

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana
March 8, 2017**

Attendance:

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

Associate Supervisor(s): Ernie Chacon

Advisor(s): Mike Hensler, MTFW&P; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM

Called to order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. February 2017

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of February 2017 as corrected; Page 2 Jeseske should be spelled Jeresek. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. February 2017

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

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Staff reported Brian Ressel is looking for assistance with the soil survey. Staff is not available due to current grant applications and upcoming time off. Valene Goff volunteered.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- MTFW&P staff are electro-fishing on the Kootenai River.
- Lincoln County has submitted a plan for Flower Creek to the EPA. The plan is anticipated to be approved. MEPA has a fifty (50) day comment period that will close on March 15th. MTFW&P wants the removal of the gravel before run-off.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for February.
- News articles are in the Board Packet.
- An Administrator's Training will be held June 15th and 16th in Helena.
- Lake County is interested in holding a stockmanship and livestock handling workshop the week of September 18th.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 8, 2017
Page 2

- The copier is in need of maintenance. Staff was directed to determine if the cost of repair will be more than the cost of a new unit.
- Staff asked the Board if they would prefer to hold the Special Meeting on the Permissive Medical Mill Levy in April or May. April was selected.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark Romey reported he had no report. The Planning Board will not meet for “awhile”.

GLID Report

- No Report

Staff will add SWCDM to the agenda

310's

Li-02-01-17 – Magnolia Properties, Ksanka Creek

- Ernie Chacon reported the landowner and the engineer met with Mike Justus and him at the project site. The project is an underground bore with a pipe within a larger diameter sleeve; concrete will be placed at the both ends. The bore will be placed under a culvert. There will be little disturbance.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-02-01-17 as presented; 15 day wait period waived. **Second** by Ernie Chacon. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

New Business:

- a. Appointment of Ernie Chacon as Supervisor
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to appoint Ernie Chacon as Lincoln Conservation District Supervisor. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- b. Oath of Office; Ernie Chacon
 - Sheriff Robbie Bowe presided over the swearing in of Ernie Chacon.
- c. Clark Fork WRP, Thompson River Drainage
 - Samantha Tappenbeck reported the Clark Fork Watershed Group is the lead in creating a Watershed Restoration Plan planned to be completed by the end of this year. A small section of the proposed WRP is within Lincoln County. Brita Olson from the watershed group would like the project to be all-inclusive and invite LCD to participate in the process. Samantha has agreed to be the liaison between the LCD Board and the watershed group.

- Mike Hensler identified the area within Lincoln County as Thompson Creek and several creeks flow into the Thompson Watershed.
 - Wayne Maahs asked Samantha to please keep us (LCD) in the loop.
 - Mike Hensler noted the Thompson Chain of Lakes Homeowners Association is another group who may be interested.
 - Samantha clarified the focus will be on streams.
- d. AIS Inspection Station, FW&P
- Staff explained she received telephone calls from Laurie Zeller and Stephanie Hester regarding the boat inspection stations. FW&P is seeking conservation districts to take over the boat inspection stations. The conservation district would be responsible for overseeing staffing and equipment. A grant was offered (due March 1) to cover the costs incurred by the conservation district. A 20% administrative fee is paid to the conservation district. Costs to implement the project vary between \$15,000 and \$100,000. There are two inspection stations in Lincoln County; Troy and Eureka. Staff noted due to the two (2) 319 grant restoration projects upcoming this summer she would not be able to commit the time to the project. However, she did offer to assist in “getting the word out” to the community for potential staff. Stephanie Hester will send a representative to our April meeting to review the project in more detail.
- e. Yaak Valley Forest Council Natural Resource Camp Registration Sponsorship
- Staff explained the Yaak Valley Forest Council is asking for our assistance to sponsor two (2) youths to the 2017 Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp. Last year we sponsored two students at \$250.00 each. This year the Yaak Valley Forest Council is asking for \$650.00; one (1) student at \$300.00 and a second student at \$350.00 to attend the Conservation Leadership School.
 - The Board asked what our budget is for Education.
 - Staff responded \$1000.00 is budgeted. We still have the Envirothon teams to consider.
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to fund Yaak Valley Forest Council up to \$650.00 for the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp. **Second** by Darris Flanagan.
 - Don Crawford noted we (LCD) will exceed our budget by \$50.00.
 - **Motion passed.**
 - The Board has asked the two camp attendees to join us at a meeting following the camp to describe their experience.
- f. Yaak Valley Forest Council DNRC Watershed Management Grant
- No action

- g. 2017 Envirothon Team(s) Sponsorship
 - Staff explained Larry Benson will be unable to chaperone the team(s) this year due to his commitment to the high school prom. Kirk Sullivan has agreed to help out.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to sponsor two (2) teams to attend the 2017 Envirothon at \$100.00 each. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- h. Stream Trailer Goodie Bags
 - Staff explained we received 150 pollinator packets to distribute in this year's goodie bags, however, we will need to supplement with other items.
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve \$100.00 to purchase items for the stream trailer goodie bags. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- i. New Telephone; Speaker Setting
 - Staff reported the District telephone does not have a speaker setting to allow for two (2) or more people to participate in a conference call. She has used the Forest Service telephone when the call has been a toll free number. The 2018 DNRC Administrative Grant application is now available.
 - Motion by Darris Flanagan to apply for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 DNRC Administrative Grant to purchase a new telephone with speaker capabilities. If the grant is not available, then staff can purchase the telephone. **Second** by Ernie Chacon. **Motion passed.**
- j. Eighth annual Forest Land Owner Conference; Friday, April 21; Helena
 - No interest
- k. Society of American Foresters Convention Donation
 - Wayne Maahs reported he received a telephone call from Laurie Woods seeking a donation from the conservation district to sponsor the coffee break at the convention in Missoula. He suggested Ms. Woods ask conservation districts as a group. Wayne stated he asked for a follow-up to the conversation and did not receive it.
 - Mike Justus noted this does not benefit our private landowners in Lincoln County.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update
 - i. Tobacco River – Kassler
 - 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant.
 - Staff reported the RFP responses are due on March 20th with the ranking meeting on March 27th.

2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
 - Staff reported we should receive notification in mid-April on whether the project is funded.
- ii. GLID
- iii. Mud Creek DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff reported we have applied for three (3) grants to supplement the 319 grant to create a fish barrier, information sign and final design.
- iv. 223 Stream Trailer
 - Staff presented the two (2) price quotes we received for the preparation, re-paint, access door welding and step replacement from Butts Auto Body and A & J Customs; the third auto body company declined due to their current volume of work.
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to award the project to Butts Auto Body. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

Final Inspection Reports:

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Darris Flanagan reported we can expect to receive emergency action or 310 permit applications on Grave Creek due to the high flow and possible ice jams.
- Staff was asked to submit the annual spring advertisements to the newspapers for print next week.
- Wayne Maahs reported the original town limits of Troy are distinctly beyond the location of the complaint we received from Mr. Heintz, however, he will follow through.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

