

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana  
April 20, 2016**

**Attendance:**

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, N.R.C.S.; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Cynthia Phillip; Mike Cole, County Commissioner

**Called to order:** 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

**Public Comment:**

**Minutes:**

a. March 2016

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the minutes of March 2016 as presented. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

a. March 2016

- Mike Justus reviewed the Financial report. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the Financial Report for March 2016. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- Staff reported the U.S. Postal Service had adjusted the annual box rent fee after the payment had been remitted. When she inquired at the Post Office, she was informed we could receive the fee difference of \$4.00 in postage stamps. The Board was in agreement to accept the difference of \$4.00 in postage stamps.

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- Brian reported he has returned from Plains, Montana after acting as District Conservationist for both Eastern Sanders and Green Mountain Conservation Districts.
- Kirk Sullivan is retiring at the end of May and Brian would like to coordinate a party for him. Staff suggested she arrange for a cake for the May Board of Supervisors meeting. Brian will coordinate another function as well.
- Brian presented to the Board a new program he and Kirk Sullivan have been creating to assist ranchers and farmers in determining livestock rotation and the health of their fields; a pasture spread sheet.

**New Business**

**Item a. Oath of Office – Alfred Phillip**

- County Commissioner Mike Cole presented the Oath of Office to Alfred Phillip.

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**Item b. Ksanka Creek Project Update**

- Mike Cole gave a presentation of the Ksanka Creek Restoration project. The county has signed with W.G.M. of Kalispell to complete the design and engineering study for Phase I. The project will move the Ksanka Creek channel off of the Forest Service property and Creekside Trailer Park and connect with the existing channel at the Fairgrounds Pond. It is estimated they are 2 to 3 years out for completion.
- Mike Justus asked about the proposed bike trail along Highway 37.
- Mike Cole responded the project is close to going out to bid.
- Alfred Phillip asked about the route.
- Mike Cole responded it is from 4 Corners to the Eureka Cemetery.
- Mike Justus asked if is feasible for the bike path to continue to Pigeon Bridge.
- Mike Cole responded it could be feasible depending on remaining funds.
- Valene Goff noted there is an alternate route using side roads.

**MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler – No report**

**District Administrator's Report**

- Volunteer hours were recorded for March.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- A public notice letter from DEQ is in the packet.
- An e-mail from Wayne Maahs regarding the use of the Weyerhaeuser Office is in the packet.
- Staff reported there were 80 students at the STEM stream trailer demonstration. Upcoming activities include the Troy 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour and a presentation for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Eureka Elementary
- Kirk Sullivan has contacted Ernie Chacon to be an Associate Supervisor. Mr. Chacon will be at our June Meeting.
- Mark Romey and the District Office have received calls regarding the Libby Water Conservancy Board. Staff contacted Leigh Riggleman regarding this. Leigh's e-mail response was presented to the Board.

**Planning Board Report – Mark Romey**

- The Planning Board recommended to the commissioners adopt the Lincoln County Port Authority proposal to have the Kootenai Business Park be zoned as a Targeted Economic Development District. This opens opportunities for receiving grant to repair the infrastructure of the business park.
- The Planning Board ranked a ½ mile section of the rail system connecting the Kootenai Business Park with the existing tracks near the Libby Amtrak station as a first priority.

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- The new State Legislature is requiring revisions to the growth policy.

**GLID Report**

- Valene Goff reported GLID has not ordered the bentonite due the timing of the grant and the need to start water flow in the ditch. They will be ordering the bentonite soon due to possible cost increases and will lay the bentonite in the fall.
- GLID will be applying for a DNRC Renewable Resource Grant to repair the Costich Drop and would like a letter of support from the conservation district. The letter is needed by May 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Motion** by Mark Romey for the LCD to write a letter of support for GLID to include in their RRGL application to repair Costich Drop. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

**310's**

**Li-04-01-16 – Noble, Lang Creek**

- Don Crawford reported on the project. Mike Hensler had made one suggestion to pump the water into a small pond below the project.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-04-01-16 with as presented; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

**Li-04-02-16 – Cooper, Granite Creek**

- Don Crawford noted Mike Hensler (via e-mail) had responded the applicant used the term “boulder”. The machinery used for transport only, no digging.
- Mike Justus suggested the Board approve rock picking permits be valid for two years; same as suction dredging.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-04-02-16 with the following conditions: Follow standard rock harvesting guidelines; the use of heavy equipment (i.e. tractor) is for transport only, no digging; the fifteen (15) day wait period has been waived. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Li-04-03-16 – Cooper, Libby Creek**

- **Motion** by Mark Romey to approve Li-04-03-16 with the following conditions: Follow standard rock harvesting guidelines; the use of heavy equipment (i.e. tractor) is for transport only, no digging; the fifteen (15) day wait period has been waived. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

**Li-04-04-16 – Smith Big Cherry Creek**

- Staff noted this permit application involves a temporary bridge.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-04-03-16 with the following conditions: Follow standard rock harvesting guidelines; the use of heavy equipment (i.e. tractor) is for transport only, no digging; should a temporary bridge be placed the temporary bridge shall be removed by the termination of the project; the fifteen (15) day wait period has been waived. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

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**Tabled 310's**

**C-12-01-15 – Vanderhoef, Micklon, East Fisher River**

- Project site not accessible.

**New Business:**

**Item a. Oath of Office moved.**

**Item b. Ksanka Creek Project moved.**

c. 2016/17 DNRC Administrative Grant Funding

- Staff reported the District can apply for the 2016/17 Administrative Grant if there is a negative balance in the projected 2016/17 budget. Due to the large grant funding LCD has received and may receive for the Kassler Tobacco River project and other grants we may fall within the guidelines to require an audit. The estimated cost of \$5,000.00 has been placed in the projected 2016/17 Budget along with an increase in employee payroll expense. The grants we receive will have an administrative fee (not included in the Administrative Grant work sheet) to off-set the payroll costs. The audit most likely will not occur this year but the Board should plan on the cost for 2017/18.

- **Motion** by Alfred Phillip. No second. **Motion fails.**

- The Board decides to not apply for the 2016/17 Administrative Grant.

d. Forest Landowners Conference Donation

- Staff reported the event was held last weekend and was combined with another forest stewardship workshop.
- Mike Justus reported the workshop(s) had strong financial support.
- No action.

e. Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project Donation

- Staff reported Melissa presented at our weed workshop last year.
- Mike Justus noted the program is building momentum
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to donate \$150.00 to the Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

f. County Board Training, Pioneer Center, Libby

- Don Crawford and Mike Justus would like to attend the 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. session(s).

g. Kootenai Field Tour – June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Laura Jungst, Mike Justus, Darris Flanagan Alfred Phillip and Valene Goff would like to attend.

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- h. USACOE Hydropower STEM Career Academy
  - Staff reported Susan James from the Libby Dam Visitor Center asked if we could assist in this worthwhile program. Staff suggested possibly sponsoring a student to attend.
  - It was noted the students must reside within four specific counties in Washington.
  - No action.
- i. Permissive Medical Mill Levy
  - 1. Monthly Amount
    - Staff reviewed the memorandum in the Board Packets. The mill levy can be used for any medical expense including co-pays, vision, dental. The amount to be charged for the mill levy must be set this month; the first public hearing will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Libby.
    - **Motion** by Valene Goff to submit \$800.00 per month for a permissive medical mill levy for the LCD employee. **Second** by Alfred Phillip.
    - It was asked how the funds are presented to the employee; will the employee be presented the entire monthly amount or present invoices for reimbursement.
    - Staff reported the funds can be deposited into a medical savings account and medical costs will be paid from there. The funds from the mill levy are taxable income.
    - Mike Justus stated the Board will not have control on how the funds are spent.
    - Staff reported a teleconference call is being conducted on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for district administrators and supervisors. This will be an opportunity to have questions answered.
    - **Motion failed.**
    - **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve \$5,000.00 (\$400.00) per month permissive medical mill levy. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S
  - Wayne Maahs met with Hannah Hernandez. His meeting summary is in the Board Packet. Item tabled to May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b. Grant Update.
  - 1. Tobacco River - Kassler
    - A. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant
      - Contracts have been sent to EPA; a 90 turnaround is expected. The Spalding Catch Fly will have an endangered species review. Eric Trum does not expect this to be an issue.

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- B. Phase 2 - DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
  - Staff reported a meeting was held on Tuesday between Karl Kassler, Kirk Sullivan, Brian Ressel, Dave Martin, Mike Justus and staff. The DNRC Reclamation Grant draft was not ready for review. Stephanie Hester from DNRC had planned on attending but she was not able to attend. Discussion was on the proposed construction time line.
- 2. 223 GLID
- 3. 223 Mud Creek
  - A. Conceptual Design – River Design Group
    - Staff reported the project for the conceptual design was awarded to River Design Group.
- 4. 223 Yaak River Assessment
  - The assessment will continue in July and August

**Final Inspection Reports:**

Li-02-02-16 – Leisz, Lake Creek

**On Sites Needed:**

- a. Li-09-11-14, Janssen, Yaak River
  - Item closed.

**Open Mic and Other Business:**

- Mike Justus reported Arbor Day celebrations will be held in Libby on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> in Eureka. Plant information plaques will be placed at trees within the Town of Eureka.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weyerhaeuser Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

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Becky Lihme, District Administrator

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







