

DEER LODGE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Regular meeting August 9, 2022
6:30 PM
USDA Building, Deer Lodge

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Troy McQueary. Supervisors present were Don Despain, Reece Price, and Jeff McQueary. Associate supervisor present was Jeff Janke. Also in attendance were Josh Schrecengost, Caleb Uerling, and Cathy Johnson.

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by Reece Price, and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Treasurer Don Despain reported \$852.80 in the district checking account, \$9,072.07 in the No Till account, and \$3,930.30 in the Education account (formerly known as Range Days).

District Administrator Cathy Johnson provided written financial reports. The balance in Petty Cash is \$461.96 and the balance in the new DLV/NP Combined Account is \$11,203.84. Cathy noted a remaining balance for the County Funds account was not available at meeting time as the county is in the process of closing out that account and were not able to provide a trial balance sheet.

CLAIMS TO BE PAID:

Big Hole Watershed Committee (French Gulch grant)	\$2,695.25
Josh Schrecengost (Supplies)	168.68
Cathy Johnson (Supplies)	97.80
Cathy Johnson (Mileage and External Hard Drive)	240.12
Cathy Johnson (June and July pay)	4,338.02
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$7,539.87

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by Reece Price, and motion carried to pay these claims with the stipulation that the supplies be paid from the No Till account.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. WRC – District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported she attended the WRC meeting held on August 2, 2022.
2. Contract for incoming district administrator, Cathy Johnson – Cathy provided a proposed pay plan which addresses the issues previously discussed regarding her pay and benefits. It was moved by Jeff McQueary, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to approve the pay and benefit plan as presented. A contract/work agreement will be drafted accordingly and provided to the Chairman and Cathy for signature.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Correspondence from Powell County Planner Amanda Cooley regarding possible funding assistance to acquire land near Arrowstone Park was discussed. A response will be sent to Amanda indicating the District would be willing to consider sponsoring a grant if the county finds one that requires sponsorship from a conservation district.

SB310:

1. DLV-03-22 E Little Blackfoot Landowner's Assoc, Little Blackfoot
Rock placed to mitigate river encroaching on road

A certified letter outlining further action requested by the District will be drafted and sent to the applicant(s).

2. DLV-11-22 Bill Pierce (Pierce Builders), Little Blackfoot
Replace existing bridge

It was moved by Reece Price, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to make this a project. An inspection will be scheduled as soon as all parties are available to meet.

FW&P 124 Permits: None.

AGENCY REPORTS: Josh Schrecengost with NRCS reported they just got some money for additional contracts so they are working through that. Beaver dam analogs are going in on Gough Creek.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Cathy reported she recently participated in a Zoom meeting hosted by the DNRC CDB which outlined their new grant process and submission deadlines. Cathy also reported there is a draft bill being considered by the Environmental Quality Council which could provide conservation districts up to \$6 million per year. Any amount of that not covered by coal taxes would come from tax revenue on adult sales of marijuana, which is exceeding expectations. Comments are requested on the draft via the EQC Public Form by August 24, 2022. Contact Cathy for additional information on how to submit comments.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 @ 6:30 pm. USDA Building.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson

Date: August 10, 2022