

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59601
316 N. Park, Room 226
August 28, 2012

Members Present

Stan Frasier, chair
Jamie Schell
Don Clark
Commissioner Mike Murray
Kammy Johnson
Kris Goss, arrived 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Lowell

Members Absent

Gary Ingman, vice-chair
Eric Regensburger

Staff

Kathy Moore
Jim Wilbur
Jennifer McBroom
James Swierc
Gary Burton
Melanie Reynolds
Norman Rostocki
Jolene Helgerson
Elizabeth Hezel, Carroll College Intern

Guests Present

Betsy Burns, EPA
Jim Ford, METG
Glen Rubottom, Public

Stan Frasier, chair, called the 183rd meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions were made.

MINUTES

Stan Frasier asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes July 24, 2012. Stan stated that in the updates and announcements that City of Helena Conservation District should be Lewis and Clark Conservation District. Mike Murray moved to accept the minutes as amended. Jamie Schell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Norman Rostocki, Finance Coordinator, presented the cash flow statement and comparison to budget and cash flow analysis for the WQPD (see Attachment "A"). As of July 31, 2012, we are 8% through the fiscal year, beginning cash is \$119,847; total revenues received are \$3,434 or 1.2% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$16,268 or 5% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$12,834; ending cash balance is \$107,012. Norman stated revenue is lower than the year before due to less property tax coming in.

PRESENTATION

Betsy Burns, RCRA project manager for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8 Montana Office, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the involvement of the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) and RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) in the City of East Helena. Ms. Burns highlighted the funding sources for the CERCLA and RCRA; the City East Helena clean up remedies such as establishing institutional controls (IC's), well monitoring, and the redevelopment of land; and the roles of the Lewis and Clark County, Board of Health, and Water Quality Protection District have within the CERCLA and RCRA. In answer to a question from Kathy Moore, Division Administrator, Ms. Burns stated that a controlled groundwater area can be added as a component into the existing IC program for the City of East Helena and surrounding area. Jim Ford, METG (Montana Environmental Trust Group) Remedial Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the three proposed interim cleanup measures for East Helena Smelter. Mr. Ford began the presentation with a description of interim measures and the existing problems at the smelter such as the controlled groundwater contamination and dam failures during flooding. Mr. Ford then discussed the benefits and work descriptions on three proposed interim measures which are a South Plant Hydraulic Control (SPHC), which will eliminate the standing water on the south side of the plant and reduce surface water recharge to groundwater and reduce hydraulic gradients across the site; an Evapotranspiration Cover (ETC) systems which will reduce infiltration of contaminated soils, replacing existing temporary cover systems, eliminate the potential human and wild life contact with contaminated soil, and reduce the volume of contaminated storm water; and Source Removal which will require removing the contaminated soils and placing them in a safer location. Mr. Ford also highlighted the 4-year implementation plan. In answer to questions by Kathy Moore, Mr. Ford stated that most of the seasonal fluctuation of groundwater is located in the north end of the plant. Mr. Ford also stated that METG cannot provide as off yet the volume of sediment that is coming off the slag pile. METG is recommending putting a buffer between the slag pile and Prickly Pear Creek (PPC). In answer to a question from Jim Wilbur, Water Quality District Coordinator, Mr. Ford stated that METG has consider re-grading the edge away from PPC rather than moving the creek away from slag pile but unless there is an engineered buffer of fill material in place, the creek could migrate over in the direction of the slag. In answer to a question from Commissioner Murray, Mr. Ford stated that the unfumed slag pile is leaching hazmat material. Ms. Burns stated that the slag does contribute to the Arsenic and Selenium contamination offsite but is relatively minor compared to the plant waters contaminations. In answer to a question from Kathy Moore, Mr. Ford stated that METG is discussing on whether to have two controlled ground water areas within the district for Arsenic and Selenium but it is the methods of how you would control access which would be different.

PRESENTATION

Gary Burton, of the WQPD, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 18th season of the Water Watchers Program. Gary stated that the program is a community outreach program for all School District 1 and East Helena 4th and 5th graders. Water Watchers I consists of 4th graders who participate during the spring in classroom activities and a field trip to Prickly Pear Creek to learn about water pollution and the effects it has on humans and animals. Water Watchers II consists of 5th graders who participate during the fall in class room activities and an all day filed trip to Moose Creek Campground and a tour of the Tenmile Treatment Plant or the City of Helena Waste Water Treatment Plant. The program is currently funded by the DEQ 319 grant.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lake Helena Watershed Festival: The 5th Annual Lake Helena Watershed Festival was held on Saturday August 18th at Women's Park adjacent to the Farmer's Market and was attended by over 450 people with 24 educational booths and 40 presenters. The festival is funded by a DEQ 319 grant and partial WQPD funds.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer noted that this is the 20th year of the WQPD.

The Lewis and Clark Conservation District has issued around 20 reimbursements checks to the public for well testing. The recommended testing kit costs \$35.00 and the public will receive a \$25.00 rebate.

Stan Frasier informed the Board on behalf of Commissioner Murray about the Escape Goat Wilderness Anniversary Celebration in Lincoln, Montana, on September 21, 2012, from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

The Board welcomed new board member Jennifer Lowell, a representative for the Board of Health.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Stan Frasier, chair