

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser, Libby, Montana
July 20, 2016**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Mark Romey; Wayne Maahs; Alfred Philly (via teleconference)

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS; Mike Hensler, MtFW&P

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Ernie Chacon; Elena Evans, MACD; Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM; Stacy Thronbrugh, USFS

Called to order: 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. June Minutes

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the Minutes of June 2016 as presented. **Second** by Alfred Phillipy. **Motion passed.**

b. Public Hearing, Permissive Medical Mill Levy - June 2016

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing, Permissive Medical Mill Levy, June 2016 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. June 2016

- Staff noted we were charged for a check not written from our account. We have an e-mail from Lincoln County Credit Union confirming the funds will be credited to our account.
- **Motion** by Mark Romey to approve the Financial Report for June 2016. **Second** Alfred Phillipy. **Motion passed.**

b. FY 2015/16 Final Report

- Staff noted on the Final Profit and Loss Statement for 2015/16 we have a negative. This is due to outstanding reimbursements for grant payments.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Final Report. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

310 Permit applications are moved due to the teleconference quorum

310's

Li-07-01-16 – Hume, Deep Creek

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- Darris Flanagan reported he and Mike Justus conducted the on-site. The team members recommended to waive the fifteen (15) day wait period; the applicant can use either concrete or eco-blocks; the applicant will be allowed four (4) crossings at the ford up stream.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-07-01-16 as recommended by the on-site team; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period; the applicant can use either concrete or eco-blocks; the applicant will be allowed four (4) crossings at the ford up stream. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

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

- Mike Hensler asked about the two (2) 310 permits received for the mitigation of the violation.
- Wayne Maahs explained Li-08-01-16 is for the repair of the violation and Li-08-02-16 is for a separate project requested by the inspection team.
- Wayne Maahs commented on the article in the Western News about the project area access road.
- Mike Hensler explained there are three bridges that serve the residents; two of those bridges will be replaced next year.

Li-06-01-16 – Parker, Big Cherry Creek

- The required Special Use Permit from the Forest Service has been received.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-06-01-16 as presented; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Mark Romey.
- Mike Hensler noted this is a bull trout stream.
- Mr. Deshazer replied the stream is dry.
- **Motion passed.**

C-06-02-16 – Richards/Frontier, Crowell Creek

- Wayne Maahs conducted the on-site and reported the power box is within a scoured section of the creek.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to declare C-06-02-16 a violation. Staff to send the standard letter notifying of the violation.
- **Second** by Alfred Phillipy
- Mark Romey asked on the location of Crowell Creek.
- Wayne Maahs responded it is in the Cabinet Mountains, Highway 56, near Bull Lake.
- **Motion passed.**

New Business, Item a. and b.

- a. Elena Evans and Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM/MACD

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- Elena Evens updated on MACD and introduced Samantha Tappenbeck, Area Resource Specialist. Samantha will be available to assist conservation districts in western Montana, primarily those districts who are underserved. She will assist in technical resource issues for landowners and stakeholders.

Unfinished Business, Item a.

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S., Stacy Thronbrugh
 - Stacy Thronbrugh spoke on behalf of Nathan Gassman, Libby District Ranger.
 - Mark Romey asked if the USFS wants LCD to be a sub-contractor.
 - Ms. Thronbrugh responded no. The Libby District would like collaborate with LCD on projects within Libby District.
 - Staff clarified and asked if the Forest Service wanted LCD to provide the bidding and payment processing for projects; act as a money pass through. A grant project would have a 10% administrative fee charged.
 - Ms. Thronbrugh noted agreements would be selected project by project. Most agreements are collaborative; no fee is charged.
 - Mike Hensler noted if this is a pass through, make them (USFS) do all the contracting work.
 - Wayne Maahs asked if this program was “skirting” Davis Bacon laws.
 - Ms. Thronbrugh responded no; the Davis Bacon must still be followed.
 - Mike Hensler suggested the District Ranger present a project that has been completed to provide an example.
 - Staff recommended the District Ranger bring an actual project the Forest Service would like to have LCD collaborate on.
 - Ms. Thronbrugh will present the Board’s questions to the District Ranger for him to discuss at the LCD August Board Meeting.

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian Ressel will be attending the Lincoln County FireSafe Meeting in Libby.
- There are two job announcements for NRCS; Missoula Area Pasture Management Specialist and Assistant State Conservationist for the Missoula Area.
- Thinning project activity is starting.
- Knapweed Weevils will be picked at the Biological Control site north of Eureka.
- The pivot installation is completed at the Parrish property.

MTFWP Report – Mike Hensler

- The annual BMP Audit started this month. Every year the projects are improving.
- Ernie Chacon asked Mike Hensler to explain the program.

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- For profit logging projects are audited for following best management practices. The program is administered by DNRC.
- Lincoln County has a conference scheduled to meet with a consultant for the Callahan Creek mitigation.
- MtFW&P may be sending out notice letters to junior water rights holders for water conservation along Young Creek and the Tobacco River due to low water flow.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for June.
- There is one news article in the Board Packets.
- We received one (l) letter; the Corps of Engineers regarding Callahan Creek.
- A knapweed workshop is to be held in Eureka on August 8th. The flier is in the Board Packet.
- A letter from the USFS is in the Board Packet regarding the new policy for the landowner signature on the 310 permits. The Forest Service will now attach a written letter confirming landowner approval.
- SWCDM has Mini Grants for education and outreach available for up to \$2,000.00.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark was unable to attend the Planning Board Meeting. No report

GLID Report

- No report.

New Business:

- a. Elena Evans and Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM/MACD
Item moved
- b. Big Sky Watershed Corps – Americorps Member Host
 - Staff reviewed the information in the Board Packet. Kootenai River Network was also asked to sponsor an intern, however, the timeline was too short so they declined.
 - Elena Evens clarified the cost of \$10,000 and noted these are college graduates looking for internships/careers in natural resources.
- c. DNRC Supervisor Survey – Due July 25th
 - Wayne Maahs reported he has completed the survey. Alfred Phillipy asked the survey to be re-sent to him.
- d. SWCDM/MACD
 1. Bylaws Review – Suggested Edits Due September 1, 2016
 2. Nominations for SWCDM Board – September 1, 2016 Deadline
 3. MACD Resolutions – September 1, 2016 Deadline

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- Elena Evens reported the purpose of the notification is to keep everyone on the same page. The information helps districts prepare resolutions and process them through. The current by-laws are in the process of being updated.
- e. Area V Meeting, September 27th, St. Regis
 - Staff reviewed the enclosed flier.
- f. USACOE – Callahan Creek, Notice of Preparation
 - Discussed earlier

Unfinished Business:

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S., Stacy Thronbrugh
 - Item discussed earlier.
- b. Grant Update.
 1. Tobacco River - Kassler
 - A. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant – Land Owner Agreement
 - Staff met with Eric Trum to review the contract.
 - B. Phase 2 - DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
 2. 223 GLID – No update
 3. 223 Mud Creek
 - A. Conceptual Design – River Design Group
 - B. DEQ 319 Grant – Final Application
 - Staff reported the Preliminary application has been completed with the technical assistance of Kirk Sullivan and Eric Trum. DNRC has funds available from the Technical Assistance Program to hire a grant writer to prepare the 319 Final Application. John Muhlfeld will write the application for under \$4,000.00. Staff will request the funding.
 4. 223 Yaak River Assessment – No update

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-05-01-16 – Byers, Griffin Creek

Li-02-02-15 – Leisz, Lake Creek – No report

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

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The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

