

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana  
February 17, 2016**

**Attendance:**

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Gary Neff; Frank Mitchum, Plum Creek Timberlands

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

**Public Comment:**

- Mr. Neff introduced himself as a candidate for Conservation District Supervisor.
- Darris Flanagan explained to Mr. Neff the boundaries of the District and Mr. Neff's residence is not outside of the 1944 city limits of Libby. The towns of Libby and Troy opted to not be included within the district.
- Staff explained she has been working with Leigh and Vicki at the Clerk and Records Office to confirm Mr. Neff's eligibility to run as a candidate. The District has obtained from D.N.R.C. a map showing the "historic" boundaries of the conservation district and the staff at the Planning Department is looking for a map from 1944. Mr. Neff was provided a copy of the D.N.R.C. map.
- Mr. Neff was invited to join the District as an Associate Supervisor. It was explained this position did not have voting privileges.
- Mr. Neff stated he has a natural resource background
- Mr. Neff was invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

**310 – Li-02-03-16 – Plum Creek Timberlands, Fisher River**

- Wayne Maahs described the bridge replacement project and location.
- Mr. Mitchum gave a brief description of the bridge structure itself.
- Wayne Maahs noted the Inspection Team recommended approving the project as presented and asked Mr. Mitchum the planned start date.
- Mr. Mitchum responded in May; during a dry period after high water.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-02-03-16 as presented. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

**Minutes:**

- a. January 2016
  - Don Crawford inquired about the statement made by Hannah Hernandez on page 5 regarding the staff wage increase.
  - Valene Goff responded Ms. Hernandez did comment during the staff wage increase discussion.

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- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the minutes of January 2016 as presented. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

- a. January 2016
  - Mike Justus reviewed the Financial report. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for January 2016. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- Pat Lauridson, Area Biologist and Jay Brooker are here. Mr. Lauridson will be helping with the NEPA program and Mr. Booker is here taking soil samples.
- Kirk Sullivan and Brian have developed a new “Pasture Spreadsheet” to help producers interested in high intensity grazing. The program will provide a pasture calculator.
- Brian Ressel will be acting District Conservationist for the Plains Field Office for the month of March.
- Darris Flanagan asked if we (LCD) will receive forestry funding this year.
- Brian Ressel explained he and Kirk need to be a little more aggressive when ranking projects. An applicant who includes weed spraying for example will rank higher. He cannot give a definite answer.

**MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler**

- No report.

**District Administrator’s Report**

- Volunteer hours were recorded for January.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- The information for the 2016 Envirothon has been sent out to districts via e-mail. Staff forwarded the information to Larry Benson at L.C.H.S.
- Susan Farmer from the Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam announced they received the National Park grant “Every Kid in a Park”. She has asked us to provide the stream trailer for demonstrations during this program.
- MPERA will be hosting training sessions for the new program. Staff registered for the training on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Kalispell.
- Staff e-mailed both Eastern Sanders CD and Green Mountain CD regarding the U.S.F.S. collaboration program. She hopes to invite a representative from either cd to attend our next Board Meeting.
- Staff noted DEQ is seeking comments to revise the Montana Stream Permitting Guide.

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- Karl Christians notified the conservation districts those who applied for 310 Administrative grants received full funding, with the exception of computers; computers were \$500.00 or 75% whichever is less. We should receive \$2,181.70 for the MACD Convention and we have received \$375.00 for the new computer.
- Petroleum CD is ordering ID badges if anyone is interested; Valene Goff, Don Crawford, Alfred Phillipy and Mark Romey. Badges are \$10.50 each.

**Planning Board Report – Mark Romey**

- Mark Romey sent a brief report via e-mail. Gary Mason was appointed to fill a vacancy representing Eureka.

**GLID Report**

- Valene Goff reported GLID is “waiting” on the weather.

**310's**

**LI-02-01-16 – O'Day/Hickman, 17 Mile Creek**

- Mike Justus reported he spoke with the applicant. The weather conditions were not cold enough and the project needs to wait.
- Don Crawford asked about the previous 310 permit application.
- Mike Justus explained the previous 310 permit was cancelled due to the contractor. Mike Justus recommended approval with modifications.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-02-01-16 with the following modifications; Skidding operations will be conducted during low stream flow. The preferred operational period is August 20, 2016 until October 1, 2016. Soils should be dry during the skidding operation. Prior to skidding the equipment must be pressure washed to remove oil and grease. Trees will be de-limbed and topped before they are skidded across the creek. Only the bare tree bole will be skidded across the creek. The skidder operator will take caution to not rut the streambed or banks. The butt-end of the logs will be suspended using a skidding arch when they are skidded through the stream channel and the Streamside Management Zone. Immediately after the skidding is completed a water bar will be installed in the skid road to prevent erosion from reaching the stream. The skid road will be grass seeded and mulched with straw to prevent sediment delivery to the stream.  
**Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

**Li-02-02-16 – Leisz, Lake Creek**

- Wayne Maahs reported on the project. The property owner wanted to use flat rock. The inspection team recommends angular rock and the location to tie in with the bank. Mr. Leisz wants to start immediately.

- Don Crawford repeated the “start immediately” and to waive the 15 day wait period. The stream is clear and he sees no issue to do the project now.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-02-02-16 with modifications; waive 15 day wait period. Rip rap will be 24” plus angular rock. Rip rap will be keyed into the streambed at least 1 foot below the depth of the scour pool adjacent to the site. If desired the finer soil at the top of the bank can be pulled before rip rap is installed. Afterwards can be spread over the top of the rip rap to facilitate revegetation. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Li-02-04-16 – Cuffe/Cordara, Sinclair Creek**

- Darris Flanagan reviewed the project.
- Mike Justus would like to schedule an on-site with the contractor.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to declare Li-02-04-16 a project but table until the March Board Meeting to conduct an on-site with the contractor. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Tabled 310's**

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

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

- Location is not accessible due to winter conditions.

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

- Wayne Maahs reported he met with Mr. Pattie. The embankment had been cut by the high water flow. The property owner stated he was losing property. Wayne Maahs notified him he will need to apply for a 310 permit to do any further work.
- Don Crawford noted one truck load of rock had been placed at an upper pad area.
- Darris Flanagan asked if we should approve this as an emergency.
- Don Crawford noted there will be no remediation needed; no harmful effects have occurred.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to accept the E-01-01-16 as an emergency action; no remediation is needed. Any further work will require an approved 310 permit. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

**New Business:**

**Mike Justus requested Item f. Callahan Creek, Emergency Action by Lincoln County be moved.**

f. Callahan Creek, Emergency Action by Lincoln County

- Wayne Maahs reported he has contacted Don MacIntyre, DNRC Attorney, to determine if we (LCD) have jurisdiction on this project. Mr. MacIntyre informed Wayne since the county initiated the project, it will be their project.
- Mike Justus asked even if it is on private land?
- Wayne Maahs responded “yes”. This section of Callahan Creek has been a perpetual problem area.

- Don Crawford noted an employee from USACE came up for a “fact finding” trip.
  - Darris Flanagan stated this requires no action from us (LCD).
  - Wayne Maahs agreed; it will be the USACE and EPA.
  - Don Crawford noted the county did a good job of reinforcing the county road; erosion had sluffed off to making the road almost impassable. There may be ramifications for property owners downstream.
- a. Kootenai River Network Stakeholders Meeting; March 10<sup>th</sup>
1. Lunch Reservation Due February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Staff reviewed the invitation. Lunch reservations are due tomorrow, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to attend are Darris Flanagan, Mike Justus, Don Crawford and Kirk Sullivan (Brain Ressel confirmed this).
- b. Lincoln County Credit Union
1. Signer, Alfred Phillipy
- Staff reported she contacted Lincoln County Credit Union to have Susan Ennenbach removed as a signer on the account and asked for a motion to add Alfred Phillipy.
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to add Alfred Phillipy as a signer on the Lincoln Conservation District account at Lincoln County Credit Union. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- c. SWCDM Water Quality Mini-Grant – February 29th
- Staff reviewed the information. The grant is for stream restoration projects and is for up to \$2,000.00. No action taken.
- d. National Watershed Coalition Membership
- Staff reported we received the dues invoice for the National Watershed Coalition Membership. No action taken.
- e. Desktop Printer Scanner
- Staff informed the Board the HP printer is failing and will need replacement in the near future. Copies are not printing correctly. The “head cleaner” has been completed but did not resolve the problem. The printer is primarily used to print letterhead and scan 310 permits.
- f. Callahan Creek, Emergency Action by Lincoln County – Item moved.
- g. State of Montana Per Diem for Meals
- Staff reviewed the State Per Diem Rules for Travel pertaining to meals that had been obtained from the state website.
  - Darris Flanagan stated we (LCD) need to determine when supervisors receive per diem. The document staff read was for employees. Darris personally prefers to provide per diem for meals on overnight travel only.
  - Don Crawford agreed, he is okay with no meal during the day.
  - Mike Justus commented to go with the rules as written.
  - Laura Jungst agreed with Mike Justus.

- **Motion** by Mike Justus to follow the state rules as written for employees to include District Supervisors. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- h. Election – Nomination for Candidacy
1. Town of Libby Candidate
    - This item was discussed previously under “Public Comment”.
    - Mr. Neff added he would like to serve as an Associate Supervisor. He also explained he will be having medical surgeries that will prevent him from serving until November.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Tobacco River Restoration 319 Grant – Update
  1. Phase 1; 319 Grant
    - No report
  2. Phase 2; Reclamation Planning Grant
    - Staff presented the Task Order between River Design Group and LCD to prepare the 2016 Reclamation and Development Grant for Phase II for approval with a sample Attachment (Cost Proposal).
    - **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the Task Order between River Design Group and LCD to prepare the 2016 Reclamation and Development Grant for Phase II of the Tobacco River Restoration. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- b. 223 Grant Update
  1. Mud Creek
    - Staff reported the RFQ’s will be mailed the end of February with the on-site scheduled in early March.
  2. GLID
    - Staff reported the grant presentation will be on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from GLID will be in attendance to make a 5 minute presentation.
  3. Yaak Valley Forest Council – No report
- c. Winter Grazing Seminar – Report
  1. Pat Flanagan
    - Staff reported Pat Flanagan also attended the seminar and asked if the Board would approve paying for his registration and accommodations.
    - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve paying for Mr. Flanagan’s registration fee and accommodations. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**

**Final Inspection Reports:**

**On Sites Needed:**

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

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

- Mike Justus reported the Western States Grant has implemented funds be transferred from the Yaak drainage project over to the Alford Lake Community Forest project. The funding has 18 months to be used.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Plum Creek Timberlands (Weyerhaeuser) Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

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

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









