

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 20, 2019
4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Don Crawford; Tom Maffei; Kathleen Johnson; Laura Garner

Absent: Darris Flanagan; Mark Romey

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Stephens, MTFW&P; Laura Jungst, USFS

Guest(s): Deena Shotzberger, John Shotzberger

Called to order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

Public Comment:

Item Moved: Old Business, b. 223 Grant Application; Noxious Weed Abatement – County Weed Board – Date to Submit

- Staff reviewed the information presented in the Interoffice Memorandum. The DNRC 223 grant program has a specific guideline regarding application requirements for noxious weed project funding. To meet this requirement in the 223 grant, the Lincoln County Weed District will need to demonstrate to the conservation district that they are seeking funding through the Noxious Weed Trust Fund in the July “call for applications”. To demonstrate this, the Weed District must develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area by April 20th for the eight landowners in southern Lincoln County. The two landowners in northern Lincoln County do not meet the criteria of the Trust Fund grant and are therefore exempt from the 223 grant requirement. The 223 application will be for herbicide treatment for 2019 only. The subsequent treatments in 2020 and 2021 for northern Lincoln County will be through the 223 grant in April 2020. Should the Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant application be denied for the southern Lincoln County landowners, the Weed District may then ask the conservation district to sponsor a 223 grant in April 2020.
- Deena Shotzberger was receptive and appreciative for the effort by the conservation district to apply for the 2019 herbicide treatment funding and will contact Jasmine at the Department of Agriculture to move forward to create the Cooperative Weed Management Area and apply for the Trust Fund Grant program.

Minutes:

a. February 2019

- **Motion** by Tom Maffei to approve the minutes of February 2019. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. February 2019

- Staff noted we did not receive our February Mill Levy funds until March 1st. Lincoln County Credit Union credited our account \$.20 for the Kootenai River Network check deposit shortage.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to approve the February Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- No report

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- Newspaper articles are in the Board Packet.
- The spring advertisement will be in this week's editions of the Tobacco Valley News and the Western News.
- Staff will be off March 26th (half day), 27th and 28th.
- The Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam will be hosting the annual "Birds of Prey Day" on May 25th.
- Wayne Maahs and staff will be presenting the stream trailer at the annual STEM day at Libby Dam on May 7th.
- The Montana Department of Administration sent out information regarding audit report finding correction procedures.
- Sage Grouse Grants applications are now being accepted.

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- The Planning Commission worked on the regulations for subdivisions.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

310's:

Li-03-01-19, Lucier, Wolf Creek

- Wayne Maahs noted an inspection team has visited this site during a previous 310 permit application.
- Staff noted the applicant will cross the creek a limited number of times with his backhoe.
- **Motion** by Tom Maffei to approve Li-03-01-19 as presented; permit valid for two years. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

- a. MACD Annual Dues
 - Wayne Maahs reported MACD is the lobbying arm of conservation districts and recommended we pay the annual dues.
 - Staff noted the dues amount has increased in relation to our mill levy operating budget from 2018.
 - **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to pay the 2019 MACD Annual Dues based on the 2018 Tax Year in the amount of \$3,402.84. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed.**
- b. SWCDM Bridger Plant Materials Center Donation
 - Staff noted we did not make a donation last year.
 - Tom Maffei asked are we not utilizing the program
 - Wayne Maahs responded no, these are range type plant materials.
 - No action.
- c. Forest Stewardship Foundation/Annual Montana Forest Landowner Conference Donation
 - Staff reported we (LCD) donated \$100.00 last year.
 - Wayne Maahs noted this is a small landowner conference and is a good program.
 - **Motion** by Don Crawford to donate \$100.00 to the Forest Stewardship Foundation/Annual Montana Forest Landowner Conference. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**
 - Staff noted there are two conferences; the small landowner on Friday, April 12th and the family trust program on Saturday, April 13th; both will be held in Butte.
 - Laura Jungst added she attended the estate planning and it was very good.
- d. 2019 Forest Landowner Conference / Ties to the Land Workshop
 - Staff noted the information is in the Board Packet.
- e. MACo Liability Insurance Policy
 - Staff reported the conservation districts covered under the MACD policy are going to be insured individually. It is anticipated the cost will decrease.
 - Wayne Maahs noted this is for information. No action is required. We can decide on our liability coverage when we receive our next billing.
- f. Stream Trailer Educational Bags
 - Staff explained we provide educational bags to the participants of the stream trailer demonstrations. We currently have 200 bags; we will have 91 at the STEM day presentation and 50 at the Eureka 4th grade presentation.
 - **Motion** by Don Crawford to allocate up to \$200.00 for the purchase of educational supplies for the bags for the stream trailer. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

g. MACD Envirothon L.C.H.S. Registration Fee / Meals

- Staff reported we have two teams (10 students) from Lincoln County High School attending the Envirothon in April
- Wayne Maahs added the Envirothon is in Lewistown.
- **Motion** by Tom Maffei to pay the \$200.00 registration fee for two teams for the 2019 Envirothon. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed.**
- Staff reported last year LCD reimbursed the school \$119.00 for meals. In previous years meals were provided by the Envirothon but in 2018 they were not.
- Tom Maffei asked what if no funds are spent?
- Laura Garner noted we should wait to determine if funds are needed.
- Wayne Maahs agreed with Laura.
- Don Crawford asked couldn't we (LCD) make reimbursement contingent on the need?
- Staff explained the concept of the Envirothon; there are teams of five high school students. The students can be from high schools, 4-H programs. There are five resource concerns soil, water, rangeland, forest and wildlife. The first day of the event is instructional for the students and the second day they take a written test then make an oral presentation. This year's theme is sustainable agriculture.
- Tom Maffei recommended to reimburse up to \$150.00 for meals for the 2019 Envirothon teams.
- **Motion** by Tom Maffei to allocate up to \$150.00 for meals for the 2019 Envirothon teams. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

h. FY 2019/20 Administrative Grant

- Staff reported the FY 2019/20 Administrative grant application is due May 4th. Conservation Districts can request up to \$550.00. The funds are for conservation districts with limited budgets from the mill levy. The funds can be used for liability insurance, office expenses. We used the funds to purchase both of our office copy machines. An option for our district is to use the funds for the purchase of the fire proof file cabinets.
- **Motion** by Laura Garner to apply for the FY 2019/20 Administrative Grant. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

i. FY 2019/20 Permissive Medical Mill Levy Public Meeting Date

- Staff reported we (LCD) held the Permissive Medical Mill Levy Public Meeting in May 2018 prior to the regular board meeting. She asked if the Board would like to hold the meeting at the same time this year.
- It was agreed to hold the Permissive Medical Mill Levy Public Meeting prior to the regular board meeting in May.

Unfinished Business:

- a. 223 Grant Application; Boundary Signs
 - Date to Submit
 - Staff reported the grant application is due April 25th. She spoke with Linda Brander at DNRC and should the boundary signs grant application rank just below the noxious weed grant application and not be funded we can request our grant be funded.
 - Sign Manufacturer
- b. 223 Grant Application; Noxious Weed Abatement – County Weed Board – Date to Submit
- c. Grant Update
 - i. Public On-site / Envirothon Field Trip
 - Staff reported the public tour will be held on May 11th and the Envirothon student field trip will be April 10th.
 - ii. Tobacco River – Kassler
 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff reported construction is completed; monitoring and the public on-site are remaining.
 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant
 - 319 Interim Grant Funding – Requested Amount
 - Staff reported John Muhlfeld met with Bob Cuffe and the Reclamation Grant will be approximately \$100,000 short for funding Phase II. Staff provided the cost spreadsheet from River Design Group to show the cost increases.
 - MTFW&P Future Fisheries Grant
 - Staff reported will be apply for the Future Fisheries grant should we not be funded the entire requested amount from DEQ.
 3. Watershed Management Grant
 - We will pay John Muhlfeld for his technical assistance writing the DEQ 319 grant from this grant.
 4. Sweet Grass CD Watershed Grant
 - iii. Mud Creek - Roose
 1. DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff reported we have completed construction; monitoring and the public on-site are remaining
 2. KRN/USF&WS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

3. DNRC 223 Grant

- We have approximately \$2,600 of vegetation planting to be completed in the spring.

d. Conservation Districts Environmental Contingency Grant Program

- Staff sent out letters to the four landowners participating in the program reminding them of the deadline for submitting their seed tags and completing the grant requirements.

Final Inspection Reports

Li-08-01-17 – Canavan-Fofield, S. Fork Yaak River

On-Sites Needed

- Wayne Maahs reported he visited the Chapman project on the Kootenai River. The area is south facing and is clear of snow.
- Tom Maffei asked if we are to take action on the emergency form submitted this week.
- Staff responded we must conduct an inspection within 20 days and the team makes a recommendation to the Board. There is no 310 permit required.
- The applicant will be submitting a 310 permit application to upgrade the existing culvert at a later date.

Open Mic and Other Business

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

