

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana  
January 18, 2017**

**Attendance:**

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Nate Gassman, U.S.F.S.

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

**Public Comment:**

- Darris Flanagan welcomed Nate Gassman to the meeting.
- Mr. Gassman stated he is at the meeting to present a follow-up to the previous meeting he attended. The Forest Service has a culvert replacement project on Canyon Elk Road to bring the road up to standards. The channels flow the majority of the year. The existing culverts were previously accepted but are now failing. The proposal is to replace with box culverts at a cost of \$200,000. The Forest Service is asking for monetary assistance from the conservation district. Mr. Gassman distributed a project outline and discussed costs. The completion deadline is 2018.
- Don Crawford asked about the status of timber sales and the possibility of funding the project through those.
- Mr. Gassman responded on February 9 the Court of Appeals will rule on specific timber sales; some are yet to be advertised, however, these sales will not be sufficient to cover this road and project.
- Mike Justus inquired if the Forest Service has considered RAC funding or the 'Forest in Funding' monies.
- Mr. Gassman replied if the funding is authorized then "yes, could be" however not in the current cycle.
- Mike Justus added funding is determined by the governor.
- Mr. Gassman noted there is no specific information at this time particularly with the new presidential administration coming in.
- Don Crawford asked about current timber sales; how much money can be raised.
- Mr. Gassman replied (5) five have been sold with (5) five more to be sold.
- Darris Flanagan noted there are not a lot of funding options.
- Don Crawford stated we (LCD) don't have much.
- Darris Flanagan clarified we (LCD) were first approached to help decrease costs, not for funding.
- Mr. Gassman agreed yes we did discuss that but due to the burden on the conservation district staff, we (Forest Service) went for this option.
- Don Crawford noted he would like to look at the entire project; is this a high priority.

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- The discussion continued with possible grant sources; RRGL, DEQ 319, DNRC 223. The Yaak Valley Forest Council and Kootenai River Network are possible grant sponsors as well as Samantha Tappenbeck SWCDM as a grant resource.
- Darris Flanagan added grants on public land would be the question.
- Laura Jungst stated she would get a grant list to Mr. Gassman and contact the Yaak Valley Forest Council.

### Minutes:

- a. December 2016
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the minutes of December 2016 as presented **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

### Financial Report:

- a. December 2016
- Staff noted the incorrectly numbered check on the bank statement will be corrected in the next statement. **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the Financial Report for December 2016. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

### NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

### MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Nothing to report.

### Items 310's C-01-01-17; C-01-02-17 moved

#### C-01-01-17 – Hintz, Kootenai River

- Staff presented a brief overview; Montana Cadastral does not show ownership of the particular piece of land. Christy Hollenbeck, DNRC was contacted but we have not received a decision.
- Wayne Maahs researched county records. The property in question is not shown on the county records; the property line goes to the Kootenai River. The subdivision is within the original town limits of Troy.
- Mike Hensler recommended staff check with Laurie Zeller at DNRC who would have responsibility.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to declare C-01-01-17 not a violation due to the project is not within our jurisdiction. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

### Robbie Bowe, Lincoln County Sheriff arrives at the meeting

### New Business, Item B. Oath of Office moved

- Sheriff Robbie Bowe presided over the swearing in of Don Crawford, Mike Justus and Darris Flanagan.

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**Li-01-02-17 – Hensler, Kootenai River**

- Don Crawford reported on the complaint and contacted the property owner. The fencing was placed during low flow to water horses. The landowner stated he pulls the posts to prevent debris pile-up. He is willing to pull the remaining posts but needs to do this during low flow for access.
- Mike Hensler noted the work is within the stream and constitutes a violation of the 310 Law. He noted the landowner needs to pay attention to the flows.
- Don Crawford noted due to the location, and the issue presented in C-01-01-17 the question again is ownership. The landowner will be happy to remove the posts next fall.
- Darris Flanagan commented if the landowner owns both sides of a stream, this would be a violation.
- Wayne Maahs noted if the state owns the water channel, watering stock will require a permit from DNRC.
- Mike Justus agreed but the permit would not be approved.
- Don Crawford added he does not know the legality.
- Darris Flanagan noted water gaps for livestock are allowed.
- Mike Hensler noted the issue has to do with water rights.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to table C-01-02-17 to determine if a violation has occurred. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**District Administrator's Report**

- Volunteer hours were recorded for December.
- There are no news articles.
- Staff reported we received a letter from Cascade Conservation District stating they will not pay MACD dues for next year. We received our invoice and will be placed on the February agenda for discussion and approval.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting information is in the Board Packet.

**Planning Board Report – Mark Romey**

- The Planning Board did not meet. The next meeting will be in February.

**GLID Report**

- Valene Goff reported GLID will have a representative attend the Long Range Planning Sub Committee Meeting for the RRGL application.

**Tabled 310's**

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**New Business:**

- a. Appointment of New Supervisor
  - Staff reported Ernie Chacon is unable to make the commitment as this time to serve. Kirk Sullivan is not able due to family commitments.
  - Mike Justus recommended staff contact the county to research their process.
  - Staff will place an advertisement in the Tobacco Valley News.
- b. Oath of Office – Item moved
- c. Election of 2017 Officers
  - **Motion** by Mike Justus to nominate Wayne Maahs as chairperson for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2017. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
  - **Motion** by Mark Romey to nominate Don Crawford as vice-chairperson for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2017. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to nominate Mike Justus as treasurer for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2017. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- d. March Board of Supervisors Meeting Date
  - Staff asked the March Board Meeting to be changed so to accommodate annual leave.
  - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to schedule the March Lincoln Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting to the second Wednesday. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- e. 2017 Montana Noxious Weed Plan Draft
  - Staff noted the plan had been e-mailed to the Board and Advisors for comment.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Grant Update
  - i. Tobacco River – Kassler
    - 1. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant.
      - Staff reported the RFP should be distributed within the next 5 to 10 days.
    - 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
      - Staff reported the Long Range Planning Sub Committee will meet on Monday to discuss the project proposals. Letters have been mailed to Mike Cuffe, Chas. Vincent and the Long Range Sub Committee. Copies are in the Board Packets.
  - ii. GLID

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**iii. Mud Creek DEQ 319 Grant**

- Staff reported the SWCDM has a grant available that can be used to fund the sign required to be posted at the highway of the Mud Creek project. The funds cannot be used for matching since they are federally distributed. We would still be responsible for the in-kind match as required in the 319. She is asking the Board to approve the submittal of the grant to keep our options open. She will meet with Samantha Tappenbeck on her return to discuss the options. .
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to submit the SWCDM Call for Water Quality Mini-Grant Application. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- Staff noted she is researching the Future Fisheries grant to fund the needed fish screen for the project.

**iv. 223 Stream Trailer**

- Staff reported we have been requested by the grant committee to proved three bids; she is considering Butts Autmotive Repair, Ted's Auto Body and A and J Customs.

**b. 2017 Annual Work Plan**

- Staff noted the Annual Work Plan does not read ...within the original city limits of Libby and Troy.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to amend the 2107 Annual Work Plan to read ....within the 1947 city limits of Libby and Troy. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

**Final Inspection Reports:**

**On Sites Needed:**

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

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Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_







