



PUBLIC MEETING
December 20, 2016
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

Chairman Mike Murray called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Commissioner Susan Good Geise and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Eric Bryson, K. Paul Stahl, Charles Lane, George Thebarger, Jim McCormick, Kathy Moore, Jim Wilbur, Katrina Chaney, Melanie Reynolds, Nancy Everson, Al Knauber, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Announcement

a. Employee Recognition (Kathy Moore)

Kathy Moore, Environmental Health Division Administrator, recognized Jim Wilbur for his 15 years of service in the Environmental Health Water Quality Protection District. Mr. Wilbur will be retiring at the end of December. He has been dedicated to improving stream flows in the county, particularly Prickly Pear Creek, during his tenure and has been successful in obtaining grant funding to work on stream restoration.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Resolution 2016-108 Relating to Up to \$4,000,000 in Principal Amount of Open Space General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017; Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale Thereof. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution to issue \$4,000,000 in bonds for open space projects. In November of 2008, voters approved a resolution authorizing the sale and use of \$10,000,000 in general obligation bonds for open space funding. In December of 2010 \$3,000,000 in bonds were issued and almost \$4,000,000 has been spent to date. This resolution states the extra \$1,000,000 spent will be rolled into this as a reimbursement to the county, leaving a balance of \$3,000,000. Commissioner Hunthausen referenced recent public comments related to the money spent on open lands projects and added that these general obligation bond funds

were approved by the voters in 2008 and can only be used for the specific purposes outlined in that voter approved resolution.

Eric Bryson added that the intent of the open space program is to assist in funding conservation easements in Lewis and Clark County. The intent was never to acquire property. While there has been a couple of projects that were acquisitions, the County did not actually acquire those properties. Instead, the County assisted a land trust in purchasing the property by contributing a portion of the funding.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Modified Agreement Between Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District and Prickly Pear Water Users Association (Jim Wilbur/Jennifer McBroom)

Jim Wilbur and Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality Protection District, presented the modified agreement between the Lewis and Clark Water Quality Protection District and Prickly Pear Water Users Association. The original agreement, signed in June 2016, provides alternative irrigation water in exchange for cessation of diversion of water from Prickly Pear Creek by the Prickly Pear Water Users Association. The modification adds language to clarify that project actions do not imply any intent to abandon Prickly Pear Water User's water rights. A section was also removed that commits the parties to work toward modifying those water rights through Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The agreement terminates October 2021.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

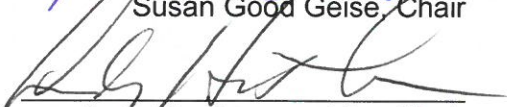
Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

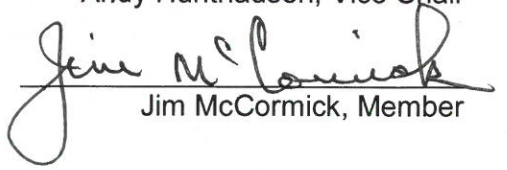
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Susan Good Geise, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:



Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board