

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana  
February 15, 2017**

**Attendance:**

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Mike Justus; Darris Flanagan; Valene Goff

Associate Supervisor(s): Ernie Chacon; Kirk Sullivan

Advisor(s): Mike Hensler, MTFW&P

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM

**Called to order:** 4:07 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

**Public Comment:**

**Minutes:**

a. January 2017

- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the minutes of December 2016 as corrected; Page 3 under Li-01-02-17 – Hensler, Kootenai River, line 10 should read “Darris Flanagan *asked* if the landowner owns both sides of a stream, *would this* be a violation. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

a. January 2017

- Mike Justus reviewed the monthly financial report. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for January 2017. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- The District Conservationist position will not be filled at this time due to the Federal hiring freeze.
- NRCS is requesting larger office space. Office space options are being discussed with the Forest Service.
- The Soil Survey the LCD wrote a letter requesting is planned for this summer. The current survey was conducted in the 1980’s and focused on forest management with very little focus on agricultural land. New map units will be created. The survey will be available to the public on the NRCS website. A letter has been prepared for the supervisors to sign.
- EQIP ranking is going on now with 11 applications.
- Kirk Sullivan asked if 2018 applications are being taken.
- Brian Ressel responded “yes”.

### MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Several fishing derby's have been held recently; Bull Lake; Fisher River near the Thompson Chain of Lakes; McGregor Lake.
- Lincoln County has applied to begin Phase I restoration of Callahan Creek. The project will remove cobble that was pushed up against the channel side. A meeting will be held next week to discuss the project.
- The City of Libby and Lincoln County are both working on Flower Creek. The Governor declared a state of emergency in Lincoln County from the recent storms to allow the clearing of ice out of Flower Creek. Removal started yesterday. The officials feel they will have the ice removed by tomorrow.

### District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for January.
- There is one article in the Board Packet on the Alvord Family Forest.
- The 2017 NACD Poster Contest theme for this year will be "Healthy Soils are Full of Life". LCD winners need to be received at MACD no later than May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Monday is a holiday, President's Day.
- Valene Goff's appointment to the Board is up to be renewed. Valene agreed to serve another 3 year term. Staff will contact the Town of Rexford.

### Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

#### GLID Report

- No Report

#### 310's

#### Tabled 310's

##### Li-01-02-17 – Hensler, Kootenai River

- Wayne Maahs reported Don Crawford spoke with the landowner. The fence posts are to allow access for his horses and he will cooperate to remove the fence posts. This should be a violation.
- Mike Justus asked where do we draw the line; where can fence posts be placed.
- Wayne Maahs noted Don Crawford asked Mr. Jeseske to remove the posts as soon as the water lowers. What are we considering a violation and if it is a violation require him to remove the posts.
- Mike Hensler stated the issue is reconciled if he removes the posts. Mike recommended we send a letter to him having the posts removed before the next high water.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to declare C-01-02-17 not a violation of the 310 Law.  
**Second** by Mike Justus.

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- Mike Hensler asked, is it a violation?
- Kirk Sullivan stated, is it just the pounding of fence posts or degradation by livestock?
- Mike Justus stated this is not a violation, but send information on water gaps and Best Management Practices.
- Mike Hensler noted water gaps are not generally placed in areas of diverse water flow.
- **Motion passed.**
- Mike Justus asked staff to send a follow-up letter requesting the posts be pulled out and create water gaps for livestock.
- Wayne Maahs asked if a permit from DNRC is needed as the Kootenai River is a navigable waterway; low water mark
- Mike Hensler clarified the water mark is at 4000cfs.
- Wayne Maahs noted we (LCD) will need to change the Model Rules for jurisdiction between the high water and low water marks.

**New Business:**

- a. MACD 2017 Annual Dues
  - Staff noted this item was discussed at the January Meeting but was not on the agenda due to it was not received until the day of the meeting.
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to pay the 2017 MACD Dues. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- b. 2017 Montana Forest Landowner Conference Donation
  - Staff reported we have paid between \$100.00 and \$150.00 in the past.
  - Mike Justus noted we did not make a donation last year as we received the request too late.
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to make a \$100.00 donation to the 2017 Montana Forest Landowner Conference. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**
- c. Ordinance; Supervisor Areas
  - Staff explained due to the vacancy of an elected supervisor Don MacIntyre e-mailed the options the District can take to create Supervisor Areas. She also explained the newly appointed supervisor would fill the position until the next election.
  - The Board of Supervisors agreed to continue to operate as we do now and fill the vacancy by appointment of a person residing anywhere within the district boundaries.
- d. National Watershed Coalition Membership Application
  - No action

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Grant Update
  - i. Tobacco River – Kassler
    1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant.
      - Staff reported the RFP has been released and the RFP with attachments are on our website. Legal ads were placed in the tobacco Valley News, Western News and Daily Inter Lake. RFP's must be submitted by March 20<sup>th</sup> with the ranking meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions are due by February 21<sup>st</sup> with the responses posted on the website on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
      - Staff reported we are hoping for the best and additional funds can be found to implement the Tobacco River Project..
  - ii. GLID
  - iii. Mud Creek DEQ 319 Grant
    1. RRGL Watershed Management Grant Program – Final Design
      - Staff reported this grant can be used as matching funds for the 319 grant for the final design of Mud Creek. The current in-kind is cash by the landowner.
      - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to submit the RRGL Watershed Management Grant. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**
    2. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Service Unused Funds – Fish Barrier
      - Staff reported the Kootenai River Network has released an RFP for unused funds for the installation of a culvert. LCD could apply these funds to the Mud Creek fish barrier. The fish barrier was not included in the 319 grant application.
      - **Motion** by Valene Goff to submit a response to the Kootenai River Network Request for Proposals for unused funds from the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Service grant. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**
  - iv. 223 Stream Trailer
    - Staff reported due to the recent snow storm, she has not been able to get the three price quotes to repaint the trailer. She also noted other welding repairs may be needed.
    - Wayne Maahs responded we should have the funds to complete those repairs.
- b. C-01-01-17, Hintz, Kootenai River
  - Staff reviewed the most recent information regarding jurisdiction.
  - Darris Flanagan noted we should not be involved; the project is out of our jurisdiction.

- Wayne Maahs reported he spoke with the property owner and he is very cooperative. Wayne will look at the complaint after the snow melts.
- Staff noted the Board has the option to assist the County Commissioners in the 310 process.

**Final Inspection Reports:**

**On Sites Needed:**

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

- Mike Justus announced an insect and disease workshop will be held at the Murphy Lake Ranger Station.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

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Becky Lihme, District Administrator

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









