

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana
November 10, 2015**

Attendance:

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Kirk Sullivan, N.R.C.S; Mike Hensler, MTFW&P

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Kristina Boyd, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Shauna Kelsey, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Robin Benson, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder

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

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. October 2015

- **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve the minutes of October 2015 as presented. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. October 2015

- Mike Justus reviewed the financial report.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for October 2015. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- b. New Expense Account for Pre Grant Applications – Funds Transfer
- Staff reported on the creation of a new Expense Account for the Monthly Financial Report due to the amount of funds used in the completing a major grant such as the DEQ 319.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to transfer \$2,500.00 into the Preliminary Grant Expense account; FY 2015/16 Financial Budget. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Kristina Boyd and Shauna Kelsey from Yaak Valley Forest Council Arrive

New Business; Item a. Yaak Valley Forest Council 1. Natural Resource Camp

- Ms. Boyd described the current two day watershed program YVFC initiated this past summer. The YVFC has looked at the DNRC Youth Camp held every summer, however, the program did not serve the ages they (YVFC) wanted to provide for. YVFC is considering the Lubrecht Experimental Forest Camp and noted conservation district's sponsorship of kids to the DNRC Youth Natural Resource Camp.
- Ms. Kelsey noted the Lubrecht Camp is underused by youth in Lincoln County.
- Mike Justus noted we (LCD) have sponsored kids in the past to the DNRC Youth Natural Resource Camp.

- Wayne Maahs agreed although sometimes it is tough to “break into” the high schools. For us (LCD) it has been a tough time getting a teacher to promote programs.
- Mike Justus commented L.C.H.S. has a teacher who sends two teams to the Envirothon each year. Libby and Troy High Schools have not sent teams in several years.
- Ms. Boyd commented they (YVFC) are applying for grant funding for the camp. They will provide the transportation.
- Wayne Maahs clarified YVFC is looking for scholarships for the registration fee.
- Ms. Boyd added the first year of the program will be in Troy, then send youngsters to the Lubrecht Camp. This plan depends on the support they receive. YVFC has enough funding to send four youngsters next year.
- Mike Justus suggested LCD provide a sponsorship for \$500.00.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus for Lincoln Conservation District to sponsor two youngsters at \$250.00 each, totaling \$500.00 to attend a 2016 natural resource camp.
Second by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan

- Twenty seven EQIP applications have been received for consideration for funding. Some of these are carry-overs from last year. Inventories have been completed. The funding amount is not yet known.
- Slash treatment activities have seen a substantial increase over the past month. Open burning in the Eureka area ends December 1st.
- Three annual contract payments for CSP have been certified.
- The snow report is on the back of the handout.
- Justin Morris has accepted a Soil Health position in Wisconsin.

Robin Benson, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder Arrives at the Meeting **Unfinished Business Item a. Mil Levy Adjustment Update**

- Ms. Benson reported Harold Blatty, MACO and the county auditor worked on our budget and reviewed all the documents from the previous four years. The 15% delinquencies are no longer being used. Mr. Blatty told her (Ms. Benson) “this is an old relic that doesn’t make sense with a floating mill.
- Staff inquired as to how the under payment of the four year “audit” was included in the fiscal year 2015/16 budget.
- Ms. Benson replied in the four years that were audited, the errors were in our favor but the funds are not included in the budget. The entire history of the LCD budget would have to be audited in order to determine the correct figure.

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- Mike Hensler asked about the 15% delinquency.
- Ms. Benson responded you cannot have both the 15% delinquency and a floating mill.
- Staff read from the “Laws Pertaining to Montana’s Conservation Districts 2012 Edition” quoting the 15% delinquency.
- Mr. Benson stated she would check with Mr. Blatty and the county auditor on the law and respond to us.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Mike Hensler apologized for missing last month’s meeting. He was called out for a re-count of aquatic populations.

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for October.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- Staff read the NACD Poster Contest state level results.
- The November Report from Laurie Zeller is in the Board Packet.
- Ag Couple of the Year Award Nominations are now being accepted.
- Staff would like to plan a vacation March 7th through 10th next year. The meeting agenda is scheduled to be posted that week. A supervisor will post the agenda.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The Planning Board will meet on November 17th.

GLID Report

- No report

310’s

Li-11-01-15 – McAfee, Sinclair Creek

- Mike Justus reviewed the project. Mr. McAfee had planned to place a culvert in a 12’ wide channel. The culvert he had in mind would fit the width and a larger culvert would not be economically feasible; a bridge would be better. Mr. McAfee submitted a plan for a bridge to replace the previous culvert design.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-11-01-15; waive the 15 day wait period; advise Mr. McAfee of the availability of bridge stringers from the Department of Transportation through Michelle McGee of MTFW&P. **Second** by Valene Goff.
Motion passed.

Li-10-01-14 – Humberg, Curley Creek – Extension

- Mike Justus conducted an on-site. The area Mr. Humberg want to place gravel is 15 to 20 feet away from the bridge causing no impact to the embankment. The project is considered complete. Mr. Humberg needs to place final planks, but he is done with work within the channel. Item closed.

Li-02-01-15 – Kern, Star Creek, Amendment

- Staff reported the Kern's are asking for an amendment to allow for two suction dredges.
- Mike Hensler commented the request is contrary to the guideline of one dredge, one person. No dredging operation is permitted to use two dredges.
- Staff is to write a letter to the Kern's notifying them we (LCD) cannot act without clarification of the U.S.F.S. Plan of Operations allowing two dredges.

Li-11-02-15 – Quirk Cattle Co./Driggs, Indian Creek

- Mike Justus noted this is for an annual maintenance permit and asked if two permits had been submitted.
- Staff replied no, only one.
- Mike Justus noted Indian Creek runs through the property and described the project and recommendations.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approved Li-11-02-15 with following recommendations: Annual Maintenance Permit is valid for five (5) years; floatable debris may be removed within 25 feet of these structures if the debris threatens to plug up these structures and threatens to cause flooding; if an excavator is used, the tracks should stay back ten (ten) feet from the stream bank; the debris should be placed in the floodplain; large logs that are embedded in gravels must be left in place; gravel berms may be constructed within twenty-five (25) feet of the head gates to direct the water flow to the head gate. On the lower section of the stream logs and debris may be removed from the stream channel if the logs threaten to divert water out of the stream channel. Logs should be placed in the flood plain perpendicular to the direction of flow. The work should be done during low stream flows.
Second by Mark Romey.
- Mike Hensler noted it is important that this approval does not set a precedence for future projects.
- **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

C-08-03-15 – Franklin/Cordara, Sinclair Creek

- Darris Flanagan reported this complaint is definitely a violation
- Wayne Maahs noted is worthy to ask the property owner to get an engineer to provide a design.
- Kirk Sullivan noted there had been damming done within the creek.

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to declare C-08-02-15 a violation. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- Wayne Maahs suggested the Board require Mr. Cordara to hire an engineering firm to design the restoration.
- Kirk Sullivan noted the area is very unstable. The home is twenty five (25) feet away from the bank.
- Mark Romey noted the plan should include stabilization of the bank.
- Wayne Maahs commented we (LCD) don't want to tell him (Mr. Cordara) what to do; hire an expert.
- Mark Romey noted sand has been placed in the channel.
- Mike Justus suggested to require a restoration design.
- Mike Hensler commented he has destabilized the channel, placed boulders damming the creek; tell Mr. Cordara what needs to be done, not how.
- Wayne Maahs commented we don't want to be very specific.
- Darris Flanagan suggested to send a letter including the items needing restoration designed by a qualified person and a 310 permit is required with mitigation.
- Susan Ennenbach asked if this project will effect downstream.
- Darris Flanagan replied yes.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to send a letter to Mr. Cordara; one paragraph outlining what was seen at the on-site; one paragraph to submit a design by a qualified person with a 310 permit and a list of contractors in the area; application and design due by March 1, 2016. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

C-08-04-15 – Kilbreath, Lake Creek

- Wayne Maahs reported on the alleged violation and recommended the Board to declare not a violation.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to declare C-08-04-15 not a violation under the 310 Law. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

- a. Yaak Valley Forest Council
 1. Natural Resource Youth Camp - Item discussed earlier.
- b. 2016 Winter Grazing Seminar – Sponsorship
 - Staff reviewed the letter from Lake County Conservation District.
 - Darris Flanagan commented Lincoln County does not have enough grazing to warrant the donation.
 - Kirk Sullivan stated the seminar is an education for our local farmers.
 - Valene Goff commented if it is not a benefit to us, don't sponsor.
 - Susan Ennenbach agreed.
 - Kirk Sullivan stated traditionally no, but we do have a couple of ranchers interested in trying winter grazing.

- Mike Justus suggested the district provide a sponsorship to ranchers to attend the seminar.
- Kirk Sullivan agreed to this suggestion.
- c. December Dinner
 - After discussion it was agreed to select Trappers first, 4 Corners second.
- d. 2016 Annual Work Plan - Draft
 - Staff reviewed her suggested changes. Will place on the December agenda for final approval.
- e. MACD/DNRC Education Display
 - Staff reported Dave Martin has asked the Board to reconsider using the Recycling Program on the display. DNRC currently has two conservation district's using "Education" as their theme. Our recycling program is very unique. The Supervisors agreed to proceed with the recycling program.
- f. Staff Time Off – Wednesday, November 25th
 - There were no objections to staff taking November 25th off.
- g. Forests in Focus – DNRC
 - Mike Justus explained this program is similar to the Jump Start program. He will send out a link. There is surplus funding for forest restoration project. EQIP projects could be eligible recipients.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Mill Levy Adjustment – Update – Discussed earlier
- b. Tobacco River Restoration 319 Grant – Update
 - 1. Statement of Work
 - Staff reported we received our letter of award and full funding. Eric Trum will assist us in writing the Statement of Work and send to us for review prior to submitting no later than December 31st. Funding will be available in June or July 2016

Final Inspection Reports:

- a. Li-06-04-14, Plum Creek Timberlands, Tributary of Curian Creek – Tabled
- b. Li-09-04-14, Clowers, Edna Creek
 - Darris Flanagan conducted a final inspection and reported it is a beautiful bridge. Item closed.

On Sites Needed:

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

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Open Mic and Other Business:

- Darris Flanagan looked at Meadow Creek. Item can be closed.
- Mark Romey recommended a letter be written to the Clowers for constructing an excellent bridge and working together as a community.
- Mike Justus reported Cagle 310 permit can be closed.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

