

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
September 20, 2017**

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, N.R.C.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Robin Benson, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder; Kate Arpin, SWCDM; Barry Roose; Dan Williams; Corbin Dub, Stimson Lumber

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

Public Comment:

New Business, Item A Moved – Oath of Office

- County Clerk and Recorder, Robin Benson presided over the swearing in of Valene Goff.

310's – Moved

Li-09-01-17 – Stimson Lumber, Smearl Creek

- Wayne Maahs reviewed the project. The project location has had a 24 inch culvert since the early 1990's. It has since washed out. The proposal is to replace with a 48 inch (same length) culvert. The inspection was held on Monday. The only issue was the original improper bedding caused the failure. The inspection team recommends to approve making certain the gradient is brought down and to armor the inlet to dissipate the water flow. The second concern; is the 48 inch culvert adequate? The applicant re-calculated the culvert size. The calculation indicated a 40 inch culvert size However, Stimson will install the 48 inch.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve Li-09-01-17 as presented; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business, Item iii Mud Creek 1. DEQ 319 Grant A. Channel Realignment Moved

- Darris Flanagan explained River Design Group initially presented to the landowner, Barry Roose a site plan showing the stream channel further north than presented in the conceptual design. John Muhlfeld e-mailed the initial site plan is 25 feet longer and will cost an estimated \$5,000 to \$10,000 over the 319 grant funds. Darris is asking the Board to approve to move forward with the project as long as the landowner covers the additional costs.

- Staff reported after being awarded the 319 grant, Barry Roose, Darris Flanagan, and staff met with John Muhlfeld and Gary Decker regarding the realignment. The realignment could be addressed during the final design. When staff began the RFP (Request for Proposals) she asked Dave Martin for assistance. It was unclear on how to develop the RFP with two possible channel options. Now we have a cost estimate and Barry is willing to pay the additional cost.
- Barry Roose described the two site plans and possible variations. It is possible for the final design to have the channel between the two preliminary locations. Barry recommended a primary and secondary design.
- Mike Hensler asked about the riparian and floodplain design based on the alternate channel location.
- Staff noted the riparian and floodplain areas will be included in the design and construction.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to allow the Mud Creek final design to be based on either the final conceptual design or the alternate site plan presented by River Design Group for the Request for Proposal. Any cost over-run for the alternate to be paid by the landowner. **Second** by Valene Goff.
- Mike Hensler inquired about the proposed fish barrier. Its construction will change the dynamic of the current conceptual.
- Staff explained Gary Decker from River Design Group prepared the design and installation for the grant and took the proposed conceptual design into consideration.

310's – Moved

Li-09-02-17 – Williams, Iron Creek

- Dan Williams described his project to create a temporary crossing for a logging project. This is a dry creek bed with a four (4) foot embankment. He would like to fill the channel with logs to cross for logging then, remove the logs.
- Mike Justus stated Mr. Williams could “get away” with no logs due to the hard surface.
- Mike Hensler asked the time/duration of the project.
- Mr. Williams replied one (1) week.
- Mike Hensler noted his concern with our current rain and monsoonal whether.
- Mike Justus recommended to construct a log water bar, mulch the disturbed areas and seed for good erosion control afterwards.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to construct log water bar, mulch the disturbed areas and seed for erosion control; waive fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Ernie Chacon. **Motion passed.**

Minutes:

- a. August 2017
 - Mike Justus noted under Open Mic, page 7 should read; SMZ not SMT.
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the minutes of August 2017 as corrected; SMZ not SMT under Open Mic, page 7. Don Crawford excused absence. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- b. Local Work Group 2017
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of the Local Work Group Meeting 2017. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. August 2017
 - Mike Justus reviewed the monthly financial report. The Miscellaneous Income reported is from the District Administrator's Seminar scholarship and a refund for an overpayment for checks. **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the Financial Report for August 2017. **Second** Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- The NRCS Soil Survey is finishing up this week. The survey data will be available next fall. The LCD can designate soil areas that are locally important.
- NRCS is offering a special initiative for wild fire victims for tree seedlings and seeds.
- Brian is working with Samantha Tappenbeck on the Ranching for Rivers program.
- Angela Wells from DNRC is advocating for the Joint Chiefs program for the Flower Creek drainage in Libby. The application is due by October 17th.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Mike Hensler reported on the letter received regarding Mr. Welch. This project will "circle" back to the conservation district. The county will not do the work, Mr. Welch will. Mr. Welch wants to sell the rock.
- Flathead Conservation District approved a project (home) on an island within Flathead River. Fish, Wildlife & Parks has requested arbitration. Mike does not know of anyone who has gone through arbitration requested by Fish Wildlife & Parks. This could set a precedent. The project still must go through the CORP and Floodplain permitting processes.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- A letter was received from the CORP approving pond construction for Tim Ursich. We had received a complaint on the project two (2) years ago.
- Our exhibit booth at the Lincoln County Fair received a third place ribbon.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana

September 20, 2017

Page 4

- A flier was sent out inviting the Conservation District Areas to host a new supervisor training. Staff spoke with Valerie from Flathead CD. Flathead CD will most likely host the training.
- The office will be closed next Tuesday for the Area V Meeting in Missoula. Staff will leave early on Monday to adjust her work schedule.
- Staff will be leaving tomorrow, Thursday early to adjust for today's Board Meeting.
- The organizers of the E.O. Banquet at the convention are seeking photos of supervisors participating in sports activities to use as table centerpieces.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark reported the Planning Board met yesterday. The Bear Valley RV expansion was recommended for approval with constraints to the commissioners; 1.) Project to be completed in phases; 2.) Comply with the Lincoln County Fire District Fire and Wildland Protection Plan. This is a seasonal campground; the water is shut off during winter months.

GLID Report – Valene Goff

- Valene reported GLID is close to turning off the diversion; typically the end of September.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

- Wayne Maahs reported he provided a comment to the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan Draft. The draft included McGinnis Creek which flows in Lincoln County.

310's

Li-09-03-17 – Stoken, Grave Creek

- Darris Flanagan described the property owners along Grave Creek are suffering with anchor ice since a dam was constructed upstream. Mr. Stoken would like to remove twenty (20) rocks from the stream channel.
- Mike Hensler would like to meet with Mr. Stoken. No "up-wellings" will cause colder water. This area has been an area of anchor ice for a long time.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to table Li-09-03-17 for an on-site with FW&P, Mike Hensler. Second by Valene Goff. **Motion passed**; one "no" vote from Darris Flanagan.

Li-09-04-17 – Weyerhaeuser Company, Brush and Percolet Creeks

- It was noted this creek should be called Brush Creek. Percolet is Pecolet Creek.
- Wayne Maahs reported the project is to remove old J. Neils and pull two (2) larch logs and replace with a 48 inch high by 6.5 foot long squash culvert. Weyerhaeuser has a program they use to determine culvert size. This culvert is larger than recommended.

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-09-04-17 as presented; waive fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Li-09-05-17 – Idaho Forest Group/Volk, Clay Creek

- Discussion covered the sizes of the intended culverts for the project.
 - Wayne Maahs explained the project includes four (4) crossings over a two year period:
 - Crossing #1 - Permanent 36 inch culvert.
 - Crossing #2 - Intermittent tributary of Clay Creek and not under our jurisdiction.
 - Crossing #3 - Temporary 12 inch culvert crossing a wetland area. Road base to be constructed with logs.
 - Crossing #4 - Temporary 36" culvert relocated 50 feet downstream of proposed location.
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-09-05-17 with the following modifications and stipulations:
 - Crossing #1 – A permanent 36" culvert will be installed
 - Crossing #2 – Determined to be intermittent and not under the LCD jurisdiction.
 - Crossing #3 – A temporary 12" culvert is to be installed. Road base to be constructed using logs.
 - Crossing #4 – A temporary 36" culvert is to be installed. Crossing to be moved downstream 50 feet from the original design.
- The temporary crossings #3 and #4 are to be removed by September 2019.

Second by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Li-09-06-17 – Blackburn/Roadman, Kootenai River

- Don Crawford reported the project is to install stone steps is located on a fairly steep bank. The steps will be terraced back.
- Mike Justus noted the CFS will limit how far into the embankment the steps can be placed.
- Don Crawford noted the stone steps will have minimal impact.
- Mike Hensler added the problem they may face is as water flow increases the rocks may tumble.
- Don Crawford noted the rocks are large flat slabs four (4) feet wide by eight (8) inches in depth and are available on site.
- Wayne Maahs added at the on-site, it was discussed with the applicant the slabs must be stable.
- Mike Hensler noted the applicant must seed the disturbed area; use cloth while vegetation is growing back.
- Don Crawford noted the location is heavily vegetated now.
- Mike Hensler clarified it is the vegetation he is cutting out that is the area of concern. The cloth will ensure stability.

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-09-06-17 with minimal brush removal and to stipulate to use fabric until the vegetation is secure. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- Mike Hensler added to be certain the lowest step is secure from erosion.

Li-09-07-17- Weyerhaeuser Company, Deer Creek

- Wayne Maahs described the channel movement within Deer Creek. The applicant proposes to build a “plug” to direct the water flow back into the original channel. The inspection team recommends to approve the application as presented.
- Mike Hensler agreed this is a good project.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve Li-09-07-17 as presented; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

Li-08-05-17 – Welch, Callahan Creek

- Wayne Maahs read the letter dated August 17th requesting a design for the proposed head gate. We did not receive the design by the due date of September 13th.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to deny Li-08-05-17. The head gate design was not received by the due date. **Second** by Ernie Chacon. **Motion passed.**
- Mike Hensler described Mr. Welch's plan however, Mr. Welch has not gone any further.

New Business:

- a. Oath of Office, Valene Goff – Item moved.
- b. Supervisor Summit, October 31st – November 1st
 - Staff noted the MACD Convention is only two (2) weeks from the Supervisor Summit and Flathead may host a new supervisors training. It may be best to send interested supervisors to the convention and training in lieu of the summit.
- c. MACD Convention
 - Staff reported four (4) rooms have been reserved for the November 14th through 17th convention.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update
 - i. Tobacco River – Kessler
 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant

- Staff reported River Design Group is working on the final design for Phase I and II. John Muhlfeld will have the quarterly report to us in two (2) weeks.
- 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
- ii. GLID
 - GLID staff is waiting for Steve Curtiss to return from fire duty to assist with the final report.
- iii. Mud Creek DEQ
 - 1. 319 Grant
 - Reported on earlier.
 - 2. KRN / USF&WS Partners for Fish Wildlife Program
 - Cindy Hemry should be starting the archeological survey in October.
 - 3. Watershed Management Grant
- b. Clark Fork WRP, Thompson River Drainage – Reported under SWCDM report.
- c. Welch, Callahan Creek – Reported under 310 permit application.

Final Inspection Reports:

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Mark Romey noted to those present to not be afraid to ask him to repeat his comments. He will begin to speak louder.
- Darris Flanagan noted the deadline to submit the District Administrator of the Year nomination was missed.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

