

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
American Forest Management Office, Libby
May 17, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Johnson Chairperson; Laura Garner; Darris Flanagan; Mike Garner, Katrina Newton, Don Crawford, John DeLeo

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s): Wayne Maahs

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

District Administrator (Acting): Rae Lynn Hays

Guest(s):: Robin Benson, Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder; Anthony South and Katie McCahan, Yaak Valley Forest Council;

Called to order: 4:01 p.m. by Chairperson, Kathleen Johnson

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- April 2022 Minutes
 - **Motion** by Mike Garner to approve the minutes of the April 2022 meeting. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
- May 5, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
 - **Motion** by Don C. to approve the minutes of May 5 special meeting. **Second** by Katrina Newton. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- April 2022 Financial Report
 - Laura Garner reported that the bank statement did not arrive in time for her to complete the treasurer report. It will be presented at the next meeting.

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- No report

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- No report

District Administrator's Report – Rae Lynn Hays

- Volunteer hours were recorded
- Rae Lynn Hays reported that DNRC did not award a planning grant to LCD for the Graves Creek Project. She was told that the agency received over 50 applications and had limited money to fund the projects.

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Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- No report. The planning board has had no meetings.

310's

Li-05-01-22 – Rehl, Flower Creek

- Katrina N. and Brian Stephens conducted the site visit. Brian S. said the landowner complained about the CD and its lack of consistency. During the site visit, the landowner presented aerial photographs to demonstrate what went wrong and caused the sedimentation. In the original complaint, the landowner set ECO blocks along the bank without a 310 permit. Now, the area next to the bridge is backfilled and 1/3 of the ECO blocks are in the stream. Stephens said the landowner proposed to lift the blocks and walk them out on the downstream site. On the upstream site, he proposed lifting the blocks out and putting rocks in their place.
- **Motion** by Katrina N. to accept Li-05-01-22 as a project and deny the 310 permit. The landowner should specify how he is going to move the blocks and reduce the number of stream crossings. **Second** by Mike G.
- **Motion** passed

Li-05-02-22– Baffa, Bobtail Creek

- Don C. and Brian S. conducted the site visit. The applicant did not specify how he intended to reinforce the bank in his application. Don C. and Brian S. provided the applicant with considerations and encouraged him to reapply for the 310 permit. The applicant was interested in doing the project correctly.
- **Motion** by Katrina N. to accept Li-05-02-22 as a project and deny the 310 permit due to lack of information in the application. **Second** by Darris Flanagan.
- **Motion** passed.

Li-05-03-22 – Yaak Valley Forest Council, Yaak River

- Anthony South discussed the proposed project. The site is just upstream from a recently completed restoration. Katie Laughlin is the landowner. In partnership with Vital Ground, this project was identified in 2015 as a restoration site. No machinery will be used during the project. The applicant will be removing weeds and replacing them with native grasses and willows. Brian S. said the project is pretty straightforward.
- **Motion** by Don C. to accept Li-05-03-22 as a project and approve the application as presented. The 15-day wait period will be waived. **Second** by Darris F.
- **Motion** passed.

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Postponed 310's

New Business:

- **MACD Invoice**
 - **Motion** by Katrina N. to pay the MACD invoice for dues totaling \$3,442.35. **Second** by Darris F.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **MWCC Dues**
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to pay \$50 dues to MWCC. **Second** by Katrina N.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **2022 Insurance Renewal**
 - Rae Lynn H. said she attended a MACO conference call where the representative explained the reason for the significant increase in insurance costs. MACO has been auto-renewing for over a decade without gathering information related to increased revenue for conservation districts. This year, they obtained revenue information from that state which includes all grant awards as revenue. The cost jumped from \$1,466 in 2022 to \$6,311 for FY 2023.
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to pay insurance premium. **Second** by Katrina N.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **Permissive Medical Mil Levy**
 - Rae Lynn H. presented the Permissive Mil Levy request for FY 2022-2023.
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to approve the PMML request of \$9,165.36. **Second** by Mike G.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **Preliminary Budget FY 2022-2023**
 - Rae Lynn H. presented the options for the preliminary budget. She explained that it was based on costs for 2022. It included options for staff pay increases for a new district administrator and paying a new person to travel to the Eureka area for work, as well as an option for reducing costs for repairs and equipment. Rae Lynn H. also discussed the savings account and explained the board should have a plan for that money.
 - **Motion** by Katrina N. to approve option A for \$81,893.76 in the proposal. No second.
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to approve Option B for \$86,531.76 in the proposal. Second by Mike G.

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- **Discussion** – Don C. suggested forming a committee to review the budget and present options for spending down the savings account. Suggestions should be emailed to Rae Lynn by June 1.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **NRCS MOU**
 - Kathleen J. presented the NRCS MOU. Several items need to be updated such as office address and staff.
 - **Motion** by Darris F. to approve NRCS MOU with updates. **Second** by Katrina N.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **On-X Reimbursement**
 - When Rae Lynn H. subscribed to On-X, the LCD did not have a card to use for payment. Rae Lynn's card was still on file and billed for the renewal.
 - **Motion** by Mike G. to reimburse Rae Lynn H. \$29.99 for the cost of On-X. **Second** by Katrina N.
 - **Motion** passed.
- **Board Communication/Protocol**
 - Kathleen J. said one comment that has emerged is the length of time that board meetings take. It would help if Team Inspection Reports were submitted prior to the meeting so people could review them and Rae Lynn would have them for the file. Kathleen also asked about how much lead time Brian S. needed for site visits and how communication can be improved. Don C. suggested having people who live close to the site be included on the inspection since they are more familiar with the location. Kathleen J. said she just wants to avoid duplication of scheduling efforts. Don C. will schedule site visits on the south end of the county when he is not in Alaska. Laura G. will schedule site visits on the north end of the county. Kathleen also asked for people to identify the application number in the subject line of all emails to avoid confusion.

Unfinished Business:

- **Appoint Supervisor to Fill Vacant Seat**
 - Item was moved to top of the agenda. John DeLeo ran for a seat in the 2022 election. Since Tom Maffei resigned, John D. was asked to fill the vacancy.
 - **Motion** by Katrina N. to approve John DeLeo as a supervisor. **Second** by Mike G.
 - **Motion** passed.
 - John DeLeo was sworn in by Robin Benson.

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- **District Administrator Hiring Process**
 - Kathleen J. said the committee will be interviewing a candidate on Monday.
- **Website**
 - Postponed until DA is hired
- **Best Management Practices Document**
 - Postponed until next meeting
- **LCD Strategic Plan**
 - Postponed until DA is hired.

Final Inspection Reports

Open Mic and Other Business –

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Johnson, Chairperson

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: _____