

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**
Hybrid – Lincoln County Annex, Eureka/Zoom
February 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Johnson, Chair; Don Crawford; John DeLeo; Gary Pershall, Joe Lewicki

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s): Wayne Maahs

Advisor(s): Brian Stephens, MTFWP; Brian Ressel, NRCS

District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays

Administrative Assistant: Rhonda Rockwell

Guest(s): Terry Smith, Keith Frost, Kenneth Anderson

Called to order: 4:02 p.m. by Kathleen Johnson, Chair

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- January 17, 2024, regular meeting minutes
 - **Motion** by Gary Pershall to approve the January 17, 2024, meeting minutes. **Second** by Joe Lewicki.
 - **Motion** passes unanimously.

Financial Report:

- John DeLeo presented the December 2023 treasurer's report.
- **Motion** by Joe L. to approve the treasurer's report. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion** passes unanimously.
- John D. presented the January 2024 treasurer's report.
- **Motion** by Joe L. to approve the treasurer's report. **Second** by Gary P.
- **Motion** passes unanimously.

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian R. attended the Soil Health Symposium in Billings. He has also been working with the Lincoln County Fire Safe Council on a landowner workshop this spring to raise awareness about fire risk. It is planned for May 8 at the Fortine School, May 11 (possibly the Fairgrounds in Eureka), and May 18 in Troy. They hope to have a catered event with speakers, fire departments, and the Forest Service. The CD could have a booth if the board would like to participate.
- NRCS expanded its community ag program beyond high tunnels. Anyone participating in community ag (donates or sells products locally) might be eligible for programs such as fencing, pollinators, etc. Signup ends in October.

- **Motion** by John D. to accept Li-02-02-24 as a project and approve as proposed with the instream work conditions noted in the team report. The project should be completed during period of low, stable flow. No instream work will occur between April 1 – October 1. **Second** by Don C.
- **Motion** passes unanimously.

Li-02-03-24, Anderson, O'Brien Creek

- Brian S. and John D. conducted the original site visit. Brian would like to view the site again given the new application. The instream work window would be July 15 to September 1.
- **Motion** by Don C. to postpone Li-02-03-24 to allow time for a site visit. **Second** by Joe L.
- **Motion** passes unanimously.

C-02-02-23, Cote, Smith, Pinkham Creek

- Rae Lynn H. reported that she mailed a certified letter to Mr. Cote last April. It was just returned to the office and marked as undeliverable.
- **Motion** by Don C. to contact Mr. Cote by phone and send a letter noting that he is in violation and mitigation is required. **Second** by Gary P.
- **Motion** passes unanimously.

Postponed 310's.

Li-01-01-24, Smith Grave Creek


- Brian S. and Don C. conducted the site visit. Rae Lynn H. reported that two amendments were submitted: one from the landowner and one from the contractor. Brian S. noted that the rock would create more roughness and slow the flow of the stream better, but either option would work. If the gabions were used a terraced approach may be beneficial. Don C. agreed that either option would work but said it would be best if the landowner would specify which one she wanted to use. Brian S. said no instream work could occur prior to October. Terry Smith said she wanted to use rock. It should be set and keyed in at a maximum scour depth.
- **Motion** by Don C. to approve Li-01-01-24 as submitted in the amendment with the following conditions: the base of the rock stabilization structure will be comprised of 3–4-foot angular rock, set and keyed in at maximum scour depth. Instream work can begin October 1. Portions of the project not occurring in the stream can occur prior to October 1. conditions. **Second** by Gary P.
- **Motion** passes unanimously.

- **Envirothon Team**
 - We have not received any requests to cover the costs for a local team.
- **Montana Watershed Coordination Council Membership**
 - In previous years, the board provided \$50 for membership dues.
 - **Motion** by John D. to pay \$50 dues to MWCC. **Second** by Joe L.
 - **Motion** passes.
- **310 Administration Grant**
 - Hailey Graf, DNRC 310 Permit Coordinator, asked CDs to provide feedback regarding their willingness to forego a portion of the 310 Administration Grant to cover costs associated with the Gilley Software Program. The software program would be used for applicants to complete and upload 310 applications. Don C. said he was concerned about it being frustrating for people to complete the process online. He added he was not interested in giving up 310 funding for it.
 - **Motion** by Don C. to tell DNRC that LCD is not interested in funding Gilley through its 310 Administration Grant. **Second** by John D.
 - **Motion** passes unanimously.
- **CD Administrative Grant**
 - This purpose of this grant is to bring CD funding throughout Montana up to \$60,000. Another component of the grant allows CDs to apply for \$3,500 to cover MACD dues. The LCD mill levy is less than \$60,000. Rae Lynn noted that DNRC asked for a capital improvement plan from CDs with large savings accounts. LCD has allocated funding for revegetation programs and pollinator programs as well as weed management programs. The CD might want to consider local project proposals as an additional way to utilize funds. The CD might not want to fund reimbursements for herbicides due to liability.
 - **Motion** by Don C. to apply for the CD administrative grant to cover the MACD dues. **Second** by John D.
 - **Motion** passes unanimously.
- **Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership**
 - Rae Lynn H. has not been able to connect with the project coordinator.
 - **Motion** by Gary P. to postpone. **Second** by Joe L.
 - **Motion** passes unanimously.
- **Officer Elections**
 - Kathleen Johnson currently serves as chair. Gary Pershall serves as the vice chair and John DeLeo serves as the treasurer.
 - **Motion** by Don C. to nominate and elect the same slate of officers for 2024. **Second** by John D.
 - **Motion** passes unanimously.

Open Mic and Other Business –

John DeLeo provided photos that he took of the Noble Project on Flower Creek. He said it looks better than the photos portray. He was concerned there would be a lot of wood chips given the size of the trees. It looks like they are doing a good job. They left huge stumps and plan to revegetate when they are done. Don concurred. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen Johnson, Chair

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: 3-20-2024