

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING
NORTH LINCOLN COUNTY ANNEX, Eureka
February 24, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Johnson, chairperson; Darris Flanagan; Mike Garner; Laura Garner; Tom Maffei; Don Crawford; Katrina Newton

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s):

District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays

Guest(s):

Called to order: 3:04 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Johnson

New Business:

- **AIS Inspection Station Employee Process**
 - Rae Lynn Hays said she urged the district to take on the management role of the AIS inspection station in Eureka. This was after Wayne Maahs asked her to consider being on the UC3 Board. UC3 promotes the importance of AIS monitoring and inspection stations. Rae Lynn added since there had been some opposition to the district managing the station, the board may want to reconsider the contract if they were not going to have an District Administrator. Rae Lynn H. said she would be resigning. Laura Garner, Mike Garner, Don Crawford, and Tom M. indicated they had not been in favor of the CD managing the station from the beginning. Tom M. asked if the contract had already been signed with Montana FWP and what repercussions could come from backing out if. Kathleen J. said she signed the contract. Rae Lynn H. said she had already given a heads up to Tom Wolff at FWP and that they may need to take it back.
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to drop Lincoln Conservation District's participation in the management of the AIS Inspection station. **Second** by Mike G.
 - **Motion passed. Kathleen Johnson voted no.**
- **Personnel Review**
 - Closed meeting.
- **Envirothon Teams**
 - Derek Deshazer indicated that Eureka plans to send two teams to the Envirothon competition.
 - **Motion** by Mike G. to pay registration fees for two teams to attend Envirothon. **Second** by Darris F.
 - **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- **Annual Work Plan and Strategic Plan**

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

North Lincoln County Annex

February 17, 2022

Page 2

- Don C. does not like the annual plan. Laura G. suggested the annual plan be formatted as a document. She also suggested using the format of the proposed annual plan to document progress on CD activities, but the colors should be changed. Kathleen J. suggested removing the section on the Yaak Easement. Don C. does not see a need for a strategic plan and prefers the way it used to be. He does not understand why the district is changing things and says it is all just a bunch of gobbly gook.
- Motion by Mike G. to accept the strategic plan. Second by Laura G.
- Discussion – Tom M. would like to propose edits and have the chance to be able to do that. He suggests making edits to the document starting with the strategic plan, as that is what forms the annual plan, for the next meeting.
- Mike G. and Laura G. withdrew motion.

- **Brimstone Creek**

- Brian R. reviewed the memo proposed by River Design Group and noted a disconnect between the proposal and Brian Gorman's intent that he expressed when the CD started discussing a restoration project on the stream. Brian R. met with NRCS leadership to discuss the proposal. The agency is open to the idea if it is something that would enhance the wetland and show a benefit to the easement. NRCS is concerned that installing a channel might drain the easement.
- Brian G. reported that RDG conducted an extensive review of the site but did not understand the 60 acres to the north of the ranch is an easement in WRP. Brian G. would like the wetland to be utilized as a wetland and would be willing to give up some land to further enhance the wetlands and fish habitat. The lidar data indicates that aside from the high point, historically, most of the property was a wetland. Brian G. would like to increase the amount of water that comes on the property to benefit everyone and everything. He would like to see the springs flooded, the channel moved, and fencing to keep cattle out of the stream. He would also like to look into the upstream issues. Brian G. and Darrel Miller plan to hold back water upstream and then let it all go at once to determine flow by using water monitoring stations. Additionally issues upstream may also be a pond with significant siltation, channelization, and a fish barrier. Brian G. has put personal money into this project to keep it moving. He thinks this project would be a win for cutthroat trout and is willing to give up some land for an easement and keep cattle out 25-100 feet if needed but he can't fund the entire project. He noted that he wants to do what is best for the land and the habitat, but he also needs to make a living with his cattle.

- Brian R. said one option would be to roll more acreage into the WRP. NRCS could cover the costs of the changes and the engineering.
- Website
 - Kathleen J. noted a few websites that she has reviewed and suggested that the board review them and make suggestions for changes to the LCD website. MACD has a staff person that can assist with making design changes. Mike G. asked if Kathleen could email names of the websites to the board.

Final Inspection Reports

Open Mic and Other Business –

Kathleen J. will be gone next week at the RCAC meeting. Don C. asked where the next meeting will be held.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the North Lincoln County Annex in Eureka as well as conducted via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Johnson, Chairperson

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: _____