

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
June 17, 2015**

Attendance:

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, N.R.C.S; Mike Hensler, MtFW&P; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Karl Kassler

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

Public Comment:

Minutes – Motion by Don Crawford to approve the minutes of May 2015 as presented. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report –

- Staff reviewed the May expense and revenue spread sheet. A \$29.00 check cancellation fee was not transferred from December to January. In January the 310 admin expenditures and payroll accounts splits were not correctly reflected on the spread sheet.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the Financial Report for May 2015. **Second** Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
 1. FY 2014/15 Revenue vs Expense
 - Staff noted we received our May Mil Levy on June 16th in the amount of \$9,141.64. This will cover any shortfall we may have anticipated from the County Budget. Our actual income budget from the County Mil Levy for 2014/15 will be 45,407.31.

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian Ressel noted he changed the “Leave” format for him and Kirk.
- Three producers have signed up for MACD’s Irrigation Water Management Program. One pivot is non-operational.
- This year 78.8 acres have been certified for thinning; 73.8 acres of slash treatment and 15 acres of weed management.
- 2015 EQIP – Two applications have been funded.
- 2016 EQIP – The deadline for funding consideration was June 1, 2015. Fourteen applications are already on file. Any applications not funded in 2015 will be considered for 2016 funding; combined we will have 30 applications or more.

Karl Kassler arrived at the meeting.

New Business

b. Kassler/ Tobacco River Project

1. 319 Grant Writing Estimate

- Staff reviewed the assistance from Dave Martin and the cost estimate presented by River Design Group to write both the pre and final 319 grant proposals.
- Dave Martin met with Mr. Kassler and Bushfield approximately 6 weeks ago. It was suggested to hire a professional grant writer for this application. Karl Kassler noted Jim Bushfield is also involved in the project as an adjacent property owner and has contributed to the project as well. It would be nice if the conservation district could assist with this community serving project.
- Valene Goff commented the contribution would be well worth it.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to accept the cost estimate presented by River Design Group and commit to funding up to \$1,860.00. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Mr. Kassler left the meeting.

MtFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Comments are being taken for Channel catfish in Montana.
- Jim Dunnigan has offered to help design a barrier between the Beebe ditch and the creek. Up to 750 cubic yards of rip-rap is estimated to be used.
- Darris Flanagan asked if the purpose was to narrow the channel.
- Mike Hensler responded there is no land barrier between the creek and the ditch. Water is not able to get into the “head gate”. MtFW&P installed a system to get water into the pipe; now they need to install the pipe. Question now is, how will the Forest Service and USACE will react to the Bull trout.

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for May.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- Staff noted procurement laws have been changed for conservation districts.
- The 2015/16 DNRC 223 grant application deadline(s) have been sent out.
- Mindy McCarthy sent out an e-mail asking for comments on the CORPS project at Dunn Creek. Due to a time constraint we will not be able to send her our comments. Mike Hensler was able to discuss with her his comments.
- Mike Hensler noted there are three parts of the project; construction of log jams to create habitat; placement of approximately 30 boulders across the top of an

existing mid-channel bar; place rip-rap along the embankment on the lower portion of Dunn Creek where it flows into the Kootenai River. The Native Americans do not have any issue with the placement of rock on native historical artifacts.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The Planning Commission is short two members; Libby and Eureka.

GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported GLID has re-submitted their grant for Costich Drop.

310's

Li-06-01-15 – Cooper, Silver Butte

- Don Crawford reported he visited the site for the first 310 permit application in 2014. The permit is to install a temporary bridge for logging. The previous permit expired on December 1, 2014.
- Discussion was to make certain the bridge is placed in the location approved during the on-site and to be removed before break-up.
- **Motion** by Mike Don Crawford to approve Li-65-01-15 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Li-06-02-15 – Cooper, Libby Creek

- Darris Flanagan noted this is a standard rock picking permit.
- **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approved Li-06-02-15 with standard rock picking guidelines. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Li-06-03-15 – Cooper, Granite Creek

- Mike Hensler noted this is on Big Cherry Creek, not Granite Creek.
- Standard rock picking permit.
- **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve Li-06-03-15 with standard rock picking guidelines. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Li-06-04-15 – Quirk Cattle Company, Indian Creek

- Darris Flanagan reported he has not seen the project site.
- Mike Hensler noted he did not understand the application; are they constructing the head gate, building walls?
- Darris Flanagan clarified they are putting in wing walls.
- It was discussed to table the application for an on-site prior to the next meeting.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to table Li-06-04-15 to conduct an on-site prior to the July Board Meeting. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**

Li-06-05-15 – Peterson, Libby Creek

- This is a standard suction dredging permit application.

- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve Li-06-05-15 as presented with standard suction dredging requirements. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's - None

New Business:

- a. Lincoln Conservation District FY 2015/16 Final Budget
 - Staff reviewed the budget including the 310 Administrative Funds.
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the Lincoln Conservation District Fiscal Year 2015/16 Final Budget. **Second** by Susan Ennenbach. **Motion passed.**
- b. Kassler/Tobacco River Project – Discussed earlier in meeting.
 1. 319 Grant Writing Estimate
- c. Resignation of Tony Prato, Associate Supervisor
 - **Motion** by Mark Romey to accept the resignation of Tony Prato as Associate Supervisor. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
- d. Area V Working Group – Lake County
 - After discussion, Don Crawford directed staff to write a letter to Lake County Conservation District explaining LCD is in support of a Working Group, however, due to our limited agricultural use, we must decline.

Old Business:

- a. Lincoln Conservation District Model Rules –
 1. Public Meeting(s) June 17th, July 15th
 - The Eureka meeting was held prior to this Board Meeting. No guests were present.
- b. Emery Li-12-02-14 Update
 1. Court June 1st, 1:30 p.m.
 - Staff read the e-mail sent by Bernie Cassidy, County Attorney regarding the on-site Don Crawford made of the project. A bench warrant has been issued on Mr. Emery.
 - Mike Hensler asked if there is sufficient woody debris to complete the conservation district's requirement
 - Don Crawford replied Mr. Emery made a "token effort". There is plenty of debris available. There was no entry into the brush pile. There was no evidence of large equipment searching for debris. The wood that was placed is small enough for me (Don) to move myself.
 - Mark Romey asked if the area had been seeded.
 - Don Crawford replied yes, seeding was done. We have had no contact with Mr. Votapka.
- c. District Credit Card – Update

- Staff met with Mike Justus. The credit card company is requiring personal information from the primary card holder (Mike Justus). Staff contacted Flathead Conservation District. They have a business credit card. Staff and Mike will continue to pursue acquiring a district credit card.
- d. Reserve Funds Options for Investment
 - Staff reported we have two options; money market and cash on deposit (CD).
 - Don Crawford asked if this is what the district wants to do; we need to keep our funds “liquid” for projects such as Kassler. What is the return on our investment?
 - Staff replied our current savings account pays approximately \$160.00 per year interest on \$70,000 to \$90,000 in the account.
 - Valene Goff recommended staff check with Whitefish Credit Union for interest rates.
- f. Mil Levy Correction – Update
 - Staff reported she e-mailed Robin Benson last week for an update to report to the Board. We did not receive a response.
 - Valene Goff noted we must still pursue the correction even though our final revenue for Fiscal Year 2014/15 was higher than the County budgeted.

Final Inspection Reports:

- a. Li-06-04-14 - Plum Creek Timberlands, Tributary of Cruian Creek – Tabled
- b. Li-11-03-14 - Lincoln Electric – Item closed

On Sites Needed:

- a. Li-10-02-14 – Viano, Grave Creek
 - Darris Flanagan conducted an on-site. Permit can be closed.

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Mike Hensler reported the Kid’s Fishing Day will be held this Saturday in Troy; volunteers are needed.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

