

DEER LODGE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Regular Meeting December 12, 2023 ~ 6:30 PM
USDA Building, Deer Lodge

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Troy McQueary. Supervisors present were John Hollenback, Don Despain, Reece Price, Jolene Meshnik, Jeff McQueary, and John Thompson. Also present were Josh Schrecengost, Bruce Thomas, Valerie Kurth, John Lunzer, Les Rispens, Tamie Hahn, Missy Merrell, Amanda Cooley, Ray Vinkey, and Cathy Johnson.

It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Reece Price, and motion carried to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Treasurer Don Despain reported \$3,231.74 in the District checking account, \$3,225.16 in the Education account, and \$14,490.22 in the No Till account.

District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported \$461.96 in Petty Cash and \$51,319.76 in the DLV/NP Combined Account.

CLAIMS TO BE PAID:

First Security Bank (2 nd half of 2023 employer-paid IRA contribution)	\$1,650.00
Troy McQueary (Reimburse for travel and hotel at convention)	753.35
John Hollenback (Reimburse for travel and hotel at convention)	925.58
Petty Cash (reimburse for planning meeting supplies)	141.08

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to pay these claims.

SB310:

1. DLV-01-23-V Donald W Beck, Little Blackfoot River
Bed of river appears to have been excavated and placed on or near the banks.

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to accept the inspection team determination from the on-site visit of November 30, 2023, that a violation did occur and a 310 application will need to be submitted for the work to fix it (see DLV-42-23).

2. DLV-02-23-V Stokan, Warm Springs Creek
Work done appears to be outside of or in addition to what was allowed by DLV-17-23.

It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Jolene Meshnik, and motion carried to send a letter to the landowner requesting a follow-up inspection.

3. DLV-42-23 Don W Beck, Little Blackfoot River
Stabilize stream bank.

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to accept this as a project and issue a permit subject to the conditions outlined in the inspection report.

4. DLV-43-23 Don W Beck, Little Blackfoot River
Rebuild bank to restore irrigation ditch.

It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to not accept this application at this time as it does not appear to have all the necessary landowner signatures. The application can be resubmitted once it is complete.

5. DLV-44-23 Don W Beck, Little Blackfoot River
Restore channel.

Placed on hold – additional work on the application will be requested. The District would like MRL to be included in the process due to potential effects on the adjacent rail bed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. John Hollenback gave a report on the WRC meeting of December 3, 2023.
2. Troy McQueary and John Hollenback gave a report on the MACD Convention which was November 14 – 16 in Billings. John Hollenback received the Conservation Impact Award and the Mentorship Award from MACD.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ray Vinkey from NRDP and Les Rispens, Tamie Hahn, and Missy Merrell from FSA presented information on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. FSA will put together sample estimates to show how the program could work locally.
2. Valerie Kurth and John Lunzer from DNRC and local landowner Bruce Thomas presented information on the Gold Creek Return Flow Pilot Study. The DLVCD offered possible assistance in promoting the project and/or partnering on grants.
3. District Administrator Cathy Johnson provided an update on the 2024 Livestock Seminar. The DLVCD was awarded a DNRC mini education grant of \$1,778 to help pay for the seminar. A draft agenda was discussed.
4. Supervisors conducted a Yearly Employee Performance Evaluation for Cathy Johnson. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to award a \$750 bonus following the positive evaluation.

FW&P 124 Permits: A 124 Permit was issued to Butte/Silverbow for the Meyers Dam cleanout project on Warm Springs Creek.

AGENCY REPORTS: None

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Cathy Johnson reported that Grant Kohrs Ranch expressed interest in participating in the Pull Your Share project this coming spring. Cathy will start coordinating weed pulls with high school teachers from Deer Lodge and Anaconda within the next couple of months. Cathy also reported that additional insurance for supervisors during inspections is available from our liability insurance carrier.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 6:30 pm. USDA Building.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson

Date: December 21, 2023