

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Troy McQueary. Supervisors present were Jeff McQueary, Reece Price, John Thompson, and Don Despain as well as Associate Supervisor Jeff Janke. Also present were Caleb Uerling, Amanda Cooley, Lionel Thomas, Tom Smith, and Cathy Johnson.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Treasurer Don Despain reported \$431.74 in the District checking account, \$3,225.16 in the Education account, and \$11,992.22 in the No Till account.

District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported \$448.23 in Petty Cash and \$69,757.46 in the DLV/NP Combined Account. Cathy noted this includes the \$24,000 from the CDA grant, \$2,800 in DLVCD CY2022 310 funds, and \$900 in NPCD CY2022 310 funds which NPCD voted to move to their savings account. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to move the DLVCD 310 funds into the DLVCD checking account.

CLAIMS TO BE PAID:

DLVCD No Till (MCE direct-deposited rental payment to Comb Acct)	\$1,533.60
Bridger Plant Materials Center (rewrite check approved last month)	35.00
Petty Cash (reimburse for fair booth supplies)	13.73
Inferno Wireless (internet access for District laptop – pro-rated for Aug)	10.65

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

SB310:

1. DLV-03-22-V Gardner Investment Properties LLC, South Fork of Dry Cottonwood Earthen dam used to collect water for mining operation is drying up the creek.

It was moved by Reece Price, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to accept the inspection team's determination that no violation occurred.

2. 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.

A letter will be sent by certified mail to the landowner noting that a complaint has been received and requesting an on-site inspection to determine if a violation has occurred.

3. DLV-20-23 Jeff Janke, Little Blackfoot River
Remove debris to mitigate flooding.

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).

4. DLV-21-23 Ben LaPorte/Big Hole Watershed Committee, Mudd Creek
Install pond levelers through existing beaver dams to mitigate flooding.

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

5. DLV-22-23 Austin George Minerals – Lionel Thomas, SF of Dry Cottonwood
Maintain earthen dam integrity and restore functionality.

Lionel Thomas and Tom Smith were present to provide information and answer questions. It was moved by Jeff McQueary, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to approve this as a project and issue a permit contingent upon a positive inspection and subject to any conditions outlined in the Team Member Report. The inspection will be conducted as soon as the team members' schedules can be coordinated.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. No report from the WRC meeting of 9-5-2023 was available.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Powell County Planner Amanda Cooley was present to provide details on the upcoming Arrowstone Park restoration. Possible grant partnerships were discussed including funding for plant material planning and purchase. Cathy Johnson will forward contact information for the Bridger Plant Materials Center to Amanda to explore options for plants specifically developed to better tolerate the soil conditions along the Clark Fork.
2. Cathy Johnson provided an update on the Post Pounder project. John Hollenback is working with the supplier on negotiating a reduced purchase price, which will alleviate the need to pursue a grant. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to pay the total cost of the post pounder and trailer from the No Till account.
3. Topics for the 2024 Livestock Seminar were discussed.
4. Rather than trying to coordinate the public fall tours as previously planned, the Supervisors plan to visit several local projects and create a video which will be presented at the Livestock Seminar in January.
5. The Area V Meeting, September 26, 2023, in Philipsburg was noted. The agenda and registration form were provided in the meeting packets. Cathy Johnson will attend.
6. The MACD Convention will be November 14 – 16, 2023, in Billings. The agenda will be forwarded to the Supervisors when received.
7. Cathy Johnson reported the contract with the USFS on funding for the virtual fence project has been signed. Appropriate grant administrative fees were discussed. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to require a 2% fee to cover the District's work on the grant.

FW&P 124 Permits: FWP issued a 124 Permit for a bank stabilization project near Elliston on the Little Blackfoot River.

AGENCY REPORTS: Caleb Uerling with FWP stated they are doing fish sampling on the Little Blackfoot River. Cathy Johnson read a report from Josh Schrecengost with NRCS: Erin Paddock has been hired as a soil conservationist in the Deer Lodge office; Kevin Bossert has been promoted from soil conservation technician to civil engineering technician but will continue to work out of the Deer Lodge office; NRCS is working on two new TIPs in the Avon area to address conifer encroachment and stockwater and grazing management; and new applications for CSP and EQIP (including high tunnels and other community ag projects) are due by October 27th.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Cathy Johnson reported good progress in the scanning and saving of current and historical 310 permits and associated documents, making researching and accessing information more efficient and less time-consuming.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 6:30 pm. USDA Building.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson

Date: September 13, 2023