

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
US. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
December 21, 2016**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Don Crawford, Vice-Chairperson; Valene Goff; Mark Romey

Associate Supervisor(s): Ernie Chacon; Kirk Sullivan

Advisor(s):

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Dave Martin, D.N.R.C.; Karl Kassler

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

New Business, Item b. Kassler/Bushfield Irrigation Access, Tobacco River

- Mr. Kassler reviewed the proposed irrigation project to the Board and distributed an aerial photo and diagram of the irrigation pump system. The project will change the points of diversion for both landowners, corresponding with the restoration on the Tobacco River. The point of diversion for Mr. Bushfield will be 190 feet from the proposed river channel; Mr. Kassler will be 134 feet. Both ranchers are “running” cattle and grazing. Mr. Kassler is attending the meeting this evening to learn the process for permitting and to receive feedback on the proposed design. The project will create an in-flow channel (infiltration trenching) rather than move the diversion.
- Don Crawford inquired if the work will be completed prior to the restoration project and will you (Mr. Kassler) be in the channel.
- Mr. Kassler responded on Jim Bushfield’s property, “yes” on his “no”.
- Darris Flanagan commented we (LCD Board) are not engineers. We rely on them for specifications.
- Don Crawford added we (LCD) would only have jurisdiction within the stream bank; the pipe only.
- Darris Flanagan agreed, adding we (LCD) won’t have a lot of input, however, other jurisdictions will.
- Kirk Sullivan noted one permit application can be used for all the agencies.
- Don Crawford asked if the new irrigation system would be done concurrently with the river restoration project.
- Karl Kassler responded his will be done concurrently, Jim Bushfield’s will be done now.
- Darris Flanagan asked if John Mulhfield will work with the project.
- Mr. Kassler responded “yes”. The water rights are in order and the electricity is in place.
- Kirk Sullivan noted Mr. Kassler will need to contact the Floodplain Coordinator, Corps of Engineers and DNRC for permits.
- Karl Kassler thanked the Board and he will get “things lined up”.

Public Comment

- Dave Martin announced Wayne Maahs received Honorable Mention for Supervisor of the Year at the MACD Convention.

Minutes:

- a. November Minutes
 - **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the Minutes of November 2016 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. November 2016
 - **Motion** by Valene to approve the Financial Report for November 2016. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian Ressel noted this is his “Annual Report Card” and reviewed the projects completed in 2016.
- The selection process for the District Conservationist position is underway. Applications have closed.
- Brian will be out of the office for the new baby soon. Angel Rosario will fill in while he is gone.

MTFWP Report – Mike Hensler

- No report

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for November.
- Newspaper articles are in the Board Packets.
- The following people want to attend the Grazing Conference in February: Ernie Chacon, Valene Goff, Kirk Sullivan; Karl Kassler.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 2017.

GLID Report – Valene Goff

- No report

310’s

Tabled 310’s

New Business:

- a. 2017 Annual Work Plan – Draft
 - Staff reviewed the comments received from Mike Hensler.
 1. I. District Operation: A. Administration of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310) Law; 3. Change to read*especially sensitive projects*, including bridge and culvert.....
 2. II. Conservation Priorities and District Activities: A. Water Quality and Quantity; 8. Changespread *to* Montana waters to spread *in* Montana waters.....
 3. II. Conservation Priorities and District Activities: C. Dryland Farming, Grazing lands and Small Acreage Management; 6. Add*including shelter belt construction*.....
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the 2017 Annual Work Plan with recommended changes by Mike Hensler. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
 - Don Crawford asked about the urban tree guide. Staff noted we have not heard from the DNRC State Forestry regarding the draft submitted. Mike Justus may have more information.
- b. Kassler/Bushfield Irrigation Access, Tobacco River – Moved earlier in meeting
- c. Staff Time Off:
 - Holiday – Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd
 - Annual Leave – Tuesday, January 3rd
- d. Letter(s) to State Representative(s)
 - Staff noted a sample letter is in the Board Packet. MACD generally recommends CD's write their representatives after a general election describing their role and projects.
 - Darris Flanagan noted we currently have a good relationship with our representatives and a letter is not needed.
 - Dave Martin commented we have current restoration projects that would be of interest to our representatives, particularly for future funding. Mr. Martin recommended we write and follow up with a telephone call. Note in the letter and telephone conversation the Tobacco River Restoration Project is a one million dollar project and was ranked 8th with the top seven (7) funded.
 - Darris Flanagan stated he and staff will write letter(s).
- e. MACD Legislative Meet and Greet; Tuesday, January 24th
 - Flier is in the Board Packet

- f. 223 Grant – Rolling Rivers Stream Trailer
 - Staff reported we received the 223 Grant to re-paint the stream trailer and create an access door for the water valves. The panel felt the price quote We (LCD) obtained was a little high, so they are asking for 3 price quotes.
- g. Noxious Weed List Administrative Rule Change
 - Staff noted the rule change is in the Board Packet.
- h. Resignation of Alfred Phillipy
 - Darris Flanagan reported Mr. Phillipy has submitted his resignation due to his travel commitments.
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to accept the resignation of Alfred Phillipy. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update.
 - 1. Tobacco River - Kassler
 - A. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Dave Martin reviewed the RFP process and our current status.
 - Staff announced the ranking panel; Kirk Sullivan, Kenny Kindel and Karl Kassler are confirmed. Staff will check with Pat Price and Laura Jungst to see if they are available. Dave Martin will attend as an observer.
 - B. Phase 2 - DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
 - Dave Martin explained the RDGP process and the legislative process for funding.
 - Don Crawford asked if both Phase I and Phase II must be done together.
 - Dave Martin explained “no”; they can be done separately.
 - 2. 223 GLID
 - 3. Mud Creek - DEQ 319 Grant
- b. Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S. Advisor Update
 - Staff reported Laura Jungst will be able to serve as an advisor, however, she will only be available to attend the Libby the meetings.
 - Kirk Sullivan recommended Pat Price as an advisor for the U.S.F.S. Eureka Office.

Final Inspection Reports:

On Sites Needed:

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Open Mic and Other Business:

- Brian Ressel reported on the ice jam located on Grave Creek at the Stoken property.
- Darris Flanagan noted Grave Creek is 4 to 5 feet higher than normal.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

