

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana  
April 15, 2015**

**Attendance:**

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Don Crawford, Vice Chairperson; Wayne Maahs; Mike Justus; Valene Goff; Susan Ennenbach; Mark Romey

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, N.R.C.S; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Dave Martin, D.N.R.C.; Jack Higle; Tim Viano; Mike Cole, County Commissioner

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

**Open Mic:**

**Item 310 Li-04-04-15 Moved** – Viano, Grave Creek

- Tim Viano reported Bob Cuffe has looked at the site and may change the rock type to key into the embankment better.
- Wayne Maahs described the site to confirm the location.
- Tim Viano noted the contractor can add fill or cut down the road next to the embankment and add rip-rap.
- It was recommended to follow the project specifications as noted in the application.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-04-04-15 as presented; waive the 15 day wait period. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

**Item 310 Li-04-04-15 Moved** – Higle, Sinclair Creek

- Mike Justus reported on the project site. This is a bridge replacement; the entire existing bridge will be removed; boulders will be placed at the toe of the river bend.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-04-04-15 as presented; waive 15 day wait period. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**New Business Item B Moved** – Commissioner Mike Cole, Ksanka Creek.

- Mike Cole presented a report on discussions in Helena regarding Ksanka Creek and the flow of water. In years past the stream ran year around. Representative Cuffe has been developing projects to “get people to work”. Seven to eight citizens from Lincoln County visited the Capitol with a “project list”. One of those projects was to revert Ksanka Creek back into a stream from the existing ditch. There was great response from MtFW&P, DNRC and other state agencies. Included with Ksanka Creek is Mill Springs. The idea is to put the creek back in the draw where it may have flowed originally. Another idea is to create a confluence between Indian Springs and Ksanka Creek. This option is not “too

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do-able". The suggested re-channeling would create a meander through the Comstock property behind Stein's Market, then the Forest Service property and tie into the Fair Grounds pond. The project would encompass approximately one mile. The objective now is to secure funding.

- Don Crawford asked who (agency) would take the lead for the project.
- Mike Cole responded the County.
- Mike Justus noted DNRC 223 grant funds would be a possible funding source.
- Mike Cole noted the State seems very engaged about the idea; getting funding for the study/design would be great.
- Mark Romey asked if there has been any contact yet with land owners.
- Mike Cole responded no negative responses, yet.

**Minutes –**

Wayne Maahs noted on Page 2 Line 10 should read "Kootenai River as **not** one of the most endangered rivers". **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve the minutes of March 2015 with the correction Page 2 Line 10 should read "Kootenai River as **not** one of the most endangered rivers". **Second** by Wayne Maahs.  
**Motion passed.**

**Financial Report –**

- Mike Justus reviewed the Financial Report. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for March 2015. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- Staff submitted a report received from the County Commissioners showing we will receive \$4,000 less than budgeted from our Mil Levy. Staff will review our financials for the next meeting to determine any short fall we may have. The Board may elect to transfer funds from our reserve account to cover our end of the year costs. The 310 Administrative funds came in higher than was budgeted so this may help.
- Mike Cole agreed to investigate the reduction in the Mil Levy.

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- 2014 EQIP - project the diversion structure installation is complete.
- 2015 EQIP – Two irrigation applications have been funded; a pivot and hoop house. No thinning projects have been funded.
- 2016 EQIP – The deadline for funding consideration is June 1, 2015.
- Bill Swope of Flathead Economic Policy Center is applying for a \$300,000 grant to fund projects.
- Marlene from Farm Service Agency is looking for a county committee person. Valene Goff was asked.

### MtFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

#### District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for March.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- We received the information for the 2015 NACD Poster Contest. Posters are due to MACD by May 15<sup>th</sup> and to our office by May 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff asked Eureka Supervisors if they could come in the office to score the posters.
- Lisa Oedewaldt asked for comments on a Floodplain permit that staff forwarded to the Board. No comments.
- There were no comments on the most recent 310 Permit Application changes.
- The Corps sent a copy of their most recent letter to Yorlum Ranch for a violation of the wetland.
- Dave Martin reviewed the Water Resource Plan that is being developed for the Kootenai Watershed by the Kootenai River Network.
- Kristina Boyd, KRN, e-mailed the District they are still coordinating the 223 grant application and plan on submitting this quarter.

### Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

#### GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported Betonite has been ordered to do patch work within the ditch.
- There is no update on the Costich Drop funding.
- G.L.I.D. has hired a new ditch rider employee.

#### 310's

##### Li-04-01-15 – Slesar, Yaak River

- This is a new suction dredging applicant.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-04-01-15 as presented with standard suction dredging letter and contingent on the Forest Service Plan of Operations and DEQ permit. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**

##### Li-04-02-15 – Gendron, Libby Creek

- Wayne Maahs questioned about suction dredging on private land. The Forest Service Plan of Operations would not be required; only the DEQ permit would be necessary. Wayne would like to look at the site before making a decision.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to table Li-04-02-15 to conduct an on-site inspection. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

New Business:

- a. Steve Johnson Resignation
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to accept the letter of resignation by Steve Johnson. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**
- b. D.N.R.C. Administrative Grant Funds FY 2015/16
  - A "Tablet" was suggested for staff. Staff did feel she would not use one.
- c. Commissioner Mike Cole, Ksanka Creek – Item moved to beginning of meeting.
- d. District Credit Card
  - Staff reported her personal credit card is currently being used for the payment of the District website hosting company, "E-nom", plus for any purchases for equipment that are ordered on-line. It would be beneficial for her to not have these charges on her personal card.
  - Mike Justus noted the District would have two supervisors approve any purchases on a District credit card.
  - Darris Flanagan recommended the financial statement for the card be sent to a supervisor, not the District Office.
  - Dave Martin supported the examples presented by staff.
  - **Motion** by Valene Goff to apply for a District credit card pending approval of written District policy. **Second** by Mike Justus.
  - Wayne Maahs noted MACD does not support District credit cards. Checks and balances are needed. Credit cards are a point of weakness in District finances.
  - Dave Martin noted Districts need to follow-up on credit card activity.
  - **Motion passed.**
- e. Mileage Reimbursement, Don Crawford
  - Staff reported the mileage request is for two fiscal years; 2013/14 and 2014/15. The total amount is \$640.20.
  - Darris Flanagan noted it is school policy that all expenses must be paid within that fiscal year. He recommended the District establish a deadline for expenses.
  - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the mileage payment in the amount of \$640.20 for Don Crawford. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**
  - This item to be placed on the May agenda to establish a policy to close out all expenditures on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

- f. 310 Project Signs
  - Staff noted due to the budget shortfall from the County Mil Levy and the need to use 310 funds for appropriate general funds expenses, we could wait for the next fiscal year to purchase the signs.
  - It was suggested to use the 310 Administrative Grant funds to purchase the signs.
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to apply for 310 Administrative Funds to purchase the 310 permit signs. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- g. Staff Medical Insurance Stipend
  - Staff reported a medical stipend would not affect her current insurance policy through the Obama Care program. The stipend is the first step to create the county Permissive Medical Mil Levy.
  - **Motion** by Don Crawford to create a monthly stipend of \$25.00 per month for Lincoln Conservation District employee(s) to be enacted on July 1, 2015. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- h. Donation to Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project
  - Due the current budget constraint, this item tabled to Fiscal Year 2015/16.
- i. NRCS Soil Survey Letter of Support
  - Brian Ressel presented a handout showing samples of soil surveys comparing Lincoln County and Langlade County in Wisconsin. Brian noted Lincoln County is the last remaining county in Montana to have a complete soil survey. The 1984 U.S.F.S. soil survey map is inaccurate. Glacier National Park is currently being surveyed.
  - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve support for the soil survey for Lincoln County and to send a letter with the chairperson signature. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**

**Old Business:**

- a. Western States Competitive Grant
  - No report. Remove from agenda.
- b. Lincoln Conservation District Model Rules –
  - Wayne Maahs reported he and staff will discuss the changes by Don MacIntyre at the Weed Workshop on Saturday.
- c. Landowner Workshop
  - Staff presented an update on the workshop.
- d. Emery Li-12-02-14 Update
  - No report.

**Final Inspection Reports:**

- a. Plum Creek Timberlands, Crazyman Creek – Table
- b. Plum Creek Timberlands, Tributary of Cruian Creek – Table
- c. Taylor, Libby Creek - Closed
- d. Stoltze Lumber, Meadow Creek – Closed
- e. Kern, Star Creek – Closed
- f. Sanders, Yaak River - Closed

**On Sites Needed:**

**Li-04-02-15** – Gendron, Libby Creek

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

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Becky Lihme, District Administrator

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









