

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
August 17, 2016**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Wayne Maahs; Alfred Phillip; Mike Justus

Associate Supervisor(s): Ernie Chacon

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Nathan Gassman, Libby District Ranger, USFS

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

Public Comment:

Unfinished Business, Item a moved

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S., Nathan Gassman, Libby District Ranger
 - Mr. Gassman stated the Libby District is experiencing expansion in their capacity, but there is not enough staffing. To assist with this, as an example, Yaak Valley Forest Council has assisted in coordinating projects.
 - The next project will include the Flower Creek Watershed. Funding is available for forestry concerns, for example, road systems. An analysis is currently in process. Once the analysis is complete he (Nate Gassman) can return to the LCD Board with a specific project and the need; for example, financial support or contracting services. Mr. Gassman is aware of our (LCD) concern for audit costs should our revenue exceed the state audit requirement.
 - Darris Flanagan asked about funding District staff costs.
 - Mr. Gassman explained it depends on the project; it could be as simple as a letter of support.
 - Darris Flanagan agreed; it depends on the project cost as to the administrative cost.
 - Mr. Gassman presented examples from the Flower Creek Watershed and the current analysis.
 - Alfred Phillip asked how far ahead is the analysis.
 - Mr. Gassman replied the completion date is December 15th.
 - Wayne Maahs noted we (LCD) have discussed at three Board Meetings, three variations of the support the Forest Service is requesting. For example, the Trout Creek Participation Agreement and Yaak Valley Forest Council; two different types of support.
 - Mr. Gassman responded he will next present a specific project for the Board to review after the completion of the analysis of Flower Creek.

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- Wayne Maahs noted to Mr. Gassman, the Forest Service needs to realize our (LCD) capacity; we are a seven-member Board and staff. Hannah Hernandez had previously mentioned contracting/administration of contracts.
- Mr. Gassman spoke on the bio mass proposal for Libby schools. The Forest Service has funding available for those types of programs.
- Wayne Maahs replied we (LCD) would be supportive however, we are not the “drivers” of the project; the school superintendent would be. We (LCD) has a M.O.U. currently with the Forest Service which could be expanded.
- Darris Flanagan commented the Eureka School District experienced an issue with finding a source for the bio mass fuel. He advised Mr. Gassman to be certain to have a source.
- Mr. Gassman agreed a source needed to be found. It is unfortunate we have the resources here in Lincoln County but not the distribution system. The fuel must be transported from elsewhere.
- Mike Justus presented to Mr. Gassman the upcoming Forestry Field Tour being held the last week in October. Flower Creek was a recommended location for the tour.
- Mr. Gassman noted this would be a good location for a field tour, in fact a field trip has been scheduled for Forest Service supporters on September 1st.

Minutes:

- a. July Minutes
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the Minutes of July 2016 as presented. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. July 2016
 - Staff noted we received the grant funds reimbursement that showed a deficit in our 2016/17 Final Budget Report.
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the Financial Report for July 2016. **Second** Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian will be attending the Lincoln County FireSafe Meeting in Libby.
- Brian presented maps of completed and planned projects over the previous ten years in Lincoln County.
- Brian attended the Knapweed Workshop hosted by Larry Benson.

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MTFWP Report – Mike Hensler

- No report

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for July.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- The DNRC Office will be moving. The announcement is in the Board Packet.
- The 2016 MACD Convention will be held in Sidney November 15th through 17th.
- The updated/changed election laws for supervisors presented by Laurie Zeller is in the Board Packet.
- Staff is researching the cost to re-paint and create an access door to operate the water valves on the stream trailer. These costs can be paid for through a 223 grant.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- No report

GLID Report

- No report

310's

Li-08-01-16 – Micklon, East Fisher River

- Wayne Maahs reported the applicant will remove concrete curbs placed in the channel and replace with 1 cubic yard of flint stone the armor the ford.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-08-01-16 as presented. **Second** by Alfred Phillip. **Motion passed.**

Li-08-02-16 – Micklon, East Fisher River

- Wayne Maahs reported while conducting the on-site for the violation of Li-08-01-16, the inspection team discovered a second ford in which concrete had been used. There are no issues with his 310 permit.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve Li-08-02-16 as presented. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

Li-02-01-15 – Kern Star Creek, Amendment

- Staff reported we received the current Plan of Operations for this 310 permit. The P.O. does allow for two, two inch or under diameter intakes.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the applicants request to amend Li-02-01-15 to allow two, two inch or under diameter intakes as per the Forest Service Plan of Operations. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

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Tabled 310's

V-06-02-16 – Richards/Frontier, Crowell Creek

- Staff reported the certified receipt postcard has been received back from Frontier Communications.

New Business:

- a. Ernie Chacon, Associate Supervisor Appointment
 - **Motion** by Mike Justus to appoint Ernie Chacon as an Associate Supervisor to the Lincoln Conservation District Board of Supervisors. **Second** by Wayne Maahs. **Motion passed.**
- b. Montana Range Tour, September 7th & 8th
 - No interest
- c. Staff Time Off Request – September 6th through 8th
 - There were no objections for staff to take the requested time off.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Participation Agreement with U.S.F.S., Nathan Gassman, Libby District
 - Item discussed earlier.
- b. Grant Update.
 1. Tobacco River - Kassler
 - A. Phase 1 – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff is coordinating with Dave Martin, DNRC the Request for Qualifications.
 - B. Phase 2 - DNRC Reclamation Grant Application
 2. 223 GLID – No update
 3. 223 Mud Creek
 - A. Conceptual Design – River Design Group
 - The Final Report for the 223 Grant has been mailed to DNRC.
 - B. DEQ 319 Grant – Final Application
 - Staff reported a teleconference will be held tomorrow with a panel from DEQ to review the Preliminary Grant Application and the project.
 4. 223 Yaak River Assessment – No update

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-05-01-16 – Byers, Griffin Creek

- Mike Justus conducted the final inspection and reported the project was completed as expected. Item closed.

Li-02-02-15 – Leisz, Lake Creek – No report

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On Sites Needed:

- Darris Flanagan requested the Hume project be placed on the September agenda.

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Darris Flanagan reported he withdrew the Nomination of Administrator of the Year citing he felt DNRC would not consider both applications, Supervisor of the Year and District Administrator of the Year from the same conservation district.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Weyerhauser, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

