

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana
May 15, 2019
4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Darris Flanagan, Vice Chairperson; Don Crawford; Tom Maffei; Kathleen Johnson; Mark Romey; Laura Garner

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

Guest(s): Dave Friedman, Weyerhauser; Keith Karoglanian, U.S.F.S.

Called to order: 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

Public Comment:

- Darris Flanagan noted April 24th was Administrators Day. He presented staff with flowers and a gift card.

Minutes:

- a. April 2019
 - Wayne Maahs noted the DNRC state forester should read “state service forester”.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of April 2019 as corrected; Page 2 state forester should read “state service forester”. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. April 2019
 - Staff reported she found an error in our payment to River Design Group for the Mud Creek restoration project. She billed DEQ correctly however, she inadvertently added one payment twice creating an over payment of \$4,000. John Muhlfeld is having the RDG bookkeeper reimburse the district for the overpayment.
 - **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to approve the April Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- Spring lake fish monitoring is ongoing, include Lake Koocanusa.
- The regulation setting process is in the public comment phase.
- MFWP will be surveying “toe” ponds for non-native fish species of the Troy Mine Reclamation.
- MFWP staff fin-clipped trout; 68,000 Gerrard rainbow trout will be stocked in Lake Koocanusa.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana

May 15, 2019

Page 2

- The Koocanusa Resort and Marina Annual Trout and Salmon Derby will be held May 18th and 19th.
- MFWP will be hosting various kid's fishing days over the next month at the fishing ponds in Libby and Troy.
- Staff reported John Lord from the local hatchery in Eureka is searching for ideas for the location of a fishing pond within the town limits of Eureka. Anyone with locations suggestions should contact John.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- A selenium meeting will be held at the USFS Meeting Room on Tuesday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. The representative will be in Libby on Wednesday if any supervisors or advisors from the Libby and Troy areas would like to speak with Glen.
- Brian Ressel would like to conduct the Local Work Group Meeting in June prior to the regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 19th.
- A new grant program is available from the EPA through the Montana DEQ.
- The ranking meeting for the 223 grants will be held on May 29th.
- We received a thank you letter from the Forest Stewardship Foundation for our donation.
- A new on-line news publication through MACD is being started for Montana conservation districts called the Prairie Populist. We are invited to submit 2 to 3 sentences updating our activities monthly.
- We held two stream trailer demonstrations in April; the 7th grade STEM Day at Libby Dam and for the 4th grade classes at Eureka Elementary School.

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- The Planning Commission will meet next week.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

310's:

Li-05-06-19 – Weyerhauser, Wolf Creek

- Dave Friedman joined the meeting. This tributary of Wolf Creek dries up; is not perennial.
- Wayne Maahs added the tributary is shown as intermittent on the USGS map. This is old culverts; two pipes running parallel. The culverts are clogged with debris with little water flowing through. Water is going over and around the culverts.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to declare Li-05-06-19 not a project. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana

May 15, 2019

Page 3

- Dave Friedman added the replacement culvert will be 60 inches in diameter.

Li-05-01-19 – NW MT Gold Prospectors, Big Cherry Creek

- **Motion** by Don Crawford approve Li-05-01-19 as presented for 2 years with the suction dredging letter. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-02-19 – NW MT Gold Prospectors, Libby Creek

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-05-02-19 as presented for 2 years with the suction dredging letter. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-03-19 – Walborn, Libby Creek (Mighty Fine claim)

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan approve Li-05-03-19 as presented for 2 years with the suction dredging letter. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-04-19 – Walborn, Libby Creek (Two Bits claim)

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-05-04-19 as presented for 2 years with the suction dredging letter. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

C-05-05-19 – Pelphrey, Deep Creek

- Staff reported the certified letter has not yet been picked up/signed for by the recipient. Don MacIntyre recommended we contact Marcia Boris, County Attorney on how to proceed. He suggested having a sheriff deputy serve the letter.

Li-05-07-19 – Mee, Brimstone Creek

- Darris Flanagan described the project location and proposed construction. DNRC has an easement which limits use for the current landowner north of the project. The project will not enter the easement.
- Wayne Maahs asked if Brimstone Creek has been straightened.
- Darris Flanagan responded "yes", the creek is not draining the hay field. Nothing has been done for years. There has been a water rights issue in the past upstream affecting the water flow in the creek.
- Wayne Maahs commented the idea to drain the field is better. We (LCD) have approved cleaning ditches before.
- Darris Flanagan agreed we have approved the same type of project.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-05-07-19 as presented; waive 15 day wait period. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-08-19 – W.R. Grace, Rainy Creek

- Wayne Maahs described the project as the construction of a coffer dam and spillway repair. The project has been engineered.
- Darris Flanagan noted you cannot see the project from the entry gate. Can we gain access?
- Wayne Maahs responded we can obtain access and recommended we (LCD) declare this a project and table for an on-site.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana

May 15, 2019

Page 4

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to declare Li-05-08-19 a project under the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act and table for an on-site inspection. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-09-19 – Sanders, Yaak River

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-05-09-19 as presented for 2 years with the suction dredging letter. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Li-05-10-19 – Harmon, Libby Creek

- Wayne Maahs described the rock harvesting process to the new Board members.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-05-10-19 as presented with Standard Rock Picking Guidelines. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

- a. Health Coverage – Pinnacle Insurance Solutions
 - the proposed health benefit plan was discussed during the Permissive Medical Mill Levy Public Meeting.
- b. Lincoln Conservation District Preliminary Budget and Permissive Medical Mill Levy FY 2019-20
 - Staff reviewed the Lincoln Conservation District proposed preliminary budget for FY 2019/20.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the Lincoln Conservation District Preliminary Budget and the recommended Permissive Medical Mill Levy amount of \$21,300/.83 mills for FY 2019/20. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- c. Columbia River Basin Restoration Act Grant Funding Opportunities
 - Staff reviewed the funding opportunities from this program implemented by Montana DEQ.
- d. State Fund Montana Small Business Group
 - No action
- e. Montana Leopold Conservation Award
 - Staff reviewed the award nomination information.
- f. Montana Range Days – Dillon
 - The program agenda is in the Board Packet.
- g. DNRC Re-vegetation Grant for 2017 Fires
 - Staff reported Laurie Zeller contacted her regarding this new funding program from DNRC to replant areas affected by the fires of 2017. Program details and applications will be available spring of 2020.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana

May 15, 2019

Page 5

Unfinished Business:

a. Grant Update

i. Public On-site

- Staff reported we had 15 attend the power point presentation at the Glacier Bank Community Room; 16 at the Tobacco River and 18 at Mud Creek.

ii. Tobacco River – Kassler

1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant

2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant

- 319 Interim Grant Funding – Requested Amount
- Staff reported we received full funding; \$100,000.
- MTFW&P Future Fisheries Grant
- This item can be taken off the agenda.

3. Watershed Management Grant

4. Sweet Grass CD Watershed Grant

- We were funded the entire request; \$13,125.

iii. Mud Creek - Roose

1. Request of Conditional Receipt and/or Waiver of Lien Rights by Landowner Barry Roose

- Staff reported Barry Roose requested a release of lien from LCD. She contacted Don Macintyre regarding the release of lien presented by Barry Roose. Mr. MacIntyre provided a lien in response to Mr. Roose's. Both are in the Board packet for review.
- Staff noted within the RFP provided for qualified bidders; a release of lien is noted within the document.
- Wayne Maahs asked about the fencing contractor.
- Staff responded we received information the fence installation contractor may be billing Mr. Roose, up to \$500, for requiring the fencing materials be hand carried from the upper bench area down to the creek.
- The Board is requesting more information before making a decision.
- **Motion** by Laura Garner to table prior to taking action for more information. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.** Darris Flanagan voted "no".

2. DEQ 319 Grant

3. KRN/USF&WS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana

May 15, 2019

Page 6

4. DNRC 223 Grant

- We received the invoice from River Design Group for the final planting and fencing.

b. Conservation Districts Environmental Contingency Grant Program

- Staff reported two landowners will qualify for funding. We have received the seed tag and invoice from John Doble for payment.

c. Mini Education Grant – Historical Village Interpretive Sign

- The sign has been made and we are waiting for the billing invoice.

Final Inspection Reports

Li-08-01-17 – Canavan-Fofield, S. Fork Yaak River – No report

On-Sites Needed

Open Mic and Other Business

- Wayne Maahs received an anonymous tip of a possible violation on the Yaak River.
- Keith Karoglanian introduced himself and described restoration projects he is involved with in the Troy and Libby areas.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. F. S. Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

