

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
December 20, 2017**

Attendance:

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

Absent: Mike Justus

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS District Conservationist

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s):

Called to order: 4:06 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. November 2017

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of November 2017 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. November 2017

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the November Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

New Business, Item e. DNRC Fire Mitigation EC Grant Funds

- Brian Ressel reported on the progress of the applications received so far; eight (8) from the Caribou Fire; three (3) from the West Fork Fire and four (4) from the Gibraltar Fire. The fire damage sustained from the Gibraltar Fire stems from mostly the back burn created by the U.S. Forest Service fire crews. There is no canopy burn or scorch. The vegetation will come back on its own. This was a low intensity area.
- Darris Flanagan commented we (LCD) are handicapping ourselves with the Gibraltar Fire.
- Brian Ressel commented the back burn from the Gibraltar Fire that affected private landowners does not need to be seeded.
- Wayne Maahs noted with Brian's technical expertise we (LCD) could eliminate two possible projects.
- Darris Flanagan clarified the Gallagher property did burn further than the back burn area.
- Brian Ressel noted he needs to visit two (2) applicants.
- Darris Flanagan stated to keep the Gallagher application as a project.

- Motion by Darris Flanagan to apply for the DNRC Fire Mitigation EC Grant Funds for the recommended seed mixture type and amount by Brian Ressel. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Reported on under New Business on the agenda.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- Staff reminded the Board of her upcoming time off.
- The mileage reimbursement rate for 2018 will be .545 cents.
- Wayne Maahs and Mark Romey will be up for re-election this next year.
- We received correspondence from Social Security Administration for our Section 218 Agreement and a Public Notice from DEQ.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark Romey reported the Planning Board did not meet.

GLID Report – Valene Goff

- No report.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

- Report is in the Board Packets.

310’s

Li-12-01-17 – York/RDG, Tobacco River

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to declare Li-12-01-17 a project; table for an on-site. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Li-12-02-17 – Hand, Kootenai River

- Wayne Maahs reviewed the project. A portion has been completed. The project is an old mill site. The materials have been “drifted” towards the riverbank. Mike Hensler expressed concerns of the project; there was no control of the intended work. Mr. Hand agreed with an alternative approach as discussed at the on-site. The team recommends the Board deny the application for a more specific and detailed application. A portion of the completed work is lower than we would have approved.

- Don Crawford explained the original bank had been lowered by six (6) to eight (8) feet and drifted away from the river; Mike Hensler did not want to take it down so far.
- Darris Flanagan asked about the vegetation.
- Wayne Maahs responded the area is seeded already; no brush vegetation.
- Darris Flanagan asked to clarify, it is recommended to deny?
- Wayne Maahs responded yes; to give more detail and add brush vegetation to a new application.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to deny Li-12-02-17 as presented; recommend the applicant re-apply with more detail. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

New Business:

- a. Accept Resignation of Ernie Chacon
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff to accept the resignation of Ernie Chacon as Lincoln Conservation District Supervisor and to advertise for a supervisor to complete the term vacancy. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**
- b. NRCS Telephone System / MACD E-mail Server
 - Brian Ressel reported NRCS is installing a new phone system of which the conservation district can be a part of.
 - Staff added our current phone bill is \$90 to \$95 per month of that \$45 is DSL service. If the Board did want to join the NRCS phone system, the district would have a new telephone number and a new e-mail address. MACD has an e-mail server program we can use.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to maintain our current system with InterBel. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
- c. Eureka Office Supply Charge Account
 - Staff reported Eureka Office Supply will no longer be accepting charge account purchases as of December 31st.
 - Valene Goff asked if LCD has a petty cash account for smaller purchases.
 - Staff responded yes, we currently have \$29 available. Staff would like to re-visit the debit/credit card option.
- d. Lincoln County Credit Union Line of Credit Account
 - Staff contacted the Lincoln County Credit Union for information regarding a line of credit. We have two options; a debit card or credit card. The debit card can be in the organization name, however, the card is not as strong against fraud protection as a credit card since it is an organization, not an individual. It is hard to prove the fraud. The credit card is a more involved application process but has the same issue as the debit for fraud.

- The Board requested staff to inquire into a set limit amount.
- e. DNRC Fire Mitigation EC Grant Funds – Item discussed earlier.
- f. DNRC 223 Grants
 - Applications are due January 16th.
- g. LCD District Boundary Signs
 - Staff reported she spoke with Pete Woll, Flathead CD Supervisor, regarding our boundary sign. Our side is in need of replacement. Pete was going to have this item on the Flathead CD agenda as well.
 - Wayne Maahs noted the boundary sign with Idaho and LCD is missing. The sign south at Bull River is fine.
 - Staff to coordinate options for the signs and contact the Idaho conservation district.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update
 - i. Tobacco River – Kassler
 - 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant
 - 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant
 - Staff reported a meeting was held with the project stakeholders to review funding options and sources for Phase II. The DEQ 319 grant will complete the final design for both phases and construction to the existing bridge. The final design is at 95% completion.
 - ii. GLID
 - The grant report has been completed.
 - iii. Mud Creek DEQ
 - 1. 319 Grant
 - The RFP has been published and proposals are due January 18th. A non-mandatory walk-thru was conducted with three (3) contractors/engineers in attendance.
 - 2. KRN / USF&WS Partners for Fish Wildlife Program Archeological Survey – Cindy Hemry is working on the survey.
 - 3. Watershed Management Grant
- b. Clark Fork WRP, Thompson River Drainage
- c. Welch, Callahan Creek
- d. Winter Grazing Seminar, Donation/Landowner Sponsorship
 - Valene Goff asked for the agenda to be e-mailed to her.

- e. NACD Technical Assistance Grants
 - Staff reported for Samantha Tappenbeck. Lake County received funding and it is hoped all positions will be filled by March 2018. Multiple rounds will be held until all the funding is dispersed. If the Board decides to apply, contact Ann McCauley at MACD.
 - Brian Ressel noted the internship program is not good at this time. He will be recruiting for a high school intern next summer.

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-07-02-17, Beaumont, Meadow Creek– Item closed.

Li-09-02-17, Williams, Iron Creek – Item closed.

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

