

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Hybrid - Zoom
March 28, 2023

Members Present

Diana Hammer
Patrick Johnson, Chair
Lisa Kaufman
Edward Kerins
David Nimick
Ryan Leland
Jeff Ryan

Staff

Joel Ebert
Madeline McKeefry
Kathy Moore
Dawn Sullivan
Angelique Frier, BSWC

Members Absent

Judy Leland
Comm. Tom Rolfe

Guests Present

Karen Filipovich

Patrick Johnson, Chair, called the 267th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors (Board) to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of Board members and WQPD staff were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made to the agenda.

MINUTES

No changes were made to the February 28, 2023 minutes. Mr. Nimick moved to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Hammer seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Moore discussed the objections to section 10 of House Bill 364 that are shared by the Confluence Public Health Alliance. This section removes much of the oversight and independent review of public health agencies in the subdivision application process for septic systems and protection of groundwater and increases liability for counties.

The Board discussed House Bill 642 which revises exceptions to water right permit requirements for properties greater than 20 acres. The bill is not supported by the WQPD or the Conservation District and will not be heard until later in the legislative session. It may be a bill that is pushed through at the last minute and Mr. Leland stated that it may be subject to lawsuits if it is passed.

WATERSHED UPDATE

Ms. McKeefry discussed the Lake Helena Watershed Group annual meeting. This year the watershed group held a panel discussion to discuss water quality and the impact of growth. Ms. McKeefry also

mentioned the Groundwater Awareness Week event that was held at the Capital Rotunda the week of March 5-11, 2023. There were several participating agencies and organizations dedicated to protecting Montana's water resources, including the Water Quality Protection District. This is an annual event open to the public.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Karen Filipovich continued the strategic planning sessions for the Water Quality Protection District. The focus was on potential objectives and actions within goal areas for the next three years. There will be a special session to continue strategic planning on April 10, 2023.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Ryan announced a willow cutting event to help the FWP with their Black Sandy restoration project on March 31st at 8:30am at Spring Meadow Lake. The installation of the willow will begin on April 4th.

Ms. Hammer announced a Water Wise workshop on Tuesday, April 4th at 6:30pm at Montana Wild. The workshop will be on Climate Smart Landscaping.

Mr. Leland announced that the EPA/DEQ got a \$6 million grant to clean up the mines at Rimini. He also mentioned that the City of Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant had its lowest nutrient removal rate while accepting dump waste from the Bridge Brewery in Three Forks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Next meeting will be April 25, 2023, at 5:30pm

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.