

## RESOLUTION 2016-6

### RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING OF THE WELCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2008-97, in November 2008, voters in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, approved the Land, Water and Wildlife bond measure, a \$10 million general obligation bond measure for protecting drinking water sources and ground water quality; protecting water quality in and along rivers and streams; conserving working farm, ranch and forest lands; protecting wildlife areas; preserving open lands and natural areas; providing for recreation; and managing growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Open Lands Program is to conserve resources on private lands in Lewis and Clark County that fulfill the objectives of the bond measure; and

WHEREAS, funds generated by sales of these bonds are distributed through the County's Open Lands Program; and

WHEREAS, the County's Open Lands Program has received and processed an application for Open Lands funding from the Prickly Pear Land Trust, on behalf of landowner/applicant, The Welch Estate and Tia Nelson and Derek Brown.; and

WHEREAS, in this project, referred to as the Welch Conservation Easement, Prickly Pear Land Trust proposes to place a conservation easement on approximately 125 acres near the end of York Road along Trout Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Open Lands (CAC) held a public meeting on this proposal on December 1, 2015, and voted affirmatively 11-0 to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners (Commission) approve funding in the amount of \$228,000; and

WHEREAS, the Commission held a public meeting on the proposal on December 10, 2015, at which a 30-day public comment period was opened;

WHEREAS, the Commission considered the recommendation of the CAC at a regularly scheduled public hearing on January 19, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Commission determined that this project meets multiple purposes of the bond, substantially complies with the legal requirements, and may not be achieved without the involvement of the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners

- Accept the recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Open Lands; and
- Approve funding the Welch Conservation Easement Project in the amount of \$228,000.



DATED this 09 day of February, 2016.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Murray  
Michael Murray, Chairman



ATTEST

Paulette DeHart  
Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board