

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Helena, MT 59601
316 N. Park, Room 226
September 27, 2011

Members Present

Gary Ingman
Spencer Shropshire (dept. 6:40 pm)
Steve Ackerlund
Kammy Johnson
John Rundquist
Stan Frasier
Chris Deveny

Members Absent

Mike Murray
Chris Anderson

Staff

Jim Wilbur
Jennifer McBroom
Jolene Loomis
Scott Winfield
Kathy Moore

Guests Present

Paul Spengler, Emergency Disaster Service
Paul Montgomery, AM Consulting Engineers

Gary Ingman called the 175th meeting of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board of Directors to order at 5:34 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of attending board members, guests, and staff were made.

MINUTES

Gary Ingman asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from August 23, 2011. Stan Frasier moved to accept the minutes as written. Spencer Shropshire seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Scott Winfield, Finance Director, presented the cash flow statement and comparison to budget for the WQPD on page 8 of the board packet. As of August 31, 2011, we are 16% through the year, beginning cash is \$115,396; total revenues received are \$6,624 or 2.4% amount budgeted; total expenditures are \$44,364 or 14.9% amount budgeted; revenues are under expenditures by \$37,739; ending cash balance is \$77,656. Scott noted an increase in expenditures due to the additional pay periods for employees. This expenditure has been budgeted for. Revenues will see an increase in November and December when property taxes are collected. In answer to Gary Ingman's question, Kathy Moore, District Administrator, stated that she will work with Scott and Nancy Everson to schedule a finance update at the March or April meeting.

PRESENTATION

Paul Spengler with the Emergency Disaster Service (EDS), stated that part of the Emergency Operation Center is public information. Jennifer McBroom has volunteered to be part of the three member public information group who fill in for the public information officers if called upon. Mr. Spengler will make a formal request before the Board at a later date for the approval of Jennifer's time.

Mr. Spengler gave a brief update on the Helena Valley and City of East Helena flooding that occurred in June 2011. Mr. Spengler stated that this year's flood was the worst in 30 years. The last major flood was the 500 year flood that occurred in May 1981. The flooding that occurred in June created numerous flooded basements due to groundwater saturation. The EDS received around 120 damage assessment forms from local citizens. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was brought in to assist homeowners with damages. 174 citizens received \$263,344 in disaster assistance. During the flood, fifty thousand sand bags were used, flood waters were diverted into retention pits, and one fatality was recorded.

In answer to Gary Ingman's question, Kathy Moore stated that the flooding did cause some wastewater lagoons to over top and a few wells were contaminated in which the staff from the Environmental Services Division did assist with clean up.

PRESENTATION

Paul Montgomery with AM Consulting Engineers gave a PowerPoint presentation on the short-term and long-term projects the county is looking into to repair damaged areas and to prevent future flooding problems. Mr. Montgomery stated that his consulting firm would focus on flooding that occurred along Ten Mile Creek, Prickly Pear Creek, and Silver Creek. After reviewing the flooded areas, several comments and requests received from the public, and working with the Public Works staff on solutions, the firm came up with several short-term and long-term solutions to present to the County Commissioners. In the short-term goals, Mr. Montgomery focused on repairs to roads that were washed out by the floods. Potential long-term goals would be to secure easements, stabilizing creek banks, creating a bypass channel, raise low bridges, and to clean out creek beds. Mr. Montgomery will also recommend to the Commissioners that the county develop a floodplain model and management plan. Jim Wilbur, Water Quality District Coordinator, recommended to Mr. Montgomery that he consider the seasonal gauge installed on Prickly Pear Creek as an early notification of possible flooding for the Commissioners to consider during a potential flood season. He also recommended that they consider building flood storage and/or retention ponds up stream in the Colorado Gulch area. Gary Ingman requested that the firm consider the functioning flood plains and the benefits they would have to their plan. Kathy Moore encourage the District to continue with outreach regarding storm water drainage in a subdivisions development.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Groundwater Project Presentation: Jim stated that James Swierc, hydrologist for the District, will be giving a groundwater presentation to the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) annual meeting on the work the District has been doing on groundwater in the Helena Area. James will also give the groundwater presentation at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) North Hills & Scratchgravel Hills meeting. James will give his presentation to the Board at the next board meeting.

DEQ 319 GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION-HELENA VALLEY NONPOINT SOURCE ASSESSMENT

Jim presented the draft project proposal application for the Helena Valley Nonpoint Source Assessment 319 Grant on pages 14-17 of the board packet along with comments that were received from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and reviewers on pages 18-20 of the board packet. The MDEQ indicated in their comments that they would not fund the cost of printing for the brochure but would assist with the graphic design. Stan Frasier made a motion for the District to move forward with the completion of the 319 Grant application. John Rundquist seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued*

Drumlummon Mine Meeting: Kathy Moore attended meeting between the residents of Marysville and representatives from the Drumlummon Mine in which the residents voiced their concern over the mining operations near Marysville. Some of the concerns included the impact to water quality and quantity; distrust in the mining company; declining water supply; more response from the mine; work camp; and traffic noise and other road complaints. Kathy noted that the residents requested that the mine pay for an outside source such as the Health Department and the District to sample their wells for contamination. Kathy will develop a plan with the mine to assist in the sampling. Jim stated James is monitoring the possible dewatering of wells and discharge to local streams in the area.

Gary Ingman informed Stan Frasier that a mining company has put in loose fill earth and damn across Silver Creek located 1.2 miles up Lincoln Road. Stan Frasier stated that the Lewis & Clark Conservation District would look into this.

Emerald Ridge Water Issue: Jim stated that the Emerald Ridge Subdivision that was permitted in 2004 and development began in 2006 is starting to have individual well issues. An engineering report stated that four wells were installed and hit a confined sand aquifer at a depth of 300 feet plus. The report also suggested that the wells for the subdivision be replaced in that aquifer and at that depth with an additional 100 feet of head on the screen to interval. Wells for the homes when developed were drilled to 250-300 feet in the shallow aquifer. Possible reasons for the well depletion is either due to silting in or the mining of the aquifer. Jim, James, and a member from the Subdivision Bureau of DEQ met with landowners to discuss a network of wells for water measurements. Suggestions were made to create a public water supply or to tap into the Helena Valley irrigation lateral to supplement water used for lawn irrigation.

Groundwater Project Presentation: Jim stated that the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) has scheduled a public meeting for October 12, 2011 in room 125 on the UM Helena campus regarding the reports on the groundwater investigation studies of the North Hills and Scratchgravel Hills. James Swierc will be there to give a presentation on his findings.

County Jail Lust Site: Kathy highlighted the corrective action plan and budget James completed for the remedial investigation for the Lewis & Clark County Jail on Stemple Pass on pages 24-35 of the board packet. James will assist the County and DEQ with monitoring and remediation of leaks at the old Stemple Pass Jail. The jail isn't leaking, but there were leaks in the past.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Gary Ingman requested that staff send out letter of appreciation to Chris Deveny and Eric Woodland for their service on the WQPD Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Gary Ingman, chair