

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

Zoom

November 20, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

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

District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays

Guest(s): Katrina Newton

Called to order: 4:15 p.m. by Chairperson, Wayne Maahs

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- October 2020
 - **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to approve the minutes of October 2020 as presented. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- October 2020
 - Wayne Maahs commented that he noticed Amazon charges that were paid for on the LCD Bankcard reported on the financial report. He wanted the board to be aware that Darris Flanagan and Kathleen Johnson initial these charges on the receipts and review the bank statements each month to protect against fraudulent charges. This had been a problem in previous years with a staff member.
 - Kathleen Johnson discussed the format of the financial report with Rae Lynn prior to the meeting. She noted that the line items of the current financial report do not match those in the Profit and Loss Statement. Rae Lynn explained that the budget and financial statement were likely created prior to using QuickBooks. Data from QuickBooks is used to populate the profit and loss report which contains different line items for accounts. Wayne Maahs suggested that Rae Lynn create a proposal to switch the format of the budget and financial statement to match the profit and loss statement.
 - **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to approve the October 2020 financial report as presented. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed.**

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NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- The annual EQUIP deadline was this week. Brian Ressel reported a record number of 38 applications this year. He indicated they had three opportunities for funding including fuels reduction projects in the Glen Lake and Edna Creek areas as well as high tunnels. The high tunnel program received the highest number of applications. NRCS will be putting together contracts for those projects during the next few months.

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- MTFW&P field work has slowed and Brian Stephens said he is working on report writing and data analysis. Staff at MTFW&P are conducting work from home due to COVID. Therefore, email is the best way to reach Brian currently.

District Administrator's Report – Rae Lynn Hays

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- During the past month, Rae Lynn attended an AIS webinar for delivering educational training, a Zoom meeting highlighting CD projects around Montana, the MACD EO Annual Meeting on Zoom, as well as the MACD Conference on Zoom.
- The NACD Annual Meeting will be held in February. The meeting will be held in a virtual format and cost \$50 for each attendee. Wayne said he would support the fee for someone to attend if there was interest.
- Tree sales continue to come into the office.

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- The primary focus of the Lincoln County Planning Board has been the Screaming Eagle Subdivision. Debra Mocko is putting in seven new residential lots including the one where she currently resides. While her lot is 20 acres, the others are between 1-2 acres in size. The board proposed to proceed forward with the subdivision if road conditions were up to current specifications. This proposal will move forward to the county commissioners.

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310's

C-11-01-20 – Miller, Spring Creek

Kathleen Johnson, Laura Garner, and Mike Garner conducted the onsite inspection. Mr. Miller has approximately 20 acres with a spring-fed pond. A 12-foot dike was built in the '30's to create the pond. It is leaking with significant debris in the shallow end and dries out in the summer. Mr. Miller proposed to dredge out the debris and place a culvert to divert water. He did not have a cost estimate and had not spoken to his neighbors about the project. After much discussion with Mr. Miller, Laura Garner indicated the proposal was premature and encouraged him to reapply in the summer.

- **Motion** by Laura Garner to deny a permit for L-11-01-20 and encourage Mr. Miller to apply in the summer when he has more information and a design concept. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson.
- **Discussion** – Wayne Maahs agreed with the inspection report and asked if Spring Creek showed up as a perennial stream. Brian Stephens said it seems to show up on the map as a perennial stream. **Motion** passed.

Li-11-02-20 – Fleming, O'Brien Creek

- Don Crawford reported that he and Tom Maffei inspected this site earlier this summer. The information provided by Mr. Fleming on the 310 application was minimal. He proposed using a skid steer to conduct the work. Don Crawford indicated that the work could not be accomplished in the manner that was required using a skid steer and the ground may be frozen when he is able to get to it. Tom Maffei expressed similar concerns suggesting that it would be difficult to reach the material on the opposite side with a skid steer. The letter sent to Mr. Fleming addressing the violation specifically outlined using an excavator or hand tools to complete the remediation.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to deny a 310 permit for Li-10-02-20 based on the equipment proposed and lack of specificity in the application. **Second** by Tom Maffei.
- **Discussion** – Tom Maffei asked Brian Stephens about his thoughts concerning timing of project completion if Mr. Fleming was not able to complete the work this winter. Brian Stevens said spring might reshape it on its own. If the work is not accomplished this winter, it would probably be after July 15. **Motion** passed.
- **Motion** by Laura Garner to appoint Darris Flanagan to sign 310 Decision Forms on behalf of the supervisors. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion** passed.

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New Business:

- CD Service Expansion
 - Rae Lynn Hays presented the list of services she provided to Lincoln County residents during her time at MSU Extension. Lincoln County is experiencing a gap as there is no longer an Extension agent to provide services in the areas of agriculture and natural resources.
 - Don Crawford viewed these services as being helpful to the community at large. Soil analysis sounds like a worthwhile service to provide with the landowner paying for the associated costs. He asked Darris Flanagan about the impact on agricultural producers. Darris responded that they used services provided by Rae Lynn and encourage the board to consider adding some to the Annual Work Plan. Brian Ressel added that collaboration with NRCS on the educational aspect could be of great benefit and he would like to see the organizations branch out into those areas. Tom Maffei cautioned the board to not take on more than time and funding allow. Discussion will continue at the December Board Meeting regarding the Annual Plan of Work.
- Office Relocation
 - Rae Lynn Hays discussed the difficulties working at the USFS during the current pandemic to include meeting with individuals in the parking lot who cannot comply with the mask policy, the inability to discuss landowner goals, concerns and questions in a private setting, as well as multiple zoom meetings occurring in one room. In addition, the Eureka Ranger District is looking for more space to accommodate their needs. Brian Ressel said his experience aligned with Rae Lynn's assessment regarding the work environment. An office space is available in the Lincoln County Annex building that is slightly larger than the current space at the USFS. Commissioner Josh Letcher told Rae Lynn there would be no cost to LCD for renting the space.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to initiate the process of moving the LCD office to the Lincoln County Annex. **Second** by Don Crawford.
 - **Discussion** – Tom Maffei would like to have an acknowledgement of the arrangement by the other two commissioners as well as a written agreement outlining no costs to the district. Rae Lynn Hays and Darris Flanagan will meet with Josh Letcher to discuss commissioner acknowledgement as well as a written agreement.
 - **Motion** passed.
- Bank Account
 - Former employee Becky Lihme is still listed on the bank account at Lincoln County Credit Union. Rae Lynn Hays should now be on the account in place of Becky Lihme as the district administer.

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- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to replace Becky Lihme's name with Rae Lynn Hays as the district administrator on the Lincoln County Credit Union Account. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion** passed.
- Legislative Update
 - Rae Lynn Hays discussed issues related to DNRC retirements, budget shortfalls, and decreasing revenue from the coal tax.
 - Wayne Maahs reported on MACD resolutions. He voted to support each one except the stock water rights issue. He did not have enough information to make an informed decision and abstained.
- Annual Dinner
 - Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no dinner for next month's meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Laptop
 - Rae Lynn Hays is still trying to receive CARES Funding reimbursement for this expenditure. There is some confusion among the county as to who should apply for the reimbursement.
- OWL
 - The district has not received the camera yet but did receive notification from MACD that it was approved for one.
- MACD Annual Meeting
 - Wayne Maahs reported that organizers did a fantastic job putting this conference together. Over 150 attendees participated in the virtual meeting. The MACD/SWCDM merger passed.
- Grant Update
 - Tobacco River – Kassler
 - Phase 1
 - Phase 2 – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Maintenance Funding
 - An updated DEQ contract No. 216031 was presented to the board for consideration. The changes increased funding by \$16,000 and extended the length of the contract until April 30, 2021.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the contract modification. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion** passed.

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Final Inspection Reports

- Li – 06-04, Schuman Crystal Creek Li-06-03-20, Lincoln Electric, Sinclair Creek

Open Mic and Other Business

- Wayne Maahs reported that Rich Thomson is waiting to get a contract from the insurance company for the Davis Project. Wayne also said that he is not interested in serving as the chairperson for next year.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom to adhere to COVID19 guidelines.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Vice Chairperson

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: _____