

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
American Forest Management Office, Libby
July 21, 2021, 4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS; Brian Stephens, MT FW&P

District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays

Guest(s): Tom Woolf, MT FW&P; Russ Hartzell, MT FW&P

Called to order: 4:03 p.m. by Chairperson, Darris Flanagan

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- June 2021 Minutes
 - **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to approve the minutes of June 2021 meeting. **Second** by Mike Garner. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- June 2021
 - Kathleen Johnson presented the treasurer report. **Motion** by Wayne M. to approve the June 2021 financial report as presented. **Second** by Mike G. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- NRCS has finished obligating contracts and looking toward field season. The agency is still interviewing candidates for a soil conservation position. Brian indicated that they will be identifying areas for future projects. This will be discussed at the local working group meeting.

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- The MT FW&P field season has been busy with fish sampling and water quality monitoring. Brian discussed recent public meetings for conservation easements associated with Stimpson property and The Thompson Chain of Lakes.

District Administrator's Report – Rae Lynn Hays

- Volunteer hours were recorded
- Rae Lynn Hays and Kathleen Johnson attended the Farmer's Market in Eureka. They handed out pollinator seed and discussed weed identification/management, 310 permits, revegetation, soil analysis, and the CD's role in conservation.
- Rae Lynn has been in contact with Kurtis Hafferman regarding the site visit to Rainy Creek. She is waiting to hear back regarding dates.

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- Sinclair Creek – Rae Lynn H. and Kirk Sullivan will be going out to review a section of the stream as requested by Braidy Yargus.
- Brimstone Creek – Brian Gorman emailed to say that NRCS as well as Pat Price and Josh Erickson will be going out to discuss the stream at his ranch.
- ARPA Funding – Lincoln County is assembling a committee to identify projects/funding requirements.
- 310 Training will be in Kalispell on September 2. Interested participants should RSVP to Rae Lynn or Flathead Conservation District.

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- The planning board reviewed a conservation easement of the Thompson Chain of Lakes and recommended approval. The board also reviewed a subdivision near the Airport and Tetrault Lake area in Eureka. It included 20-acre lots and a park area on 640 acres. The board recommended approval.

310's

Li-07-01-21 – NWMT Gold Prospectors, Big Cherry Creek

- Wayne M. said that Li-07-01 through 07-04 were renewal 310 applications for dredging.
- **Motion** by Wayne M. to accept Li-07-01-21 as a project and approve the application as presented. **Second** by Darris Flanagan.
- **Motion** passed

Li-07-02-21 – NWMT Gold Prospectors, Libby Creek

- **Motion** by Mike G. to accept Li-07-02-21 as a project and approve the application as presented. **Second** by Wayne M.
- **Motion** passed.

Li-07-03-21 – Walborn, Libby Creek

- **Motion** by Wayne M. to accept Li-07-03-21 as a project and approve the application as presented. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson.
- **Motion** passed.

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Li-07-04-21 – Walborn, Libby Creek

- **Motion** by Wayne M. to accept Li-07-04-21 as a project and approve the application as presented. **Second** by Kathleen J.
- **Motion** passed.

C-07-05-21 – Boss, James, Noggle Creek

- Wayne M. reported that Don Crawford discussed this during the open Mic portion of the last meeting and did not observe any violation during the inspection. The work was done outside the creek.
- **Motion** by Wayne M. to declare no violation on C-07-05-21. **Second** by Kathleen J.
- **Motion** passed.

C-07-06-21 – Bowers, Jones, Kootenai River

- Wayne M. and Don C. conducted the site visit. The property is adjacent to a community boat ramp. They were not able to meet with the landowner but did observe an area of disturbed bank consisting of bare soil down to the water's edge. The area is approximately 20-30 ft in length and a depth of 2-4 ft.
- **Motion** by Wayne M. to declare C-07-06-21 a violation with a recommendation to the landowner to submit a 310 with a plan for remediation. **Second** by Mike G.
- **Motion** passed.

Li-07-07-21 – Ruffinen, Grave Creek

- Darris F. recused himself. Wayne M. said the board has reviewed 310 applications on this site previously. Mike G., Laura G. and Brian Stephens conducted the site visit. Mike G. said the landowner wants to close a side channel to prevent flooding
- Motion by Mike G. to accept Li-07-07-21 as a project and deny the application as presented. **Second** by Kathleen J.
- Discussion – The side channel needs to remain functional to absorb energy from the stream during high flow. Brian S. suggested getting a hydrologist out to the site to identify the root of the problem and assist the landowner with technical advice.
- **Motion** passed.

Postponed 310's

C-06-02-21 – Dale, Stimpson, Libby Creek

- Wayne M., Don C. and three foresters from Stimpson visited the site on July 1. No dredging equipment or people were observed at that time. However, it was observed by Stimpson employees as well as Luke Smith, a USFS geologist. The individuals involved in the complaint had been camping on nearby USFS property. DEQ is also investigating the complaint.
- **Motion** by Darris F. to declare C-06-02-21 a violation and send a letter indicating the individuals must cease activity immediately. **Second** by Wayne M.
- **Motion** passed.

New Business:

- **AIS Inspection Station at Border**
 - Tom Woolf and Russ Hartzell of MT FW&P discussed the potential for LCD to oversee an AIS inspection site at the Canadian Border and/or in Troy. MT FW&P would provide equipment and funding (reimbursement) to manage the station(s). LCD would manage staffing and oversee the day-to-day operations of the site. This would be for the 2022 season. LCD could consider managing one or both sites in Lincoln County. The sites require four full-time employees to cover shifts 7 days each week. FW&P would like a commitment by December if the board is interested in a partnership.
 - Mike G. suggested that the supervisors discuss this at the next board meeting and meet in person with MT FWP in September with a decision in October.
- **NAISMA Conference in Missoula**
 - Rae Lynn H. discussed the upcoming conference. She will be attending with registration costs covered by UC3. There are scholarships available first come first served for other individuals who are interested in attending.
- **Hosting Local Working Group**
 - Brian Ressel described the partnership between LCD and NRCS. One aspect of this partnership is that LCD promote and facilitate a local working group meeting to discuss how NRCS should prioritize projects and funding. This process is the first step in establishing a long range plan. Brian suggested that this meeting take place in September at the North Lincoln County Annex. Brian R. and Rae Lynn H. will work together to set a date.

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Unfinished Business:

• **2021/2022 Budget**

- Rae Lynn H. discussed potential ideas for the board to consider for allocating money in savings.
- Darris F. suggested forming a committee to discuss equipment/cost share programs.

Final Inspection Reports

- Li-03-05-21, Hanson, Therriault Creek
- LI-07-03-19, Wymer, Yaak River

Open Mic and Other Business – Mike G. said there is a property on Mud Creek where the bottom pasture flooded. It could be due to a dam on Mud Creek. He wants to initiate a complaint.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the North Lincoln County Annex, 66121 Hwy 37 in Eureka, as well as conducted via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: _____