

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
December 16, 2015**

Attendance:

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Dave Martin, D.N.R.C.; Elena Evans, M.A.C.D.; Alfred Phillipy

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

Public Comment:

Minutes:

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

Financial Report:

- a. November 2015
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the Financial Report for November 2015. **Second** Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Mr. Phillipy arrives at the meeting.

- Darris Flanagan invites him to introduce himself.
- Mr. Phillipy introduced himself and his background to the Board and guests.
- Don Crawford inquired if he would be interested in serving on the Board as an Associate Supervisor.
- Mr. Phillipy responded "yes".

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Since the November meeting 130 acres of slash treatment have been certified.
- He and Kirk Sullivan have been developing a grazing plan for Karl Kassler.
- Both Kirk and Brian attended a two day area meeting in Missoula.
- The snow report shows the Kootenai River Basin still below normal. The Kootenai River Drainage is at 88% of average.
- Brian compared the amount of thinning since 2012.
- The agreement with D.N.R.C. for Mike Justus, State Forester to be paid for management plans is being cancelled.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- No report

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for November.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- We received two permit notifications from DEQ.
- D.N.R.C. has sent us the contract for the 223 grant for the Mud Creek project, Barry Roose.
- E-mails have been circulating by other District Administrators regarding a company "SmartProcure" requesting electronic copies of purchase requisitions. We have not yet received this request. Don MacIntyre has sent out an e-mail outlining the procedures for Districts to follow.
- Administrators have been e-mailing regarding the types of e-mails that can be deleted from computers and those that cannot. Julie Ralston of Bitterroot CD sent out the state guidelines.
- Staff reported we received a 310 permit today that could qualify as an emergency action. Wayne Maahs will contact the property owner.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The Planning Board conducted their November meeting. A subdivision on Parmenter Creek was approved
- The next meeting will be in January.

GLID Report

- No report

310's

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

- Don Crawford reported he and Mark Romey attempted to drive to the site. However, the weather and road conditions prohibited access.

Li-12-02-15 – Warrington, Crowell Creek

- Don Crawford reported he, Wayne Maahs and Mark Romey conducted the on-site. The property owner wants to place a bridge. The area has sharp incised banks.
- Mike Hensler asked if this proposed bridge is temporary.
- Don Crawford responded, it is, for logging purposes. The location is fine for a bridge. The development of a ford was also discussed at the on-site. Mr. Warrington was informed a new 310 permit would be required should they want to develop a ford in lieu of the bridge.
- Mike Hensler stated he no issue with the ford, especially with an existing ford there.
- Don Crawford recommended approving the bridge, but due to monetary concerns it may not happen.

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approved Li-12-02-15 as presented with standard Best Management Practices; 15 wait period is waived. **Second** by Mark Romey.
- Mike Hensler wanted to verify the motion is not for both the bridge and ford.
- Wayne Maahs asked staff to include in the letter the permit is for the bridge only. If the applicant decides to construct the ford, a new 310 permit application must be submitted and the current application be withdrawn.
- **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

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

- No report

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

- Darris Flanagan noted we (LCD Board) must make a decision on this request at tonight's meeting.
- Staff reported she contacted Bonnie Geber from the U.S.F.S. This Plan of Operations (P.O.) is within the jurisdiction of Libby District and they allow two, two inch dredges. All P.O.'s have been limited to one year.
- **Motion** Wayne Maahs to deny the applicant's request to amend Li-02-01-15 to allow two suction dredges of 2 inches until the new U.S.F.S. Plan of Operations has been received. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

a. GLID 223 Grant

- Valene Goff reported GLID is using bentonite and lining in the leakiest portions of the ditch. Over a 5 year evaluations \$7,000.00 has been spent in repairs. GLID is asking LCD to sponsor a 223 grant to continue the repairs.
- Mike Hensler asked if the repairs are to prohibit leaking onto private land.
- Valene Goff noted it is to conserve water. She continued to describe the process of laying out the bentonite.
- Staff reported the grant application is due December 15th and she will be meeting with Maggie, GLID receptionist, on Monday December 21st.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs for the Lincoln Conservation District to sponsor a D.N.R.C. 223 grant application on behalf of the Glen Lake Irrigation District to repair portions of the ditch through the use of bentonite and lining. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

b. Emery – Civil Penalty Correspondence

- Copies of the letter written to Mr. Emery by Bernie Cassidy, Lincoln County Attorney and the Civil Penalty Deferral Agreement are in the Board packets.

- c. MACD Convention report/Update
 - Wayne Maahs reported he enjoyed the educational sessions and the keynote speaker.
 - Elena Evans noted 235 people registered. The Business Session had changes that went smoothly; three resolutions were passed.
- d. Staff Holiday Hours
 - Staff reported since the Christmas holiday and New Year's holiday are on Friday, her normal day off, she will take Thursday off as the holiday.
- e. Employee Salary Adjustment
 - Darris Flanagan noted our administrator receives the lowest salary in Area V (based on the 2102 DNRC survey). Darris recommended the Board tie in our salary with other conservation districts/DNRC. Mike Justus had suggested following the county. Do we want to assign a committee?
 - Wayne Maahs agreed. The duties of the administrator have expanded and we are not directly under the county.
 - Dave Martin noted other districts pay administrators variable rates for different job duties, for example, grants versus regular operations.
 - Wayne Maahs, Valene Goff and Mike Justus were appointed to the committee to research and bring back to the Board a recommendation in salary for the District Administrator position
- f. SWCDM Area Resource Specialist Proposed Position
 - Elena Evans distributed a flow chart showing the responsibilities of SWCDM and MACD staff. She described the two organizations under one umbrella for the past 40 years and gave a brief history. The state water plan recently passed to promotes projects. SWCDM and MACD are in the process of hiring a water resource person in western Montana to assist conservation districts with water projects. The Missouri River CD Council and Yellowstone River CD Council currently have this specialist position.
 - Don Crawford asked where the funding comes from.
 - Elena responded DNRC as a 2 year full time employee. A hiring committee is being formed. If someone is interested in serving on the committee please let her know.
- g. DNRC Administrative Grant
 1. Computer Hard Drive
 2. MACD Convention
 - Staff explained 310 Administrative grant funds are available to conservation districts for assistance in office equipment, training costs and salaries. She noted we are in need of a new hard drive. The grant will pay for up to \$500.00 for computer equipment. The

local computer shop can provide us a refurbished or opened box but never used government hard drive for \$350.00 to \$475.00.

- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve LCD apply for a 310 Administrative Grant for the purchase of a new computer hard drive and reimbursement for travel expenses to the MACD Convention. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- a. Mill Levy Adjustment – Update
 - Staff reported to the Board Laurie Zeller supported the conclusion presented by Robin Benson regarding the 15% delinquency being omitted from our County Mill Levy Budget.
 - The Board was in agreement.
- b. Tobacco River Restoration 319 Grant – Update
 1. Phase 1; 319 Grant
 - a. Statement of Work (SOW) Due December 31, 2015
 - b. Request for Qualifications
 - c. Water Restoration Plan (WRP)
 2. Phase 2; Reclamation Planning Grant
 - a. RDGP Planning Grant/Writing Proposal – Due January 8, 2016
 - Staff reported Eric Trum has presented two options defining the Statement of Work. Dave Martin, Karl Kassler, Kirk Sullivan, Brian Ressel and herself will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the SOW, the Request of Qualification and the funding for Phase 2. Valene Goff stated she would like to attend as well.
 - Staff reported we can apply for a RDGP Planning Grant to fund John Muhlfeld to write the RDGP grant application to fund Phase 2.
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to apply for the RDGP Planning Grant to fund payment for John Muhlfeld to write the RDGP Grant for Phase 2 of the Tobacco River Restoration Project. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
- c. 2016 Annual Work Plan
 - No further corrections to the 2016 Annual Work plan were presented. **Motion** by Susan Ennenbach to approve the 2016 Annual Work Plan. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion Passed.**

Final Inspection Reports:

- a. Li-06-04-14, Plum Creek Timberlands, Tributary of Curian Creek – Closed

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b. Other 310 permit application closed included Li-06-01-15, Cooper, Silver Butte and Li-10-04-15, LaBelle, Bobtail Creek.

On Sites Needed:

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

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Dave martin presented the state wide Conservation District display and Area V display. They are available for conservation districts to check out to use at events.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Plum Creek Timberlands Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

