

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Don Crawford, Vice-Chairperson; Alfred Phillip; Mark Romey; Valene Goff

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Kirk Sullivan, N.R.C.S.; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Hannah Hernandez, U.S.F.S.

Called to order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Darris Flanagan

Public Comment:

Minutes:

- a. February 2016
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve the minutes of February 2016 as presented. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. February 2016
- Staff reviewed the Financial report. The check written for the January pay roll service for H. James Toland in the amount of \$35.00 was not received; the stop payment fee is \$29.00. Due to the minimal cost difference the Board determined to not place a stop payment on the check. A replacement check had been written. The unusual amount of \$30.00 under postage was for the shipping of the DNRC Area display. **Motion** by Mark Romey to approve the Financial Report for February 2016. **Second** Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

New Business Item a. U.S. Forest Service Participating Agreement

1. Committee Appointment

- Ms. Hernandez reported the U.S. Forest Service would like to begin a collaborative between the Lincoln Conservation District and the Libby District to complete stream restoration projects; either a Memorandum of Understanding or a Participating Agreement. Projects could include riparian vegetation, stream restoration, culvert replacement, bridge replacement.
- Mark Romey asked if we (LCD) would be the contractor.
- Ms. Hernandez replied yes, most projects would be funded by the Forest Service on Forest Service land. With the assistance of the conservation district most projects could be streamlined.
- Mike Hensler verified the conservation district would implement the contracts and Forest Service would pay.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 2

- Darris Flanagan asked if any projects would be on private land; we (LCD) don't want to conflict with the Kootenai River Network.
- Don Crawford noted when we last met road maintenance was mentioned.
- Ms. Hernandez specified the collaboration would be for water issues.
- Darris Flanagan stated we (LCD) need to create a committee to bring back a recommendation to the Board.
- Staff reported she had spoken with Wayne Maahs about the committee and he is agreeable to serve and recommended Mark Romey.
- Darris Flanagan volunteered to serve on the committee.
- Alfred Phillip asked about the liability on projects.
- Mike Hensler noted this would be a "typical" contract but agreed we need to check with the attorney.
- Mark Romey asked who would be administering the contract.
- Ms. Hernandez responded the Forest Service would oversee the project(s).
- Mike Hensler noted Peter Leusch from Yaak Valley Forest Council would be a good contact to speak with for feedback on past projects.
- It was stated the LCD would be serving as a conduit to make projects easier to get accomplished by the Forest Service.
- Mike Hensler noted permitting would be on a case by case basis; private party on Forest Service land is a 310 permit; government on Forest Service land is a 124 permit.
- Kirk Sullivan asked if this MOU is forest wide or just within Libby District.
- Ms. Hernandez responded forest wide.
- Darris Flanagan confirmed the committee would consist of himself, Wayne Maahs and Mark Romey.
- Kirk Sullivan asked when the Forest Service wanted to begin.
- Ms. Hernandez responded next year.

NRCS Report – Kirk Sullivan

- Intitial funding allocations for the Missoula Area 2016 EQIP has been determined. Forestry funding was increased from last year. Lincoln County has twenty-two (22) forest applications which exceeds the initial allocation. \$900,000 total funding.
- Progressive Plans are all land uses that have a plan for building towards a resource system.
- Ranking will be critical; Seventeen (17) applications are beginning farmers. Separate funding of \$400,000 is available state wide.
- Mark Romey asked what is a beginning farmer.
- Kirk Sullivan explained a beginning farmer has less than ten (10) years of farming.
- Work continues with technical assistance for grazing and irrigation in the Tobacco Valley area.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 3

- There has been limited activity on contract practice implementation. A few folks have resumed thinning, but are not ready for certification checks.
- Kirk Sullivan asked the Board consider him as an Associate Supervisor after he retires in May.

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

- Bob Cuffe received an award last month from “Future Fisheries” for his work.

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded for February.
- News articles are in the Board Packets.
- Staff reviewed the schedule for the Stream Trailer requested from Susan Farmer at the Libby Dam.
- The MPERA training session is on March 30th in Kalispell.
- Staff has contacted Larry Benson to schedule an educational training for the L.C.H.S. Envirothon team(s) for Wednesday April 20th.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark Romey reported Gary Mason is the new representative for the north end.
- The next Planning Board Meeting will be on April 19th. The topic of discussion will be to review the Lincoln County Economic Development Plan.

GLID Report

- Valene Goff reported GLID received \$5,000 from the 223 grant recently submitted. Bentonite will be placed.
- GLID will be applying for a DNRC Renewable Resource Grant to repair Costich Drop.

310's

LI-03-01-16 – Kern/Croucher, Yaak River

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-03-01-16 with as presented with standard suction dredging letter; all other government permits are in place. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

E-03-02-16 – Noble, Lang Creek

- Don Crawford and Wayne Maahs looked at the site. The lake behind the dam flowed into the creek dropping bed load into the channel.
- Don Crawford reported the contractor who originally repaired the dam was in attendance as well as the Forest Service hydrologist.
- Mike Hensler reported the consensus from the hydrologist is to remove the sediment load.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 4

- Don Crawford noted the conservation district has agreed the action taken is an emergency.
- Mike Hensler added the Forest Service road was involved.
- The remediation has been completed as it was part of the emergency action.
- **Motion** by Alfred Phillip to declare E-03-02-16 an emergency under the 310 Law. Remediation has been completed as part of the emergency action. Any further work will require a 310 permit application. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's

V-08-03-15 – Franklin/Cordara, Sinclair Creek
C-12-01-15 – Vanderhoef, Micklon, East Fisher River
Li-02-04-16 – Cuffe/Cordara, Sinclair Creek

- Darris Flanagan and Mike Justus conducted an inspection of the project with Bob Cuffe. The following recommendations were made: Two (2) debris jams will be installed on the outer banks of two meander corners. In the area sand was placed, the sand will be removed around the base of two (2) trees. The area will be grass seeded with trees and shrubs planted. The boulders placed to create a pond will be lowered by approximately one (1) foot. Large boulders (12" to 18") should be placed on the outflow portions of the riffle to serve as a grade control feature and to keep the stream from down cutting. Several trees will be transplanted to stabilize the stream bank where equipment crossed the stream. The fifteen (15) waive wait period is waived.
- **Motion** by Valene Goff to approve Li-02-04-16 with the following modifications: Two (2) debris jams will be installed on the outer banks of two meander corners. In the area sand was placed, the sand will be removed around the base of two (2) trees. The area will be grass seeded with trees and shrubs planted. The boulders placed to create a pond will be lowered by approximately one (1) foot. Large boulders (12" to 18") should be placed on the outflow portions of the riffle to serve as a grade control feature and to keep the stream from down cutting. Several trees will be transplanted to stabilize the stream bank where equipment crossed the stream. The fifteen (15) waive wait period is waived. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

Item a. U.S. Forest Service Participating Agreement moved.

- b. DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program Due May 15
 - Staff reported the information is in the Board Packet. GLID will be applying.
- c. Stream Trailer Give Away Bags
 - Staff reported it is time again to order items for the stream trailer give away bags to supplement last year's supply.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 5

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve \$250.00 to purchase items for the stream trailer give away bags. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed**
- d. Spring Advertisement
 - Staff reported we normally run newspaper advertisements in spring for 310 permitting. 310 Administrative funds pay for the advertisements.
 - Mike Hensler suggested information for other permits that may be needed should be included in the advertisement.
 - Staff will adjust the advertisement.
- e. Lincoln County Credit Union – Signer Form
 - Staff reported to the Board the credit union has a new procedure for changing signers to the account. Information needs to be reviewed and updated.
- f. Possible Libby Meeting Locations, If Necessary
 - Staff reported she spoke with Wayne Maahs and with the merging of Weyerhaeuser with Plum Creek we may need to research for an alternate location.
 - Alfred Phillip suggested we (LCD) write a letter to Weyerhaeuser thanking them for allowing the use of the room and would appreciate being allowed to continue use.
 - Mark Romey agreed.
 - Darris Flanagan commented if we send the letter to Seattle who ever receives the letter will not know who we are.
 - Staff is to ask Wayne Maahs who he would recommend we send a letter to.
- g. Permissive Mill Levy
 - 1. Public Hearings
 - Staff explained a public hearing must be held prior to the budget approval. In past public hearing forums, we have conducted two (2); one (1) in the Eureka and the other in Libby.
 - The Board selected two hearings be held; May and June.
- h. MACD Dues
 - Staff reported the current dues invoice and last year's invoice are in the Board Packet.
 - **Motion** by Alfred Phillip to approve payment of the 2016/17 MACD Annual Dues in the amount of \$3,067.38. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- i. SWCDM Donation to the Bridger Plant Material Center
 - Darris Flanagan asked if the program only included eastern Montana.
 - Kirk Sullivan explained no, the program includes all of Montana and Wyoming.

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 6

- **Motion** by Alfred Phillip to approve the \$25.00 donation to SWCDM for the Bridger Plant Material Center. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**
- j. 2016 Forest Landowner Conference/Informing Forest Management Decisions Friday, April 15th, Helena
 - No registrations
- k. 2016 Ties to the Land Workshop/Succession Planning for Landowners, Saturday, April 16th
 - No registrations

Unfinished Business:

- a. Tobacco River Restoration 319 Grant – Update
 - 1. Phase 1; 319 Grant
 - No report
 - 2. Phase 2; Reclamation Planning Grant
 - Staff reported a meeting has been scheduled with Dave Martin, Karl Kassler and Jim Bushfield for April 19th to plan for Phase 2.
- b. 223 Grant Update
 - 1. Mud Creek
 - Staff reported the RFQ's on-site was conducted. We have two (2) firms who attended; Todd Butts from Mountain Engineering and River Design Group, John Muhlfeld. The ranking meeting will be held on March 29th.
 - 2. GLID
 - Reported on earlier.
 - 3. Yaak Valley Forest Council
 - Staff reported she contacted Peter Leusch regarding when they anticipate completing the final section of the assessment and the final report to close the grant.
- c. Envirothon – Discussed under District Administrator's Report

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-02-02-16 – Leisz, Lake Creek

On Sites Needed:

- a. Li-09-11-14, Janssen, Yaak River

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
March 16, 2016
Page 7**

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Kirk Sullivan reported on the Kootenai River Network Stakeholders Meeting. Mike Justus presented the LCD report at the meeting.
- The attendees divided into groups from the watersheds listed in the WRP. The intent was to set project priorities in the Kootenai River Drainage.
- The watersheds were ranked in two (2), five (5) and ten (10) year priorities.
- Progress has been made in the top 3 ranked projects in the Tobacco River (including the Kassler project).
- Other waterways in the Tobacco Watershed included were Indian Creek and Mud Creek; both were ranked the five (5) year plan.
- Mike Hensler noted Wolf Creek is a project to move forward in the future; BNSF railroad runs along the channel.
- Hannah Hernandez added the planting of spruce trees along Wolf Creek to lower water temperature. Spruce trees are considered riparian species. Also discussed was the removal of check dams on Wolf Creek.
- Also discussed was LiDAR surveys on both the Fisher River and Libby Creek.
- Mike Hensler commented the use of drones to conduct surveys has had better results than LiDAR.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

