

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana
March 18, 2015**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Don Crawford, Vice Chairperson; Wayne Maahs; Mike Justus; Valene Goff; Susan Ennenbach
Associate Supervisor(s): Steve Johnson
Advisor(s): Kirk Sullivan, N.R.C.S.; Mike Hensler, MtFW&P;
District Administrator: Becky Lihme
Guest(s): Pete Leusch and Kris Boyd, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Art and Ellie Sanders

Called to order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

Open Mic:

Move Item 310 Li-03-04-15 – Sanders, Yaak River

- Staff reported we do not have the DEQ Permit on file; we do have the U.S. Forest Service Plan of Operations.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-03-04-15 as presented with standard suction dredging letter. **Second** by Don Crawford. It was noted the DEQ Permit is needed. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to amend Li-03-04-15 to approve for two years. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**
- Mr. Sanders reported he spoke with John Watters from DEQ. Fifty three suction dredging permits are approved in Montana. There have been no adverse effects on streams or complaints. Mr. Sanders informed the Board he will be writing a letter to DEQ during the open comment period for suction dredging regulation changes.
- Mike Hensler noted a sheen on the water surface. This would have come from old equipment being used.
- Dredgers are encouraged to purchase leak proof gas cans.
- Mr. Sanders recommends "Pig Pillows" to absorb oil and gas off the water surface. Some people are concerned fish are being sucked in the intake. Covering the intake with your hand will prevent this. The guidelines required monitoring of the equipment every 30 minutes. Monitoring should be continually to prevent clogging of the equipment.

New Business a. Yaak Valley Forest Council, 223 Grant Sponsorship

- Pete Leusch presented a report on the history of the Kootenai River Watershed partners and previous sediment surveys as they relate to this proposed project. He also identified area of bank stabilization projects.
- Wayne Maahs asked if YVFC will be having members to do the survey as presented in the grant.

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- Mr. Leusch responded no paid staff.
- Wayne Maahs asked who would train the staff.
- Mr. Leusch responded hydrologists.
- Don Crawford asked who would keep the data base.
- Mr. Leusch responded YVFC.
- Mike Hensler commented this is a pretty cool project. The progression will lead to the bottom (confluence) of the river. The project is now on Forest Service land and will eventually be on private ownership.
- Wayne Maahs gave his support on the statement within the grant regarding the Kootenai River as one of the most endangered rivers.
- Mike Hensler noted the GIS is the important information of the project.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus for the Lincoln Conservation District to sponsor the DNRC 223 grant. The District to provide assistance in writing the grant for submission to DNRC. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**

Minutes –

Motion by Susan Ennenbach to approve the minutes of February 2015. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report –

Mike Justus reviewed the Financial Report. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for February 2015. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan

- An irrigation project which began in December is underway. Earthwork will be in the next week or so.
- There has been a 1.2 million dollar decrease in EQIP funding for 2105 applications. The ranking deadline is March 20th. We have 13 applications on hand.
- Applications for 2016 EQIP funds are being accepted. We have 4 on file.
- Three Watershed Restoration Plan public meetings are being held in Eureka, March 23th, Troy, March 25th and Libby, March 26th. Karen Filipovich will be meeting with District and NRCS staff on Tuesday, March 25th to discuss projects in Lincoln County for 319 funding. A Water Resource Plan must be in place to qualify for 319 funding.
- Local Work Group meetings can be held at any time. They are not contingent on EQIP dates. NRCS uses LWG priorities as a guide for ranking projects.

MtFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Mike spoke with Dave DeShazer today regarding the Parker place. Ed McKay is very motivated to do work on the diversion on Big Cherry Creek.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for February.
- News articles and a Thank You postcard are in the Board Packets.
- We received the information for the DNRC Administrative Grant. Staff asked for the Board to consider equipment we might need to apply for funding. The application is due May 8th.
- Dave Martin and Alicia Stickney will be here on April 17th to discuss funding sources for the Kassler project. Dave will also be here to participate in the stream trailer demonstration at Libby Dam on April 16th and he will be our moderator for the Week Workshop.
- Staff will contact the upholstery company on Monday to schedule the exact date to take the trailer to Kalispell for the new cover
- Staff presented information regarding medical coverage for staff and the opportunity to put in place a permissive medical mill levy. Staff will forward the information sent by Laurie Zeller.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported G.L.I.D. is waiting on DNRC for the results for the Renewable Resource Grant.

310's

Li-03-01-15 – Erwert, Meadow Creek

- Mike Justus reported on the application and on-site.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-03-01-15 as presented; waive 15 day wait period. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Li-03-02-15 – Smith (Kline), Big Cherry Creek

- Mike Hensler noted a follow-up inspection has not been done to check if the temporary bridge has been removed.
- Wayne Maahs asked if there was a need to see the project.
- Mike Hensler would like to visit the site after the project.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-03-02-15 as presented with standard rock harvesting guidelines; if a temporary bridge is placed, it must be removed by the termination of the project. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

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Li-02-03-15 – Williams, Payne Creek

- Wayne Maahs reported he, Mark Romey and Mike Hensler did a second on-site of the project after Mike Justus. It is this team's recommendation to approve the application.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-03-03-15 as presented; waive 15 day wait period. **Second** by Valene Goff.
- Mike Hensler commented grass re-vegetation is not necessarily the best; shrubs would be the best.
- Mike Justus clarified the grass is along the walkway.
- Wayne Maahs added shrubs are on the embankment.
- **Motion passed.**

Li-03-04-15 – Taylor, Libby Creek

- Motion by Susan Ennenbach to approve Li-03-04-15 as presented with standard suction dredging letter. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

New Business:

- a. Yaak Valley Forest Council, 223 Grant Sponsorship – Item discussed earlier in meeting.
- b. G.L.I.D., 223 Grant Sponsorship
 - Valene Goff reported G.L.I.D. is seeking funding to purchase bentonite liner for the irrigation ditch along the 69 Ranch.
 - Mike Justus noted irrigation projects must have a 50:50 cash match.
 - Valene Goff reported G.L.I.D. will wait until the July (first quarter) round of grants.
- c. NACD Membership Dues
 - Staff reported reviewed the membership dues amount paid last year; \$400.00.
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve \$400.00 for the 2015/16 NACD Annual Membership Dues. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**
- d. 2015 Montana Forest Landowner Conference
 - Staff reviewed the tri-fold in the Board Packet. No interest in attending by the Board.
- e. Ties to the Land Workshop, Succession Planning for Landowners
 - Staff reviewed the tri-fold in the Board Packet. No interest in attending by the Board.
- f. NACDMACD Poster Contest
 - Staff reported theme for this year is "Local Heroes, Your Hard Working Pollinators". The posters are due to the MACD Office by May

14th. Staff asked if the Board Members in the Eureka area can judge the entries the week prior.

Old Business:

- a. Western States Competitive Grant
 - No report
- b. Lincoln Conservation District Model Rules –
 - Wayne Maahs reported we have received the changes/corrections recommended by Don MacIntyre and Laurie Zeller on the current draft. There are definitions that will need to be removed that are not in the “body” of the document. Nothing serious needs to be corrected.
- c. DNRC Reclamation Planning Grant Update
 - **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to close grant number RITP-14-0091. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- d. Landowner Workshop
 - Staff presented an update on the workshop. The workshop can have 4 credit units for applicator license renewals. We have a definite number from Melissa Maggio soon.
 - Dave Martin has a possible guest presenter, Chris Ruffato. Mr. Ruffato has asked for reimbursement for travel.
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve reimbursing Chris Ruffato for travel either by a fuel receipt or per mile at .57.5 cents. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**
- e. Emery Li-12-02-14 Update
 - Wayne Maahs contacted Mr. Emery. Mr. Emery responded we must correspond through his attorney. Wayne forwarded the e-mail to the attorney. Wayne also called Frank Votopka regarding the project.

.Final Inspection Reports:

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

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Mike Hensler stopped near the Davis property on Lake Creek. One area is very stable; near the home is not.
- Wayne Maahs added the main channel is changing. The water is being “kicked” toward the home.

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The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

