

**DEER LODGE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting February 14, 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, Joleen Meshnik, Reece Price, Jeff McQueary, and John Thompson. Associate Supervisor present was Dwight Crawford. Also in attendance were Josh Schrecengost, Ali Mann, Betsy Price, Jim Berg, Rip Berg, and Cathy Johnson.

It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Dwight Crawford was presented his 25-year certificate and pin.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Treasurer Don Despain reported \$889.24 in the district checking account, \$3,930.30 in the Education account, and \$7,401.62 in the No Till account.

District Administrator Cathy Johnson reported \$461.96 in Petty Cash and \$62,232.28 in the DLV/NP Combined Account. Cathy also reported that all anticipated donations and bills for the 2023 Livestock Seminar have been received. Total income was \$1,863.90 and total expenses were \$1,784.96.

**CLAIMS TO BE PAID:**

**DLVCD/NPCD Combined Account**

Michael Blakeley, CPA (4 <sup>th</sup> quarter payroll prep, 2022 Tax forms)	\$200.00
Cathy Johnson (file folders, desk calendar, tape)	124.25
<u>Petty Cash (Local Working Group mtg supplies)</u>	<u>46.45</u>
Total Claims for Combined Account	\$370.70

**DLVCD Checking (Livestock Seminar)**

Pburg Mail/Silver State Post (Ad for Seminar)	\$160.00
<u>Anaconda Leader (Ad for Seminar)</u>	<u>135.00</u>
Total Claims for DLVCD Checking	\$295.00

It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, 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.  
  
Troy McQueary will call property owner to set up inspection.
2. DLV-01-23 Vanisko Ranches, Dempsey Creek  
Install gravity pipeline to reduce water loss.  
  
Jim Berg and Rip Berg were present to provide project details. It was  
moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Hollenback, and motion  
carried to make this a project. An inspection will be scheduled.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. A report on the WRC meeting of 2-7-2023 was heard from Josh Schrecengost of NRCS and Cathy Johnson. An overview of draft legislation on exempt wells from Andrew Gorder of CFC was provided. Cathy will request that Andrew pass along further details when received.
2. Reece and Betsy Price gave a report on the Young Ag Couples Conference they attended in Helena January 18 – 21, 2023, and thanked the district for sponsoring them. The couple reported the conference was very good and well worth the time. The Board discussed what segments of the conference might be good possibilities for future livestock seminar content.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Supervisor term expirations were discussed. It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Reece Price, and motion carried to appoint Don Despain to another term. Oaths of Office were given to all seven board members and signed.
2. Authorized signatures and administrator access for the accounts at Pioneer Federal were discussed. It was moved by Reece Price, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to have Troy McQueary, John Hollenback, and Don Despain as authorized signatures on the accounts and to give District Administrator Cathy Johnson authorization to obtain information and reports as needed for annual financial reporting requirements.
3. A final draft of the 2022 Annual Report was reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to approve the 2022 Annual Report as presented.
4. NRCS Civil Rights Responsibilities and NRCS/DLVCD MOA were reviewed, discussed, and signed.
5. A CD Funding Survey was discussed. DLVCD priorities in the event the CD funding bill passes will be to develop a soil health program, develop a climate/drought resilience program, and increase education programs.
6. Planning for the 2023 Natural Resource Field Day was started. The event will be held May 17, 2023, at the Racetrack Campground. Committee members from the DLVCD will be Troy McQueary, Don Despain, John Thompson, and Cathy Johnson. The committee will meet March 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to discuss further details.
7. North Powell CD/BBCTU/DEQ Grant for Nevada Creek Project was noted. Assistance from DLVCD in sponsoring the grant is no longer needed. Cathy will continue to work on SAM registration in case future opportunities arise.
8. Cathy reported the district has an opportunity to partner with some experienced participants of the Pull Your Share Program which involves education on noxious weeds and a field trip for area students to pull weeds. It was moved by Don Despain, seconded by John Thompson, and motion carried to pursue a mini education grant from DNRC to purchase the materials needed for the program.
9. Last Call for Nominees for 2023 Leopold Conservation Award was noted.
10. The next Envirothon will be April 24 and 25, 2023, in Great Falls. It was moved by John Thompson, seconded by Don Despain, and motion carried to sponsor up to two teams from our area, with the preference that one of those teams is from Anaconda if they are interested. Cathy will contact Deer Lodge and Anaconda high schools to see if they have any teams in mind.
11. The Montana Resources Youth Camp, July 16-21, 2023, in Lubrecht was noted. Cost per applicant is \$300 and the deadline for application is July 7, 2023.

### **FW&P 124 Permits:**

None

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

Josh Schrecengost from NRCS introduced Ali Mann, the new soil conservationist in the Deer Lodge Field Office. Josh reported he attended the Soil Health Symposium in Billings the first week in February.

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Cathy Johnson reported she will be attending an all employee Area 5 meeting/pollinator project training in Ronan on February 28, 2023. The pollinator seeds for each district office that requested them will be given out at the training and Cathy will find out how much in matching funds, if any, is needed from each participating district.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 6:30 pm. USDA Building.**

Submitted by Cathy Johnson

Date: February 16, 2023