

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana
April 17, 2019
4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Don Crawford; Tom Maffei; Kathleen Johnson; Darris Flanagan; Mark Romey; Laura Garner (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Absent:

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Stephens, MTFW&P; Brian Ressel, NRCS

Guest(s):

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

Public Comment:

Item Added:

- Wayne Maahs explained a motion was inadvertently not made at the March 20, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting to approve the sponsoring of the DNRC 223 application for the Lincoln County Weed District. This item was on the March agenda for discussion and approval. Wayne Maahs called for this item be added to the agenda and a motion as this time to approve the sponsorship.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to sponsor and submit a DNRC 223 grant for the Lincoln County Weed District for weed treatment. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Minutes:

a. March 2019

- **Motion** by Tom Maffei to approve the minutes of March 2019. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

a. March 2019

- Staff noted we are at 87% of our budget and keep in mind we recently paid one of our largest invoices for this fiscal year, the 2019 MACD dues. Staff will have the FY 2019/20 Preliminary Budget next month.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the March Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

- Brian presented information on the TIP program. Funding will be for the next 5 years; 1,600 acres will be treated; acreages with homes will have priority; funding for fuels reduction and thinning.

- NRCS is requesting more office space; space for four employees this includes a second long term NRCS employee, the conservation district administrator and a summer intern.
- The summer intern position has closed.
- The new state forester has been hired. He will not be writing private landowner forest management plans.
- Additional information was requested from McCone Conservation District to proceed with the soil health grant for the Kassler project.
- The Local Work Group meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. prior to the regular Board Meeting on June 17th.
- Kathleen Johnson asked about projects outside the TIP area.
- Brian Ressel responded, we always applications; there are “pots of money” available, for example the hoop houses and technical assistance.

MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- No report

District Administrator’s Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- Copies of the spring display advertisements are in the Board Packet.
- The stream trailer will be used on May 7th for the STEM day at Libby Dam and on May 9th for the Eureka Elementary School 4th graders.
- Staff reported she will be having family here over during the weekend of the “Birds of Prey Day” at Libby Dam. Darris Flanagan offered to do the display.
- The trees and shrubs will be ready for pick-up the afternoon of May 6th and Darris will be at the office for two hours on May 7th since staff will be at STEM Day.
- Information on the Range Tour and Range School are in the Board Packets.
- Darris Flanagan’s appointed position will be up for re-appointment in June.
- LCD received a capital credit from InterBel in the amount of \$69.94

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- The Planning Commission is working on the growth policy for Lincoln County. A proposal from a professional group will be presented to the Planning Board then to the commissioners. Meetings for social comment are scheduled in May.

SWCDM - Samantha Tappenbeck

- Samantha attended a drought advisory meeting in Helena and pulled the relevant graphs for Lincoln County. The Kootenai Basin in northwest Montana is the driest area in the state. Hopefully, the normally wet months of May and June will improve our moisture content.

- Samantha reviewed the Conservation Reserve Program
- Darris Flanagan noted very little of this program applies to us.
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310's:

Li-04-01-19 - Linnell, Mud Creek

- Kathleen Johnson reported on the project. The applicant will be installing a new septic system that will be bored under Mud Creek. A temporary culvert will be installed for access.
- Laura Garner added the septic line is a pipe within a pipe.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve Li-04-01-19 as presented; waive fifteen day wait period. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

E-04-02-19 – McCully, Ksanka Creek

- Laura Garner described the emergency action taken. Due to debris in the culvert, water back flowed into the applicant's basement. Debris was removed from the ditch and culvert.
- **Motion** by Laura Garner to declare E-04-02-19 as an emergency action under the 310 Law. No mitigation is required. **Second** by Kathleen Johnson. **Motion passed.**

Li-04-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08-09 - InterBel, Brimstone Creek Bore #1 & #2, Fortine Creek Bore #1, Stillwater River Bore #1 & #2, No Name Creek Bore

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-04-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08-19 as presented. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

Li-04-10-19 – Vredenberg/Brewer, Therriault Creek

- Kathleen Johnson reported this project site is the oldest water right on Therriault Creek. The applicant will be replacing an old wood culvert.
- Darris Flanagan added the project will include the placement of a weir. This is a simple project.
- Laura Garner noted there will be minimal disruption to the creek.
- Kathleen Johnson added the new diversion will provide maximum efficiency.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson approve Li-04-10-19 as presented; waive fifteen day wait period. **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

a. Sweet Grass Conservation District

- Staff reported this Sweet Grass grant is the same program we applied for to complete vegetation of Phase I of the Tobacco River Restoration Project. This round of applications is for a maximum of \$13,000 per applicant. We would like to apply again to plant vegetation in Phase II.

- **Motion** by Kathleen Johnson to apply for the Sweet Grass Conservation District grant program. **Second** by Mark Romey. **Motion passed.**
- b. Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project Donation
 - Staff noted we made a \$50.00 donation last year. A few years ago Melissa from this organization made a presentation at our noxious weed workshop at Libby Dam.
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to make a donation of \$50.00 to the Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**
- c. Staff Time Off
 - Staff reported she will be off ½ day on Wednesday, May 1st off, Thursday May 2nd and Tuesday, May 28th.
- d. Permissive Medical Mill Levy
 - Supervisors
 - Staff reported she recently learned supervisors are eligible for the permissive medical mill levy. For each supervisor who opts to participate in the mill levy, the District will have to pay the current monthly \$25.00 stipend. The one year stipend requirement is not needed since we have that established.
 - Laura Garner commented she would be interested.
 - Employees
 - Staff noted she may be asking for an increase in the mill levy due to an increase in health care premiums.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Grant Update
 - i. Public On-site / Envirothon Field Trip
 - Staff reported the Envirothon field trip was a success. We had presentations from Jay Deshazer, MTFW&P (aquatic species); Tim Their, USF&WS (wildlife), Brian Ressel, NRCS (grazing), Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM (stream ecosystems) and both landowners.
 - The public on-site is scheduled for May 11th.
 - ii. Tobacco River – Kassler
 - 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant
 - No update
 - 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant
 - 319 Interim Grant Funding – Requested Amount
 - Staff reported we are completing the grant application
 - MTFW&P Future Fisheries Grant
 - No update

3. Watershed Management Grant
 - We have \$1080 remaining to pay John Muhlfeld for his technical assistance in writing the 319 interim grant application.
4. Sweet Grass CD Watershed Grant
 - Action taken on previous agenda item.
- iii. Mud Creek - Roose
 1. DEQ 319 Grant
 - Staff reported we have \$1,600 remaining in the grant. We transferred \$2,700 from Administrative fees to construction to subsidize the cost overrun.
 - Staff reported the landowner has approached her regarding the completion of the lower reach. Due to the overrun in costs for the upper reach, we used all the construction funds for that portion of the project.
 - Darris Flanagan noted we (LCD) need to finish the current projects. We have spent money and time on this project and have other landowners interested in our assistance for restoration projects; put this project "down the road" for now.
 - Brian Ressel noted the advertisement sign is still in place; maybe the work cannot be completed.
 2. KRN/USF&WS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
 3. DNRC 223 Grant
 - Barry Roose reported to staff Todd Butts has completed the planting.
- b. Conservation Districts Environmental Contingency Grant Program
 - Staff reported three of the four landowners have purchased their seeds. She and Brian Ressel will be scheduling site visits soon.
- c. Mini Education Grant – Historical Village Interpretive Sign
 - Darris Flanagan reported Rob Good, TimberGraphics, has completed the signs. The signs are not installed.

Final Inspection Reports

- Li-08-01-17 – Canavan-Fofield, S. Fork Yaak River – No report
- Wayne Maahs reported and distributed photos of the Chapman project. The mitigation has been completed and this item can be closed.

On-Sites Needed

Open Mic and Other Business

- Brian Ressel reported he has been invited to attend the Lincoln County Fire Safe Council Meeting tomorrow. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weyerhauser Office, Libby, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

