

**DEER LODGE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting April 9, 2024 ~ 6:30 PM**  
**USDA Building, Deer Lodge**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Troy McQueary. Supervisors present were John Hollenback, Don Despain, Joleen Meshnik, Reece Price, John Thompson, and Jeff McQueary. Also present were Valerie Kurth, Jon Catton, Dave Torell, and Cathy Johnson as well as Sean Johnson via TEAMS.

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

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Treasurer Don Despain reported \$2,501.86 in the District checking account, \$2,825.16 in the Education account, and \$11,151.02 in the No Till account.

District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported \$365.96 in Petty Cash and \$66,302.93 in the DLV/NP Combined Account.

**CLAIMS TO BE PAID:**

DLVCD Petty Cash (Gift for Josh)	\$96.00
MACD – Bridger Plant Materials Center Donation	35.00

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to pay these claims with the \$96.00 to Petty Cash to be paid out of the DLVCD checking.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. John Hollenback gave a report on the WRC meeting of April 2, 2024. About \$1 million in funds is available for the Little Blackfoot if there are any projects that need to be done in that area.
2. The tour of the French Gulch Project for the DNRC CDB Annual Staff Retreat has been scheduled for May 1, 2024. Pedro Marques with BHWC and Catey Bauer from DNRC will coordinate on the details. Troy McQueary and/or Joleen Meshnik will represent the District.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Valerie Kurth and Jon Catton provided information and requested grant sponsorship on a film project on Irrigation and Water Supply in Montana. It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to sponsor a mini education grant from DNRC in the amount of \$5,000 to help fund the project.
2. A request for grant sponsorship from Big Hole Watershed Committee for a Water Storage Scope Project Grant was reviewed. It was moved by Reece Price, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to partner with the BHWC on the grant.
3. The FY2025 CD Administration Grant cycle will open soon. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to apply for the FY25 CDA grant.
4. The Post Pounder was picked up and Troy is working on getting a trailer for it. Rental details were discussed and will be finalized at the next meeting.
5. The 2024 Natural Resource Field Day has been cancelled due to a shortage of presenters and because the district administrator is leaving.

6. The District Administrator Position Description and Job Posting were discussed. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to increase the starting wage to a range of \$20 to \$25 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. The job will be posted in area newspapers, on the job service website, and on Facebook. Application by 4-26-2024 is preferred but the position will remain open until filled.

**SB310:**

1. DLV-01-24 NorthWestern Energy, Little Blackfoot River  
Replace power pole

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to approve this as a project and issue a permit (no inspection necessary).

2. DLV-02-24 Ed or Jim Darfler, Telegraph Creek  
Extension on DLV-08-23 (Replace bridge stringers and planks)

It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to make this a project and issue a permit with the same conditions outlined in the Team Member Report dated 4-18-2022.

**FW&P 124 Permits:**

- SPA-06-24 – NRDP – Twin Lakes Creek – Diversion Fish Passage Project
- SPA-07-24 – Anaconda/Deer Lodge Co – Warm Springs Creek – Airport Tree Removal
- SPA-08-24 – NRDP – Warm Springs Creek – Meyers Dam Fish Passage Project
- SPA-09-24 – NRDP – Storm Lake Creek – Diversion Fish Passage
- SPA-18-24 – Grant Kohrs Ranch – Johnson Creek – Bank Restoration Project

**AGENCY REPORTS:** Dave Torell, the Powell County Natural Resource Director, asked for input on what projects need attention.

Sean Johnson with NRCS introduced himself and reported he will be filling in until a replacement for Josh Schrecengost is hired. He will be working in the Deer Lodge field office every other week for the next four months.

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported the NPCD and DLVCD will each receive half of a \$7,000 grant from DNRC to help pay MACD dues for each district. This will reduce the out-of-pocket expense to \$500 for each district. The contract has been signed and we are just waiting for the money to be deposited so the dues can be paid.

Chairman Troy McQueary gave an update on the annual maintenance being done on the No Till Drill. He is looking into aftermarket replacement parts to ensure the drill is running efficiently. It was moved by John Hollenback, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to proceed with the necessary work on the drill.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 @ 6:30 pm. USDA Building.**