

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
January 17, 2018**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Don Crawford, Vice Chairperson; Valene Goff; Darris Flanagan; Mark Romey; Mike Justus

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s):

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s): Jessie Grossman, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Anthony South, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Robert Edmonton; Tom Maffei; John Muhlfeld, River Design Group (via tele-conference)

Called to order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Maahs

Tabled 310's – Item moved

Li-12-01-17 – York/RDG, Tobacco River

- John Muhlfeld reviewed the restoration project.
- Darris Flanagan noted he has been to the project site and asked about the area where backwater is trapped.
- John Muhlfeld responded this area will be filled and noted the “redline” indicates the “break”. Small vegetation will be used; 460 cubic yards of material.
- Mike Justus asked if the pond/wetland is connected to the river.
- John Muhlfeld responded there is no connection; it is a separate pond.
- Mike Justus then asked how is the pond fed with water.
- John Muhlfeld responded the pond will be fed by groundwater, not surface water. There is ample groundwater to feed the pond.
- Mike Justus asked if a coffer dam will be constructed during restoration.
- John Muhlfeld directed the Board to look at the diagram within the site plan. The plan is to pump any remaining groundwater during construction.
- Mark Romey asked what questions did Mike Hensler have regarding the project and plan set.
- John Muhlfeld noted Mike Hensler asked why the plan called for such a large pond. The landowner determined the size of the pond. The pond can be filled with groundwater with no flow connection to the river.
- Mike Justus noted the armored bank is a 180 degree turn.
- John Muhlfeld noted the proposed plan reduces the current turn size and water effect on the embankment.
- Mike Justus asked if there is any control feature at both the upper and lower ends.
- John Muhlfeld responded the river channel has a long glide that transitions to a rock armor riffle sufficient to control water flow.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-12-01-17 as presented. **Second** by Mike Justus. **Motion passed.**

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New Business – Item c. Yaak Valley Forest Council, Yaak River Assessment; Item Moved

- Jesse Grossman introduced herself and Anthony South. She described the Yaak Valley Forest Council and its purpose for natural resource conservation and watershed restoration.
- Anthony South discussed the Headwaters Program; the Headwaters database and the information they (YVFC) have gathered over the previous 20 years including private land within the Yaak Valley; the Yaak River erosion and stability survey encompassing from the Canadian border to Yaak Falls; support of private land owners; future outreach.
- Darris Flanagan asked what the YVFC is wanting from us (LCD).
- Jessie Grossman responded letters of support for future projects; feedback to make projects stronger. YVFC will also be making presentations to other agencies, for example the U.S. Forest Service. The YVFC does fundraising for cost share projects.
- Wayne Maahs asked what are the funding sources.
- Mike Justus noted the Western States Grant program had provided funding for YVFC.
- Darris Flanagan added a DNRC 223 grant was awarded for the Yaak River Bank Assessment. Darris suggested to place the YVFC on future agendas for support.
- Wayne Maahs added for YVFC staff to contact us (LCD) to be on the agenda. We meet every other month in Libby.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Edmonton described his property on Pipe Creek and work that had been completed by the previous owner. Plastic had been placed along the embankment and covered with rock. Mr. Edmonton has removed a section of the disturbed area. Mr. Edmonton would like to place a 5,000 gallon water holding tank for fire suppression and use water from Pipe Creek to fill it. Mr. Edmonton noted the freeze/thaw issue that may affect the tank. He would fill in the spring and release the water in the fall.
- Wayne Maahs stated this discussion will be continued under “Open Mic and Other Business”.

Minutes:

- a. December 2017
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of December 2017 with the correction under Li-12-02-17 “The materials have been “drifted” away from the riverbank”. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

- a. December 2017
 - Mike Justus reviewed the financial report; \$25,000 was transferred from savings to checking to pay River Design Group. **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve the December Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

MTFW&P Report – Mike Hensler

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- Staff discussed the Montana Watershed Inc. 501c3 between Lake County CD, Lincoln CD and Flathead CD. Wayne Maahs noted the non-profit was formed for grant applications and insurance purposes. Jim Simpson was on the Lake County CD Board when this was initiated. Wayne questioned if the 501c3 is still in force if Lake County CD has not been renewing the non-profit.
- A Supervisor Training will be held in Fort Benton.
- DNRC WMG grant is now open for applications.
- Staff informed the Board to be prepared for a federal government shutdown on Friday. Brian Donner, U.S.F.S. District Ranger has approved for staff to remain in the building. However, the public will not be allowed in the building. Arrangements will need to be made to receive the public.
- The DNRC Environmental Contingency Grant was submitted. Our grant request was for approximately \$65,0000 which was for grass seed only and delivery. We received 16 applications of which 300 acres were considered “intense” burn; 33 acres were moderate to low.

Planning Board Report – Mark Romey

- Mark Romey reported the Planning Board did not meet.

GLID Report – Valene Goff

- No report.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

- Samantha Tappenbeck is on vacation and will report at the February Meeting.

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310's

Li-01-01-18 – InterBel Telephone Co-op, Ivor Creek Bore #1

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-01-01-18 as presented. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Li-01-02-18 – InterBel Telephone Co-op, Lime Creek Bore #2

- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-01-01-18 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

Li-01-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08-18 – InterBel Telephone Co-op, Fortine Creek Bore 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- **Motion** by Mike Justus to approve Li-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08-18 as presented. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

a. Election of Officers

- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to nominate Darris Flanagan as Chairperson for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2018. **Second** by Valene Goff.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to nominate Wayne Maahs as Vice-chairperson for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2018. **Second** by Darris Flanagan.
- **Motion** by Wayne Maahs to nominate Mike Justus as Treasurer for the Lincoln Conservation District for 2018. **Second** by Valene Goff.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to accept the slate of nominees for Officers of the Lincoln Conservation District for 2018. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**

b. 2018 Annual Work Plan

- After discussion, the following changes were recommended for the 2018 Annual Work Plan:
 - Under Item C. Public Relations, delete number 17 and number 20.
 - Under Item D. Conservation Education; delete number 15.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the 2018 Annual Work Plan as amended from 2017. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

c. Yaak Valley Forest Council, Yaak River Assessment – Item Moved

d. Montana Watershed Coordination Council – Basins Council 2018 Project Award

- Staff reviewed the grant purpose to provide education for watershed related projects. She is recommending the LCD apply for this grant to provide the matching funds for the required educational signs at both Mud Creek and Tobacco River restoration projects.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to submit the Montana Watershed Coordination Council – Basins Council 2018 Project Award grant application. **Second** by Valene Goff. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update
 - i. Tobacco River – Kassler
 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff reported the Final Design is completed and copies will be sent to DEQ and the Board. DEQ has 30 days to approve.
 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant
 - Staff reported the re-submission letter, updated budget and completion schedule are due to DNRC for the next DNRC Reclamation Grant cycle between February 1st and May 15th. John Muhlfeld will prepare an updated budget and schedule to present to the Board at the February Board Meeting.
 - ii. Mud Creek DEQ
 1. 319 Grant
 - The RFP's are due January 18th.
 2. KRN / USF&WS Partners for Fish Wildlife Program Archeological Survey – Cindy Hemry contacted Jim Dunnigan for a project number.
 3. Watershed Management Grant
- b. Clark Fork WRP, Thompson River Drainage
- c. VISA/Debit Card
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to set the Debit Card limit to \$500.00. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
 - The Board requested an electronic copy of the bank statement sent to both the Treasurer and Chairperson and a hard copy sent to the District Administrator.
- d. CD Boundary Signs
 - Staff reported she contacted Laurie Zeller regarding the 223 grant application and Kathy from Boundary County CD in Idaho regarding the district boundary sign. Boundary County CD has been interested in replacing the sign and has funding set aside for the project. Laurie Zeller stated the 223 grant will rank higher if Boundary CD will pay for their portion. Flathead CD has this on their next agenda for consideration.
- e. 2018 Election / Supervisor Vacancy
 - Staff noted Wayne Maahs and Mark Romey are up for re-election and must file their Nomination for Candidacy by March 12th. Staff explained to both Mr. Edmonton and Mr. Maffei the Board can appoint a supervisor to fill the current vacancy through December 31st. Both can apply for the upcoming

election. The successful candidate will serve for an “unexpired” 2 year term. Elected supervisors must reside within the conservation district boundary except within the original town limits of Libby and Troy. Both towns elected to not be included within the conservation district. Valene Goff and Darris Flanagan are appointed Urban Supervisors by the towns of Rexford and Eureka.

- Wayne Maahs noted conservation districts also have Associate Supervisors. These positions are appointed by the Board and participate in discussions and project on-sites, but do not have voting power.

Final Inspection Reports:

Li-08-02-17, Stimson Lumber, Fall Creek - No action

Li-09-01-17, Stimson Lumber, Smearl Creek – No action

On Sites Needed:

Open Mic and Other Business:

- Wayne Maahs explained the LCD’s role under the 310 Law. The pumping of water is a water rights issue.
- Mr. Edmonton described he would have no impact on the embankment.
- Mike Justus added the State of Montana owns the water; a water right is needed to pump the water out of the stream. Releasing the water back into the stream would need to be done slowly.
- Mr. Edmonton asked about a water wheel to run power. He is currently using a small motor with a propeller.
- Wayne Maahs stated a 310 permit would be required with an inspection prior to the Board making a decision.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

