

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana  
January 20, 2016**

**Attendance:**

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Alfred Phillipy; Hannah Hernandez, U.S.F.S.

**Called to order:** 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

**Public Comment:**

- Wayne Maahs announced he had invited Mark Peck, County Commissioner to attend the Board Meeting.

**Minutes:**

a. December 2015

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the minutes of December 2015 as corrected. Page 3 New Business a. GLID 223 Grant “Over a 5 year evaluation \$7,000.00 has been spent in repairs”. Correct to; “\$7,000.00 had been spent on dam repairs this past fall.” Page 3 first bullet sentence correct to; “Motion by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-12-02-15 as presented with standard Best Management Practices; 15 **day** wait period is waived”. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

a. December 2015

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

**Hannah Hernandez, U.S.F.S. Hydrologist arrives at the meeting.**

**NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan**

- The contracting deadline for EQIP is later than in most years; June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ranking should be completed by the middle of May.
- Brian Ressel will be the Acting District Conservationist in Plains from February 29<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Kirk reviewed the Snow/Precipitation graph on the back of the NRCS Report.

**MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler**

- No report.

### District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for December.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- Staff reported the RFQ's are ready to be mailed for the Limited Solicitation for the Roose project on Mud Creek. She asked for opinions on the best time to schedule the project walk-through and who might like to attend. March was recommended and Mike Justus and Kirk Sullivan would like to attend.
- The employee vacation and sick leave data sheet is in the Board Packets.
- We received a 310 permit application from O'Day/Hickman after the agenda was posted. This permit will be on the February agenda.
- MACD is seeking volunteers to serve on various Standing Committees. The information is in the Board Packet.

### Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The Planning Board did not meet. No report.

### GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported the 223 Grant application was submitted to purchase Bentonite and liner for the Doxie Slough and Rolling Hills sections of the ditch.

### 310's

#### E-01-01-16 – Pattie, Callahan Creek

- Don Crawford reported he has not been able to contact Mr. Pattie via telephone.

#### Li-01-02-16 – Warrington, Crowell Creek

- Wayne Maahs reported he and Don Crawford conducted the on-site. The property owner wants to create a small ford and recommend approval.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve as presented; waive 15 day wait period.  
**Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

#### Li-01-03-16 – Parker, Big Cherry Creek

- Staff reported she spoke with Bonnie Geber regarding the Plan of Operations (PO)/Special Use Permit. Ms. Geber had received the PO application the same day as LCD received the 310 permit application. The PO application process will take up to several months to complete.
- Ms. Hernandez added she met with the project applicant last summer.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to deny Li-01-03-16 due to lack of the U.S.F.S. Plan of Operations Permit/ Special Use Permit. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

### Tabled 310's

#### V-08-03-15 – Franklin/Cordara, Sinclair Creek

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- Staff reported per the U.S. Postal Service the certified letter signature card was signed on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**C-12-01-15** – Vanderhoef, Micklon, East Fisher River

- The project area is not accessible due to snow conditions.

**New Business:**

- a. Election of 2016 Officers
  - **Motion by** Wayne Maahs to nominate Darris Flanagan to serve as Chairperson for 2016; Don Crawford as Vice Chairperson for 2016 and Mike Justus as the Treasurer for 2016. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- b. Resignation of Susan Ennenbach
  - **Motion** by Valene Goff to accept the resignation of Susan Ennenbach. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- c. Appointment of Replacement Supervisor
  - Alfred Phillipy reported he will be gone February 11<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, but would otherwise be willing to serve on the LCD Board of Supervisors.
  - **Motion** by Valene Goff to appoint Alfred Phillipy to serve on the LCD Board of Supervisors to complete the term of Susan Ennenbach. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**
  - Mark Romey asked about Mr. Phillipy's background.
  - Mr. Phillipy responded he has a degree in natural resource management focusing on ornithology.
- d. Election Filing for 2016
  - Staff reported Mike Justus, Alfred Phillipy and Don Crawford will be up for re-election this year. The forms needed to file for re-election are in their Board Packets.
- e. Lincoln County Letter of Support
  - Staff explained Mike Cole came to the office asking for a letter of support from the conservation district for the Ksanka Creek/Mill Springs Restoration project. The county has hired Tracy MacIntyre to prepare the application for the DNRC Reclamation Grant due May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Supervisors are in support of staff preparing a letter of support for Darris Flanagan's signature.
- f. 2016 Winter Grazing Seminar, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Staff reviewed the flier received from Lake County Conservation District. The topics are discussed in the letter.

- Kirk Sullivan asked if LCD could pay both the hotel and accommodations. Karl Kassler would be a good rancher to invite.
- Valene Goff would consider attending.
- Wayne Maahs noted he would support Valene as a Board Member and Karl Kassler.
- Don Crawford stated he would support full costs for Valene and partial for others.
- Kirk Sullivan recommended the Board approve \$250.00 for non-Board members.
- Alfred Phillipy stated he would like to attend as well. He would not need accommodations.
- **Motion** by Wayne to allocate up to \$250.00 for public attendees and full costs for Valene Goff and Alfred Phillipy. **Second** by Don Crawford.  
**Motion passed.**

**Unfinished Business:**

a. Employee Salary Adjustment

- Mike Justus reported he conducted salary comparisons with Lincoln County Human Resources and DNRC. For Lincoln County, the job duties that are similar to LCD, the salary is \$13.43 to \$15.66. The similar position under DNRC is \$14.35 to \$15.66. The current comparable is \$14.25. The salaries for conservation districts around the state vary from \$17.00 to \$35.00.
- Darris Flanagan noted Tracy MacIntyre is receiving \$35.00 per hour for grant writing. Our position does not include medical insurance. Becky Lihme has a reputation of being very good around the state. The average salary for district administrators is \$17.00. \$14.25 is way too low.
- Alfred Phillipy asked if paying two separate salaries is possible; one for grants and the other for office operations.
- Mike Justus responded he spoke with County Human Resources and determined splitting the salary would be too difficult.
- Don Crawford agreed \$14.00 is not enough.
- Mark Romey noted the job includes grant granting.
- Valene Goff stated we (the committee) did not discuss grant writing.
- Mike Justus noted staff will receive health benefits in July.
- Staff explained the medical mil levy will take effect in July and will cover medical insurance costs incurred by staff.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to increase the staff salary to \$17.00 per hour. **Second** by Alfred Phillipy.

- Mark Romey commented we expect her to get things done and she does.
  - Hannah Hernandez commented staff will open the door to start a collaboration with the forest service.
  - Don Crawford stated with or without grants, the position is worth \$17.00 per hour.
  - Mike Justus stated the increase with benefits will add \$7,200.00 to the budget. **Amended** the motion for the increase to become effective next pay period.
  - **Motion passed.**
- b. Tobacco River Restoration 319 Grant – Update
1. Phase 1; 319 Grant
    - a. No report
  2. Phase 2; Reclamation Planning Grant
    - a. Staff reported we were awarded a RDGP Planning Grant to hire River Design Group to write the RDG grant application.

**Final Inspection Reports:**

**On Sites Needed:**

- a. Li-09-11-14, Janssen, Yaak River

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

- Kirk Sullivan reported on an upcoming Water Resource Forum hosted by the Kootenai River Network (KRN) on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Libby City Hall. KRN is increasing efforts on education of the Kootenai Watershed.
- Laura Jungst introduced Hannah Hernandez, U.S.F.S. Hydrologist, Libby Ranger District.
- Ms. Hernandez informed the Supervisors of a proposal from Nate Gassmann, District Ranger, Libby District to form a collaboration effort between LCD and the U.S.F.S. The collaborative effort would involve the LCD to administer contracts for projects such as bridges, culverts, stream restoration projects on Forest Service land. The conservation district does not have the stringent legal requirements as does the Forest Service.
- Laura Jungst added Green Mountain Conservation District does this similar collaboration of administering contracts a lot.
- Don Crawford noted it is worth to see.
- Ms. Hernandez stated the Forest Service would pay LCD for administration i.e. write the contracts, pay the bills.
- Laura Jungst added LCD has more freedom for selecting contracts.

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- Item to be placed on the March agenda.
- Wayne Maahs reported the “deal” between Plum Creek Timberlands and Weyerhouser is scheduled to close next month. There are no changes anticipated until July. Wayne is doing a presentation on the conservation district tomorrow for SAF.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

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

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









