

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana
May 18, 2016**

Attendance:

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

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Kirk Sullivan, N.R.C.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s):

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

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. April 2016

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the minutes of March 2016 as corrected: Page 6, location of May Meeting is Libby; Page 5 add “day” after 90. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. April 2016

- Wayne Maahs noted Column 1 of the monthly financial report; “Year to Date” is confusing. Staff suggested changing to read “As of December 31st”.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the Financial Report for April 2016. **Second** Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan

- Thirteen (13) 2016 EQIP applications for forest land have been approved for funding. Contracts will be obligated by June 3, 2016.
- Brian Ressel will be attending the Lincoln County FireSafe Meeting in Libby on Friday.
- Activity on contract practice implementation is increasing.
- Kirk would like to serve as an Associate Supervisor after his retirement.

MTFWP Report – Mike Hensler – No report

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for April.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- We received two (2) letters from DEQ; Ursich violation and Maxwell permit.

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- A stream trailer demonstration was held for the Eureka 4th graders; fifty (50) students attended. The Troy 5th Grade Tour is coming up on May 24th at the Aiken Ranch.
- PERS sent out notification of the annual audit of employers; employers may or may not be selected.
- Staff set up a booth at the annual “Birds of Prey” program at Libby Dam on Saturday, May 14th.
- Mr. Parker has asked to re-submit the 310 permit application from January on the June Agenda. Bonnie Geber contacted the Administrator and the U.S.F.S. Plan of Operations will be approved.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- The Planning Board will meet tomorrow, Thursday.

GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported GLID submitted a grant proposal for the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant in the amount of \$125,000.00.
- The bentonite has not yet been ordered that is being funded by the 223 Grant.

310's

Li-05-01-16 – Byers/Ryan, Griffin Creek

- Mike Justus reported on the project. The bridge timbers, railroad ties, are beginning to fail. There will be little impact to the stream. The ties will be replaced with eco-blocks with a new top constructed of steel or timber.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-05-01-16 with as presented; all disturbed areas will be covered with straw or grass seed; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**
- Don Crawford asked if the wing walls will remain.
- Mike Justus responded yes.

Li-05-02-16 – Vincent, Silver Butte, Fisher River

- Wayne Maahs reported he, Mark Romey and Don Crawford conducted the on-site and recommend approval as presented.
- Mark Romey suggested the permit be extended beyond one year.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-05-02-16 as presented for three years; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-03-16 – Lucier, Wolf Creek

- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve as presented; waive the fifteen (15) day wait period; permit is approved for three (3) years; Crossing of Wolf Creek shall be limited to one (1) crossing (travel over and back is considered (1) one crossing) for placement of equipment. Exception; should mechanical work be needed on the

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equipment off-site, the equipment can travel through the waterway. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-04-16 - Idaho Forest Group/Lowkap LLC, Iron Grouse Creek

- Mike Justus reported he conducted the on-site. The 36" culvert is appropriate. The gradient is somewhat steep; everything else is in the application.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-05-04-16; energy dissipaters are to be placed at the outlet of the culvert. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-05-16 – Vredenburg, Therriault Creek

- Discussion was held to determine if the application should be held over to June to conduct an on-site inspection.
- Mike Justus noted there is no reason to delay; an engineering firm has designed the project.
- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-05-05-16 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

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

- Wayne Maahs described the location and the alleged violation. Two (2) sites were reported; one on private land the other on Forest Service land. The project on private land was located. The location is basically a historical ford that concrete blocks have been placed within the creek bed. This is a violation.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to declare C-12-01-15 a violation under the 310 Law; a letter to be mailed to Mr. Michlon to schedule an on-site. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
- Don Crawford described the location. The violation is setting the concrete blocks in the creek bed.
- Mark Romey asked if LCD should contact the Forest Service.
- Wayne Maahs noted the Law Enforcement Officer from the Forest Service has already looked at the site.

New Business:

a. Personnel Manual Update

- Staff reported during the teleconference for the Permissive Medical Mill Levy held by DNRC it was noted conservation districts need to have the Permissive Mill Levy within the Personnel Manual. The proposed amendment is in the Board Packet for review.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to add: "The conservation district annually authorizes a permissive medical mill levy to provide health benefits or payments in lieu of group benefits (based on the established District base contribution of \$25.00 per month). The permissive mill levy can only be

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adjusted annually in correlation of the fiscal budget.” **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

- b. Permissive Medical Mill Levy
 - 1. Public Hearing
 - The Board requested staff to present costs for insurance benefits to determine the Mill Levy.
- c. Lincoln Conservation District Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2016/17
 - No action pending Permissive Medical Mill Levy.
- d. Montana State Fund Small Business Group
 - Staff reviewed the letter.
 - No action.
- e. NACD Membership Renewal
 - Staff reported the LCD paid \$400.00 in 2015.
 - Wayne Maahs noted the NACD provides support to conservation districts throughout the U.S. and provides lobbying in Congress.
 - **Motion** by Alfred Phillip to pay \$400.00 registration fee to the NACD for annual dues. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**
- f. 2015/16 Tree and Shrub Sales
 - Staff reported we had several mishaps with this year’s order; the order placed by Darris Flanagan was doubled; the lilac orders were changed due to height availability thus prompting refunds; 25 apricot trees were ordered but 75 were received (we were billed for 25); 25 of the apricot trees were removed from the refrigeration unit but the bag left behind; the order for Nanking Cherries height was reduced prompting a refund.
 - Mr. Peckham, who received one of the lilac orders, misplaced his check and has offered to donate those funds (\$37.50) to the District. Mike Justus recommended we use those funds for youth education programs.
 - Staff contacted Lincoln Oakes Nursery regarding the miss order for Darris Flanagan. The final invoice from Lincoln Oakes showed a discount of \$39.95 leaving \$28.35 still remaining.
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to accept the donation by Mr. Peckham to be used for youth education programs (stream trailer) and waive the extra tree charge to Darris Flanagan: Close out the 2015/16 Tree and Shrub Program. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**
- g. Columbia Basin Compact – Letter of Support – Mike Cuffe
 - Staff noted Mike Cuffe has pre-written a letter of support for the Board to review.
 - **Motion** by Valene Goff for the LCD Board of Supervisors submit a letter of support. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

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- h. Darris Flanagan Reimbursement
 - Darris Flanagan reported he is submitting a request for reimbursement of \$60.00 for the Administrator's Day gift certificate he purchased for staff.
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the reimbursement of \$60.00 to Darris Flanagan for the Administrator's Day gift certificate for staff. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- i. Lincoln County Credit Union Account Signers
 - Signature pages were distributed prior to the meeting starting.
- j. KRN Field Tour
 - Staff reported the tour schedule is in the Board Packet. Staff will join the tour at the Tobacco River project site.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S
 - Staff will contact Hannah Hernandez to invite U.S.F.S. to the next Board Meeting in Libby.
- b. Grant Update.
 - 1. Tobacco River - Kassler
 - A. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Dave Martin is working the procurement bid packages.
 - B. Phase 2 - DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
 - Staff reported the grant has been submitted. We are asking for \$395,000.00. The grant "limit" is \$300,000.00. However, an agency may request additional funding but must show the need for the increase.
 - Wayne Maahs asked about the audit mentioned at the last meeting.
 - Staff responded should we (LCD) receive over \$500,000.00 in funding (the 319 and RDGP grants) we will be required to conduct an audit.
 - 2. 223 GLID – Reported on earlier
 - 1. 223 Mud Creek
 - A. Conceptual Design – River Design Group
 - Staff reported River Design Group will be using a new program in LiDar for the conceptual design.
 - 2. 223 Yaak River Assessment – No update

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-02-02-16 – Leisz, Lake Creek

Li-02-04-16 – Cuffe/Cordara, Sinclair Creek

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- Darris Flanagan reported he spoke with Bob Cuffe; there has been some movement of the root wads however, this is to be expected.

- Item closed.

Li-03-03-13 – Casazza, Tobacco River

- Item closed.

On Sites Needed:

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

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Mike Justus reported the county government is looking at allowing teleconference for Board Meetings.
- This would require a change in the Model Rules for LCD to allow this. A public hearing must be held to change the Model Rules.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

