

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana**  
**January 21, 2015**

**Attendance:**

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Susan Ennenbach, Vice Chairperson; Darris Flanagan; Mark Romey; Don Crawford, Mike Justus; Valene Goff  
Associate Supervisor(s): Steve Johnson  
Advisor(s): Kirk Sullivan, N.R.C.S.; Mike Hensler, MtFW&P  
District Administrator: Becky Lihme  
Guest(s): Robbie Bowe, Lincoln County Sheriff

**Called to order:** 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

**Open Mic:**

**New Business, Item a;** moved to beginning of meeting. Wayne Maahs and Mark Romey were sworn in as Lincoln Conservation District Supervisors by Robbie Bowe, Lincoln County Sheriff. Sheriff Bowe left the meeting at 4:15.

**Minutes –**

**Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve the minutes of December 2014.

**Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report –**

Mike Justus reported on the Financial Report for December. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for December 2014. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

**NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan**

- Kirk Sullivan reported 8 acres of thinning have been completed for the first part of the year. Snow has put things on hold.
- Portions of EQIP funding have been distributed to state funds, however, nothing has been given to local areas.
- A decrease in funding is expected for 2015 applications.

**MtFW&P Report – Mike Hensler – No report**

**District Administrator's Report**

- Volunteer hours were recorded for December.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- We received a letter from the Corps of Engineers regarding a permit filed by McMahan.
- The Montana Society of American Forestry sent a letter regarding sponsorships and /or booth displays. Mike Justus may be interested in attending the workshop.

- The Leave Record for staff is in the Board Packet.

### 310's

#### Li-01-01-15 – Huisentruit, Iron Creek

- Wayne Maahs reported he and Mark Romey conducted the on-site of the project. The applicant wants to install a 72 inch squash pipe. Iron Creek is a very mellow creek. Wayne and Mark both recommend approving the application.
- **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve Li-01-01-15 as presented. Waive 15 day wait period. Best Management Practice for re-vegetation and weed abatement. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

#### Li-07-01-14 – Evans, Libby Creek Modification

- Wayne Maahs explained the applicant, Mr. Noble, requested an amendment to the application due to run-off. The ditch wall is gone and there is a push to complete the project done this winter. Water is being pushed against the ditch embankment.
- Mike Hensler stated he is not against re-routing the ditch to do the work
- Wayne Maahs reported the project will be done on U.S.F.S. property. Mr. Noble contacted Bonnie Geber and she directed him to contact the Corps of Engineers due to the use of rip-rap. The Corps of Engineers would require an Environmental Analysis. Mr. Noble elected to wait until the channel is “de-watered” next summer. Mr. Noble asked the request for an amendment be withdrawn. No action taken.

### Tabled 310's

#### New Business:

- a. Oath of Office – Held earlier in meeting.
- b. Election of 2015 Officers
  - Susan Ennenbach nominates Don Crawford to serve as Chairperson for 2015. Second by Darris Flanagan. Don Crawford respectfully declined the nomination.
  - Susan Ennenbach nominates Darris Flanagan as Chairperson for 2015. Second by Mark Romey. Darris Flanagan accepts the nomination.
  - Mark Romey nominates Don Crawford as Vice-Chairperson for 2015. Second by Susan Ennenbach. Don Crawford accepts the nomination.
  - Darris Flanagan nominates Mike Justus as Treasurer for 2015. Second by Wayne Maahs. Mike Justus accepts the nomination.
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to close nominations. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

- c. Stream Trailer Canvas Cover
  - Staff reviewed the information received from Dave Martin. After discussion, the Board recommended allowing staff to determine the appropriate canvas cover.
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve \$450.00 to purchase a new canvas cover for the stream trailer. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**
- d. District Administrator Training, Great Falls
  - Staff reported she would like to attend this training. All three staff from Flathead Conservation District will be attending and she can car pool to Great Falls with FCD. Our cost would be accommodations.
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve staff attend the District Administrator Training in Great Falls. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- e. Staff Time Off request – March 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Staff reported she had contacted Wayne Maahs regarding these dates. The request is during the week the Board Agenda is posted. She will be in the office on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to post the agenda and send out the Board Packets. No objections.
- f. DNRC Recommendations for Local Work Groups
  - Staff noted Local Work Groups were one of the Educational Sessions at the recent MACD Convention.
  - Kirk Sullivan briefly explained the role of Local Work Groups.
  - Wayne Maahs noted we (LCD) is the Local Work Group. We (LCD) did this type of recruitment about 10 years ago conducting meetings in both Libby and Eureka.
  - Kirk Sullivan noted it was in 1996.
  - Wayne Maahs reported the meetings were well attended. They require a lot of work
  - Steve Johnson asked Kirk Sullivan if he will forward the information.
  - It was explained the District receives the EQIP request from NRCS.
  - Kirk Sullivan explained the Local Work Group lists their priorities; where to place the EQIP funding. LCD are the chairs of the program. Kirk then encouraged the supervisors to watch a video on the MACD website on Local Work Groups and how to draw in additional dollars.
- g. MACD 2105 Dues
  - Staff reviewed the new format sent by MACD showing the Mil Levy and formula used to determine the amount owed.
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve payment of the 2015 MACD Dues invoice. **Second** by Valene Goff.

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- Wayne Maahs noted this (MACD) is our primary lobbying group.
- **Motion passed.**
- h. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Workshop, Flathead CD
  - Those intending to attend are Mark Romey, Wayne Maahs, Don Crawford, Darris Flanagan and Becky Lihme
- i. Employee Longevity Wage Increase
  - Mike Justus reported Lincoln County provides a 1.5% Longevity Increase to employees at five years of service.
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve a 1.5% increase in salary to staff and to be retroactive to September 8, 2013 (five year anniversary). **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**
  - Darris Flanagan would like the Board to consider a “Bonus”.
  - Kirk Sullivan suggested a Performance Award.
  - Staff to check with Laurie Zeller for legal issues.

**Old Business:**

- a. Planning Board Update/Mark Romey
  - Mark Romey reported the Planning Board is reviewing a conservation easement in the Yaak. An issue is to make certain the taxes are still paid by whomever takes responsibility of the land.
- b. Western States Competitive Grant
  - Mike Justus reported logging is still active in the West Kootenai.
- c. Lincoln Conservation District Model Rules –
  - Wayne Maahs reported on his most recent draft/final copy
  - Mike Justus noted the draft was primarily changes in definitions
  - Wayne Maahs noted the key change is on the Kootenai River; moving away from the 27,000 cfs
  - Mike Justus clarified to anything at projected high flow.
  - Wayne Maahs added the historic high flow.
  - Mike Hensler commented that being the case you don't need to have a specific rule; bank to bank would suffice.
  - Wayne Maahs commented Flathead Conservation District was very specific in their definition. It would make it too restrictive. They were actually making the projects. We (LCD) need to focus on projects we deal with. They have more issues due to population.
  - Mark Romey recommended to wait to next month to take action.
  - Mike Hensler asked Wayne to indicate what have been taken out from the last draft.

- Wayne Maahs noted the definitions in yellow are from Flathead Conservation District. He did not e-mail this copy with the intent to approve this month.
  - Don Crawford commented the draft appeared well thought out, however, there is still the question on the banks of the Kootenai; not certain on how to apply. New activities on the river that are on a property already modified could be an issue.
  - Wayne Maahs responded he is not sure we could define to the area of jurisdiction to fit each situation. The 310 Law gives us (LCD) latitude; on a case by case basis. We (LCD) should consider promoting outreach programs for property owners on the Kootenai.
  - Mike Justus stated the 310 Law covers the Kootenai.
  - Steve Johnson read the proposed definition.
  - Wayne Maahs explained the “point of delivery” is the Corp release. Flows are driven the dam release.
  - Mike Hensler noted the highest could be 100,000 cfs.
  - Steve Johnson noted 74,000 cfs is the highest he has seen.
  - Mike Hensler commented 58,000 cfs is the highest he is aware of.
  - Mike Justus stated the jurisdiction is the same no matter the flow.
  - Wayne Maahs noted people think 25,000 is the cfs amount.
  - Steve Johnson recommended to leave the definition at bed and banks.
  - Mike Justus asked what is the procedure to approve the Model Rules.
  - Staff responded after approval by the Board, the copy would be sent to Don MacIntyre and Laurie Zeller for review, then hold a Public Meeting for comments.
- d. DNRC Reclamation Planning Grant Update –
1. Final Report
  2. Final Invoice
    - Staff distributed the final preliminary report by River Design Group. The first invoice we received from RDG was over the \$50,000 grant. A corrected invoice was received and is in the Board Packet. The 3% Administrative Fee is not covered in the grant. The Kassler’s will be responsible for that cost and any costs incurred over the \$50,000.
    - Mike Justus recommended the Board waive the 3% Administrative Fee. It is the District’s purpose to support stream restoration.
    - **Motion** by Mike Justus to waive the 3% Administrative Fee charged to the Kassler Family Limited Partnership. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

- **Motion** by Mike Justus to pay the remaining \$7,983.25 to River Design Group. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**
- e. Small Landowner Workshop
  - Staff reported at last month's meeting the Board identified the topic to be noxious weeds. She had contacted Melissa Maggio-Kassner to assist in the workshop by presenting on biological weed control. Mike Justus spoke with Dan Williams to present on weed spraying. On the drive to the meeting today, we stopped at the Libby Dam Visitor Center. The conference room there will accommodate our needs nicely and be centrally located in the county.
  - Mike Justus suggested a small fee to cover lunch and not call the program "Small Landowner Workshop". Remove "small" so not to eliminate possible attendees.
  - It may be possible to promote this as a continuing education credit through the MSU Extension program.
- f. Emery Li-12-02-14 Update
  - Wayne Maahs reported Mr. Emery did not get to the project early enough; the ground is too frozen. Frank Votapka is a good "point" person to maintain open communication.

**Final Inspection Reports:**

- a. Plum Creek Timberlands, Crazyman Creek – Table
- b. Plum Creek Timberlands, Tributary of Cruian Creek – Table
- c. Taylor, Libby Creek
- d. Stoltze Lumber, Meadow Creek

**On Sites Needed:**

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

- Valene Goff reported the Montana Legislature has approved funding for the grant GLID received for siphon work on the ditch.
- Valene agreed to conduct a monthly report on GLID during the Board Meeting. Item to be placed on the agenda.

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The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_







