



LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

18 Main Street
 PO Box 669
 Chester MT 59522
 Phone: 406-759-5778, ext. 102

The Liberty County Conservation District Public Meeting September 18, 2025

Present:

Lanny Jones	Megan Hedges	Kurt Matkin	Geoff Osterman
Tyler Jones	Misty Vermulm	Jesse Fulbright	Patty Bierma

Absent/Excused:

Robert Pugsley	Tyler Streit	Mike Nelson	Rod Oraw
Diane Roberts			

CALL TO ORDER: Lanny Jones called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Kurt Matkin to approve the minutes of the July 2025 meeting.
 Motion carried.

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones to file the Treasurer's Report for July 2025 and August 2025.
 Motion carried.

Motion by Megan Hedges, seconded by Tyler Jones, to pay July 2025 and August 2025 bills.
 Motion carried.

Conservation District
Income
 July 2025

Date	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
07/08/2025	Graff, Garrett	Dryland Roots Inc - bundle of Flags	3417001 Flags	15 00
07/08/2025	Patncia A Raudens...	1 roll of Landscaping Fabric	3417005 Weed Barrier Fabric	50 00
07/22/2025	Liberty Co.	7350 Special Assessment	317350 Special Assessment	53 09
07/22/2025	Liberty Co.	7351 Permissive Health	317351 Permissive Health	18 69
07/22/2025	Liberty Co.	7352 Regular Assessment	317352 Regular Assessment	23 33
07/31/2025		Interest	371000 Interest and Dividend Income	155 79
TOTAL				315.90

Conservation District

Income

August 2025

Date	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
08/11/2025	Liberty Co.	7350 Special Assessment	317350 · Special Assessment	8.03
08/11/2025	Liberty Co.	7351 Permissive Health	317351 · Permissive Health	3.13
08/11/2025	Liberty Co.	7352 Regular Assessment	317352 · Regular Assessment	3.60
08/29/2025		Interest August 25	371000 · Interest and Dividend Income	160.49
TOTAL				175.25

08/06/25

Cash Basis

Payments
July 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
07/02/2025	ACH	United States Treasury	941 2nd Qtr	141.1 · Federal	1,091.11
07/02/2025	ACH	U-I Contributions	2nd QTR UI payment	141.3 · Unemploy...	7.96
07/02/2025	Bill P...	HSA Bank	HSA Patty Bierma	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
07/02/2025	Bill P...	HSA Bank	HSA Patty Bierma	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
07/27/2025		Oriental Trading Com...	2025 Hi Line Harvest Fest su...	380.4 · Fair Booth	127.26
07/29/2025	DBT	Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	Presco Steel Wire Stake Fla...	201 · Merchandise	155.87
07/31/2025	270	Patricia A Raudensky...	July 2025 Payroll	Net Payroll	1,285.65
TOTAL					3,231.85

Payments
August 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
08/04/2025	269	Patricia A Raudensky...	T & E 7/9/25 7/24/25	370 · Travel	157.86
08/04/2025	268	Liberty County Comm...	Hi Line Harvest Fest 25 Boo...	380.4 · Fair Booth	50.00
08/05/2025	ACH	PERS	July 2025 Pers Bierma	131 · Retirement	288.45
08/05/2025		HSA Bank	LCCD Contribution- Bierma J...	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
08/05/2025		HSA Bank	Permissive Med Levy- Bierm...	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
08/19/2025		Staples	USB 4 Port Adaptor for LCC...	210 · Office Supplies	37.74
08/27/2025	272	Big sandy CD	Area III Mtg Sept 25, 2025	350.2 · Employee O...	35.00
08/29/2025	271	Patricia A Raudensky...	August 25 Payroll Bierma	Net Payroll	848.52
08/29/2025		HSA Bank	Bierma August 25 HSA	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
08/29/2025		HSA Bank	Bierma August 25 HSA	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
TOTAL					2,545.61

NRCS Written Report – Misty Vermulm, (In attendance, see written report below.)

Workload:

1. NRCS certifying practices and making payments for existing EQIP contracts.

 - The results for the CRP Grassland signup were announced at the end of August, none of the Liberty offers were accepted.
 - CSP documentation is being turned into the offices. We will be completing reviews, and payments for those can be made approximately October 8th, as our system will shut down for about a week after the fiscal year changes.
 - We are awaiting the release of TIPs that will be available as they will be posted to our website after the fiscal year changes. (The SOS will continue, and several partner sponsored ones such as Grasslands restoration TIP.)

Funding:

- We are operating under a Continuing Resolution until Congress passes a budget for the year. The Continuing Resolution ends September 30. We do not expect a new farm bill. We are anticipating changes to language in the farm bill.

Personnel:

- We have a new NRCS Montana Acting State Conservationist, as of Monday- her name is Gayle Barry. The CD/ DNRC/ NRCS Memorandum of Understanding , MOU, has been getting pushed back, and likely will again until there is an official selection made for the NRCS State Conservationist.
- The hiring freeze has been extended to October 15. We have not had any new hires to our Work Unit or the Great Falls Area, even though the Critical Vacancy offer that would have allowed NRCS employees to essentially shift jobs internally.
- Our Work Unit employees continue to help neighboring offices to complete workload as well as people coming to Chester as needed.

Misty Vermulm
District Conservationist

Discussion of adding program called Citrix to LCCD computer. Patty will reach out to other CD's to see if it is necessary to add to computer.

Extension Report – Jesse Fulbright (In attendance)

Jesse reminded the board of Pest Management Tour that is coming to Chester next Tuesday, September 30th. As our region's private pesticide applicator licenses are due to be renewed at the beginning of 2026, this is a great opportunity for those of you that are short on credits to get up to the 6 needed credits. The program will begin shortly before 9AM on September 30th, with lunch being provided (probably a couple of soups and bread, which I'm trying to convince my wife to make). There is a \$10 fee for the program, and you can accrue 3

credits in the morning and 3 more credits in the afternoon. That way, if you only need 3 credits, you only must stay for half of the day to get what you need. The program will wrap up at about 4PM. January 6, 2026 is the cropping seminar.

Jesse also advised that Palmer amaranth, an invasive species, was found in Choteau.

District Business

LOCAL ACTIVITY

DNRC Administrative Grant application: The DNRC FY 2025-2026 Administrative Grant (which was submitted on March 26, 2025, requesting \$11,440.64) was approved and award letter sent on July 11, 2025, from Catey Bauer. LCCD was awarded \$11,441.00. Waiting on payment for funding, Lanny signed the docs from Catey so that funds can be paid.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE Future Fisheries Grant Funding: Project should be started late September if funding is dispersed and permits are in order. River Design Group is looking to get completed before Winter. Nathan Wyatt is the Principal Restoration Engineering Team Lead at River Design Group based in Whitefish, MT. He feels there *"might"* be enough funding without needing the \$9025.00 from LCCD. Per Michelle McGree and Nate Wyatt, everything is ready to start the process for obtaining bids. Board reviewed the RFP from Nate, no questions at this time. All documents sent to LCCD obtained since the last Board Meeting for the Pugsley Bridge Project. Docs were provided for review at meeting. All documents have Diane's name removed as contact for LCCD. Patty will reach out to Nate Wyatt to inform him that the LCCD Board is deferring him concerning the RFP. Because when this project started, the LCCD was only to be a sponsor. They were not to take the lead in any part of the project and that LCCD is deferring to him (Nate Wyatt) to take care of the balance of the project, at this point. Nate was available for a phone call to discuss any concerns about the project, Board decided it was not necessary.

2025 MACD DUES: The LCCD dues invoice for \$4000 will be paid as soon as we receive the funding of \$11,441.00 for the 2025-2026 administrative grant that was awarded to LCCD. Lanny signed paperwork, waiting on check.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR POSITION: Supervisor position still not filled, phone numbers needed to contact people to see if they are interested. Garrett Graff, Cody Ramberg and Grant Lakey were suggested.

REGIONAL AND STATE

A handout was presented as an update from Catey Bauer for August and September.

Next Meeting October 16, 2025

ADJOURNMENT - 7:41 pm



Patricia Raudensky Bierma, Administrator



Lanny Jones, Chairman

District meetings are held on 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 soil 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

Treasurers Report September - 2025

CHECKS WRITTEN:
(SEE BELOW)

FIRST BANK OF MONTANA

Opening Balance	\$ 7,135.04
Transfer from savings	\$ -
Income+	\$ 11,687.54
Expenses -	\$ (4,319.37)
Total	\$ 14,503.21

PETTY CASH:	\$23.09
Bal June 30,2025	

MAP FUNDS:	\$30.00
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FIRST BANK OF MONTANA SAVINGS

Opening Savings Balance	\$74,624.47
Cost Share Funds	\$6,895.00
Transfer from Checking	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$145.73
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$81,665.20

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 96,221.50
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Conservation District Income September 2025

Date	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
▶ 09/15/2025	Liberty Co.	7350 Special Assessment	317350 · Special Assessment	134 51 ◀
09/15/2025	Liberty Co.	7351 Permissive Health	317351 · Permissive Health	51 92
09/15/2025	Liberty Co.	7352 Regular Assessment	317352 · Regular Assessment	60 11
09/24/2025	State of Montana	FY 26 CD Grant	334000 · State Grant Income	11,441 00
09/30/2025		Interest	371000 · Interest and Dividend Income	145 73
TOTAL				11,833.27

Payments September 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
▶ 09/08/2025	ACH	PERS	Aug 25 PERS Bierma	131 · Retirement	230 79 ◀
09/24/2025	273	MACD	2025 MACD Dues	332 · Dues Expense	4,000 00
09/29/2025	274	Patricia A Raudensky...	T & E Area III 09/25/25	370 · Travel	88 58
TOTAL					4,319.37

**Treasurers Report
October - 2025**

CHECKS WRITTEN:
(SEE BELOW)

FIRST BANK OF MONTANA

Opening Balance	\$ 14,503.21
Transfer from savings	\$ -
Income+	\$ -
Expenses -	\$ (2,974.01)
Total	\$ 11,529.20

PETTY CASH: \$23.09
Bal June 30, 2025

MAP FUNDS: \$30.00

FIRST BANK OF MONTANA SAVINGS

Opening Savings Balance	\$74,770.20
Cost Share Funds	\$6,895.00
Transfer from Checking	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$166.12
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$81,831.32

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 93,413.61
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**Conservation District
Income
October 2025**

Date	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
10/31/2025		Int Oct 25	371000 Interest and Dividend Income	166.12
TOTAL				<u><u>166.12</u></u>

**Payments
October 2025**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
10/01/2025	275	Patricia A Raudensky...	September 25 Pay	Net Payroll	992.09
10/01/2025	276	United States Treasury	3rd Qtr 941 taxes July to Se...	141.1 · Federal	1,146.80
10/01/2025	BILL...	HSA Bank	LCCD Contribution	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
10/01/2025	BILL...	HSA Bank	Permissive Medical Levy	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
10/09/2025	ACH	PERS	SEPT 25 PERS Bierma	131 · Retirement	259.64
10/09/2025	ach	U-I Contributions	3rd Qtr UI Payment	141.3 · Unemploym...	11.48
TOTAL					<u><u>2,974.01</u></u>