

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Local Work Group Meeting
U.S. Forest Service Office
949 U.S. Highway 93 North, Eureka, Montana
August 16, 2017

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Darris Flanagan; Valene Goff; Mark Romey, Ernie Chacon

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s):

Called to order: 3:30 p.m.

Review of Recommended Resource Concerns

- a. Forest Stewardship/Thinning
 - b. Agriculture
 - c. Others
- Brian Ressel explained the EQIP Program and how funding is delegated and which projects can be funded. Lincoln County is included within the Missoula area for ranking. The Local Work Group selects the resource concern from land use, pasture or forest or the geographic area. Noxious weeds and fire can be included as a concern. Last year forest stewardship was ranked as the priority. The resource concern should be applicant driven. For example, select a program that applications are being submitted for. It is the goal to diversify the programs and get the “best bang for our buck”; one (1) irrigation project can use all available funding where as more forestry projects can be implemented with the allotted funding.
 - Mark Romey asked if fire could be included.
 - Brian Ressel responded yes, fuels reduction projects.
 - Darris Flanagan added would this be the same as forest stewardship.
 - Brian Ressel responded, yes.
 - Ernie Chacon inquired if data is available to use for comparison.
 - Brian Ressel responded local input; your opinion is the best data.
 - Darris Flanagan noted we have talked about weeds, but how do we implement it.
 - Brian Ressel responded we have next year’s application in already. He suggested conduct the Local Work Group Meeting earlier, in June, before applications are due.
 - Ernie Chacon noted weeds are important and he controls noxious weeds on his property.
 - Darris Flanagan added we need to get the word out about weeds.
 - Mark Romey asked if funding can be provided to the county.
 - Brian Ressel responded, no, private land owners only.

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- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to prioritize Forest Land as the #1 Land Use and to address any concern on forest land. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**
- Wayne Maahs noted to develop a strategy for next year.
- Brian Ressel agreed and noted applications are due June 1st.
- Darris Flanagan suggested the Local Work Group to meet after the “snow leaves”.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____