, which runs July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025, was reviewed and approved for \$12, 210. Included in the funds is payments for 310 permits issued in 2024. LCCD was awarded \$100 for 310 reimbursements. The total amount is \$12, 310.

Deliverables to be included in this funding are \$4000. to MACD for dues in 2025, \$3500 from grant funds and \$500 from LCCD funds. A completed Conservation Accountability Assessment for 2025 and a Conservation District expenditures report in the form of a Profit and Loss statement or Balance Sheet for the period of July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025.

MACD Longevity Pins:

The following LCCD Supervisors will be awarded longevity pins at the Area III meeting in Sunburst on September 25th.

- Rod Oraw, 35 years of service
- Lanny Jones, 25 years of service
- Kurt Matkin, 5 years of service

SHELBY Promoter Subscription Renewal:

Diane requested that LCCD renew the Shelby Promoter paper subscription for 2025. The LCCD uses the paper subscription for any public notices that need to be printed and should keep a copy of notices.

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Kurt Matkin to renew the paper subscription. Motion carried.

NRCS Written Report – Misty Vermulm (Written report, not in attendance)

Sept 19, 2024

NRCS Report LCCD

- Workload: NRCS is wrapping up CRP Grasslands with writing conservation plans for accepted offers. Those will need LCCD signatures. CSP documentation for 2024 enhancements has been getting submitted, and we are reviewing as we can. We will be working on CSP Renewal contracts for Shelby and Chester offices. We also have planning to complete for any EQIP offers that were not accepted in 2024. EQIP program cutoff for FY 2025 applications is October 25, 2024, all unfunded applications will roll forward to 2025 unless applicants withdraw.
- Personnel: The Chester District Conservationist position closed recently but no word on whether there were any applicants for the position.
- The CRP Grasslands signup ended June 28th. There were approximately 33 offers in Liberty Co with 23 of those able to go forward with contracting. Those going forward will need signatures for approval by the LCCD. FSA administers that program.
- NRCS staff will be attending an All Employee Meeting in Billings 9/17 -9/19 and will be out of the office.
- Our Fiscal year ends September 30th.

Extension Report – Jesse Fulbright (not in attendance)

District Business

LOCAL ACTIVITY

HARVEST FESTIVAL:

The LCCD will have a vendor booth at the Harvest Festival in Chester on September 21, 2024, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Items that will be highlighted are:

- Tree Sales
- The LCCD Website
- Cost Share program
- Spinner Game and prizes for youth.
- Items for sale/rent

AREA III Meeting: The MACD Area III meeting will be held on September 25th at the Sunburst Community Center located at 314 1st St. N, Sunburst MT, hosted by Toole County. Diane has registered to attend.

GLATFELTER LIABILITY INSURANCE: Megan received a quote from Glatfelter's Insurance for adding the shed onto our policy as property at a value of \$5000, for an 8 x 10 shed. The cost would be \$500 annually. Using an effective date of 7/25/2024, \$467 would be due now. After discussion it was decided to not add the shed to the policy.

TREE SALES: The LCCD is currently taking tree orders for the 2025 spring planting season. Montana Seedling Nursery has pushed back their order date to January 20, 2025. Diane has received several tree orders for Lincoln Oaks Nursery and submitted them to the Nursery.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE PRELIMINARY DESIGNS: Diane received an email from Michelle McGree from MFWP. The consultant, River Design Group, has completed the three design alternatives at Pugsley Bridge for the second phase of the bank stabilization. The next step is to have a zoom meeting to discuss the options and how to move forward. A zoom call has been scheduled for October 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the next scheduled LCCD board meeting.

PERMISSIVE LEVY: A public meeting was held on September 19, 2024, at the USDA office in Chester, MT. 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 FY2025. The LCCD sets their permissive health benefit to be half of what Liberty County pays their employees. There is a levy increase of 1.02 % for FY 2025. No comments were made by the public.

Motion was made by Megan Hedges, seconded by Mike Nelson, to approve the LCCD request to increase the permissive levy health benefit by 1.02%. Motion carried.

BEAVER CONFLICT RESOLUTION: Chris Austin, from Great Falls is the new Beaver Conflict Resolution representative for the National Wildlife Federation. He presented a program to the board on ways to assist with Beaver conflicts. Currently there are issues with Beavers at the 4-H camp in Whitlash where the beavers are cutting down all the good trees. It was suggested to schedule a site visit. If he is asked to place a instream device, he will need a 310 permit from LCCD.

LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING: A discussion was held on the LWGM. Diane reached out to Misty Vermulm to see if the meeting needs to be held annually. She said the MACD just last year finally relaxed that stance because it was too frequent. The districts should discuss the local priorities at a District board meeting and then decide if a meeting is necessary. Because there has been no change in the priorities since the 2024 meeting it was decided to not hold the meeting in January of 2025. A meeting or survey can be sent out in the future, as needed, to see if priorities have changed.

YOUNG AG CONFERENCE: The Young Ag Conference is scheduled for January 29-February 1, 2025, in Helena MT. A list of names was submitted to contact to see if they would like to attend the conference. Diane will reach out to those on the list to see if the LCCD can scholarship a couple to attend.

WINTER WORKSHOP: A winter workshop was discussed. It was suggested to work with Jesse Fulbright at MSU Extension to see if we could assist him with a winter workshop. There is a workshop scheduled in October for planting trees and shelterbelts. Workshop ideas will be discussed at the October meeting as well.

MACD CONVENTION: The MACD Convention will be held in Great Falls, MT, on November 19-21, 2024. Diane has volunteered to help at the registration desk and to assist as needed in exchange for registration and lodging being covered by MACD. The LCCD will cover expenses for any Supervisors or Associate that would like to attend.

REGIONAL AND STATE

Two handouts were presented as an update from Kasydi Lucas.

Next Meeting – September 19, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Diane Roberts, Administrator

Lanny Jones, Chairman

Diane Roberts



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