

DEER LODGE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Regular meeting February 9, 2021
6:30 PM – Conference Call

Call in number: 1-888-575-2051 Pin: 97861

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hollenback. Supervisors present were Dwight Crawford, Troy McQueary, Jim Lee, Don Despain, Jeff Janke and Joleen Meshnik. Also present were Caleb Uerling, Josh Schrecengost, Jim Simpson, and Susie Johnson.

It was moved by Dwight Crawford, seconded by Jim Lee and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting,

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Treasurer Dwight Crawford reported \$656.76 in the district checking account and \$6,503.50 in the district Range Days account.

District Administrator Susie Johnson provided written financial reports. The balance in Petty Cash is \$256.88 and \$29,792.23 in County Funds.

SB310:

1. DLV-01-21, Don Beck, Little Blackfoot River Bridge.

It was moved by Jeff Janke, seconded by Dwight Crawford and motion carried to approve this application as a project and issue a permit conditioned on the team member inspection report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. WRC was reported by John Hollenback. WRC wants to limit the impact on upper Clark Fork Irrigators while improving instream flow to the Clark Fork River. WRC Board request that the NRDP and FWP coordinate their restoration and mitigation efforts in establishing a drought management project in the Warm Springs Creek to Dempsey Creek reach of the Clark Fork river by establishing temperature and flow triggers along with necessary flow monitoring stream gages to ensure the success of the project. WRC also request the NRDP and FWP work with WRC to establish and fund a Water Service agreement with Butte Silver Bow for the delivery of Silver Lake water on an on call basis activated by the flow and temperature triggers established on the Warm Spring to Dempsey Creek reach of the Clark Fork River. WRC also request that with the successful initiation of this project that irrigators above the town of Deer Lodge be relived of the water rights call created by the state's establishment of the Milltown water right. WRC also has a carcass contract with Dylan Dallaserra to pick up the dead's in Powell County.
2. Soil Health Grant was discussed by Josh. Josh presented the updated budget for the Supervisors to review and make any changes. Josh would also like to have a cover letter from the Supervisors. Don Despain agreed to do this.

4. Upper French Gulch Fish Passage and Restoration Project hearing was reported by Dwight. DNRC wasn't able to connect Dwight by conference calling to be a part of this hearing. Ben from the Big Hole Watershed Committee did testify and told Dwight that he thought everything went well. We will probably hear in a couple of months if we were accepted. Deer Lodge Valley was listed 14 out of 16 for funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jim Simpson gave the board an update on what is going on in the legislature that concerns Conservation Districts.
2. SB No. 20 was discussed. There were concerns about this bill and John Hollenback was going to talk to Jeff Tiberi.

FWP: 124 Permits:

1. NRDP: Brian Bartkowiak, Mill Creek, Bank Stabilization near diversion was noted.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Josh reported for NRCS. The office is working on on going projects. Josh had a meeting with NRDP, FWP and WRC on Gough Creek trying to coordinate additional funding, (Josh has \$150,000 authorized in EQIP funding and would like to put together a more complete project in the watershed. Josh received an inquiry from a landowner on the westside of the Deer Lodge Valley wanting to know about conifer encroachment removal. Josh will look into this and could be a possible TIP project. There is an ongoing project on Cottonwood Creek phase 2 that is a RCPP project and NRDP will pay for the Engineering portion of this project.

NEXT MEETING IS: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Susie Johnson

Date: February 22, 2021