

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Weyerhaeuser Office, Libby, Montana
January 15, 2020
4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Wayne Maahs, Chairperson; Darris Flanagan, Vice Chairperson; Tom Maffei; Don Crawford; Laura Garner

Absent: Kathleen Johnson

Associate Supervisor(s):

Advisor(s): Brian Stephens, MTFW&P; Keith Karoglanian, U.S.F.S.; Laura Jungst, U.S.F.S.

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s):

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

Public Comment:

Minutes:

a. December 2019

- Staff reported Kathleen Johnson requested a correction; her name should be added to the LCD Stream Restoration Grant Sponsorship discussion.
- Laura Garner noted under Planning Board she was unable to attend one meeting and a scheduled planning board meeting was not held.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to approve the minutes of December 2019 as corrected; add Kathleen Johnson to “Darris Flanagan reviewed the draft applicant questionnaire for stream restoration.”; correct “Laura Garner reported there has not been a meeting for the last two months.” to read “Laura Garner reported she was not able to attend one planning Board Meeting and one was not held.” **Second** by Laura Garner. **Motion passed**

Financial Report:

a. December 2019

- Wayne Maahs noted the percentage formula for funds spent under 310 Expense and 310 Admin need to be inserted.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve the December Financial Report as presented. **Second** by Darris Flanagan. **Motion passed.**

b. Medical Mill Levy Revenue

- Staff reviewed the memo presented in the Board Packets regarding the Permissive Medical Mill Levy and the payment schedule.

NRCS Report – Brian Ressel

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MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens

- Brian Stephens reported the MTFW&P Commission approved the red count for bull trout. After March 1st, bull trout will be on the catch and release program.

District Administrator's Report

- Volunteer hours were recorded.
- Newspaper articles are in the Board Packets.
- Staff reported Monday is Martin Luther King Day, the office will be closed and Wayne Maahs has approved Thursday, January 23rd and 30th off.
- The employee 2019 annual vacation and sick leave report is in the Board Packet.
- Tom Maffei has submitted his Oath of Candidacy.
- A Community Leadership workshop is being held in Billings on January 22nd and 23rd.

Planning Board Report – Laura Garner

- Laura Garner reported the Planning Board will meet next week.

310's

Li-01-01-20 – Tisher, Hafferman, McGinnis Creek

- Wayne Maahs reported the applicant did not meet the deadline to extend the previous 310 permit so a new application has been submitted. There are no changes to the project.
- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-01-01-20 as presented. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Tabled 310's:

New Business:

- a. Election of 2020 Officers
 - **Motion** by Tom Maffei to nominate Wayne Maahs to serve as Chairperson for 2020. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
 - **Motion** Laura Garner to nominate Darris Flanagan as Vice Chairperson for 2020. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**
 - **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to nominate Kathleen Johnson as the Treasurer for 2020. **Second** by Don Crawford. **Motion passed.**

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b. Grant Partner with U.S.F.S.

- Keith Karoglanian noted he would like to re-visit the possibility of a partnership with LCD to address impaired streams. Wolf Creek and the Fisher River are two possible impaired streams the Forest Service would like to restore. The Forest Service is able to bring in some funding but are looking for partners to help with the projects. The Yaak Valley Forest Council is currently a partner in the northwest portion of the Kootenai National Forest. The Forest Service is looking for non-federal funding sponsors to partner in the mid section of the Kootenai N.F. Keith has talked with Brian Stephens from MTFW&P. The conservation district has access to grants; the Forest Service has the technical assistance. A meeting is planned for March with interested parties.
- Wayne Maahs stated we (LCD) have grants available through the state.
- Keith Karoglanian noted 319 funding is available and spoke on the Tobacco River Restoration Project.
- Laura Jungst noted the Yaak Valley Forest Council has received funding the MTFW&P Future Fisheries grant program.
- Wayne Maahs explained the process from the conservation district is landowners contact us for assistance. In the Libby area there has not been a strong private interest for restoration projects. The Forest Service is the largest “player”. There could be restrictions with the 319 funding to administer the grant. We (LCD) contract with an engineering/hydrology firm for project management.
- Darris Flanagan asked can the grants LCD applies for be used on federal land.
- Staff reviewed the grant list but the criteria does not list if the projects must be on private land.
- Darris Flanagan noted we (LCD) need more specific information on the project.
- Wayne Maahs stated RAC funding was obtained by Plum Creek Timber for work on the Fisher River.
- Keith Karoglanian stated this (Fisher River project) is a good point. The Forest Service does not have a specific project at this time. The Forest Service needs assistance with the administration of the grant.
- Don Crawford noted LCD needs to be pro-active; we are more re-active. We have not identified a project; the landowner contacts us.
- Wayne Maahs discussed our (LCD) current funding for this fiscal year at \$650,000. At \$750,000 we are required to have an audit that can cost up to \$10,000.

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- Don Crawford noted it takes a lot of grants to pull a project through. If the Forest Service has a project that includes private land we can be competitive for the project.
- Staff noted there is the conceptual design, final design, construction and monitoring to consider for funding. The two projects we currently have, Mud Creek and Tobacco River have taken 3 and 6 years to complete.
- Keith Karoglonian noted contracting is the big “hic-up” for the Forest Service.
- Laura Jungst stated Robin King coordinated a contractor for a project in Trout Creek. There are different levels of partnering.
- Wayne Maahs stated we (LCD) are willing to look at this with the Forest Service but we need something to work with.
- Tom Maffei asked the question can we use funds on public land.
- Staff responded she didn't know.
- Darris Flanagan noted we are all in agreement if the Forest Service comes up with a project, we (LCD) will welcome a discussion.

c. Board Vacancy – Resumé/Classified Advertisement

- Staff noted the Board did not determine the procedure to accept candidates to fill the vacancy left by Mark Romey. Two possible options are; resumé or application.
- Tom Maffei noted he preferred a resumé.
- Don Crawford noted we could ask for applications.
- Tome Maffei suggested another option, a letter of interest.
- Laura Garner suggested a letter of interest with the resumé.
- Laura Jungst stated resumés can be intimidating to candidates.
- Tom Maffei suggested a letter of interest with a brief description of relevant work history.
- Darris Flanagan suggested a letter of interest with an interview.
- The Board agreed on the letter of interest with an interview.

d. MACD Reorganization Survey

- Staff reported Wayne Maahs completed the survey and it was forwarded to MACD.

e. Statewide CD Pollinator Initiative Training, January 21

- Staff reported she plans on attending the training in Ronan.
- Darris Flanagan asked staff to notify Kathleen Johnson of the training.

f. DNRC 223 Grant – Boundary Signs

- Staff noted she would like to re-apply for the 223 grant to manufacture new boundary signs. She has received a price quote from Condon Signs who make signs for the Forest Service.
- Darris Flanagan commented the signs from Condon could be expensive.

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- Staff replied the cost from Condon Signs is very close to the price from the local sign manufacturer.
- **Motion** by Darris Flanagan to submit a 223 grant application for boundary signs in the April grant cycle. **Second** by Tom Maffei. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- a. LCD Stream Restoration Grant Sponsorship Program
 - There were no changes to the application.
 - Wayne Maahs stated to “give it a try”.
 - Laura Garner agreed.
 - Staff announced she will be retiring in October 2020.
- b. Grant Update
 - i. Tobacco River
 - 1. Phase I – DEQ 319 Grant
 - 2. Phase 2 – DNRC Reclamation Grant
 - This grant has been closed. We have made our final billing and are waiting for payment from DNRC to pay River Design Group. DNRC will pay the full remaining administrative fee so LCD will receive an additional \$5,079.50. Autumn Coleman informed staff we may be audited due to receiving both the DEQ 319 and DNRC grants. Staff explained it was her understanding we would be audited if we received combined funding (all District income) over \$750,000 over the fiscal year. If we are audited, we will have \$5,079.50 towards the cost.
 - 3. Phase 2 – 319 Interim Grant Funding
 - We are waiting for our December invoice payment.
 - 4. Sweet Grass CD Watershed Grant – Phase II
 - We received our final payment and this grant is closed.
 - ii. Mud Creek - Roose
 - 1. DEQ 319 Grant
 - The As Built design and monitoring report will be completed by River Design Group this winter.
- c. Conservation Districts Environmental Contingency Grant Program
 - No new information.
- d. 310 Law Realtor Workshop
 - Staff reported Jason Garber has presented LCD with two dates to conduct the workshop, May 13th and 20th.
 - Darris Flanagan noted May 20th is our Board Meeting.
 - May 13th was selected.

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e. Model Rules Public Meeting

- Staff reported while revising the Model Rules with 310 Law changes she found a sentence of a MCA section had been “dropped” from the 2015 revision. This section will be included in the current revision.

Final Inspection Reports

On-Sites Needed

Open Mic and Other Business

- Tom Maffei asked about the Lake Creek situation with the home.
- Brian Stephens responded he spoke with Susan Bawden at DEQ; “still working on a solution”.
- Wayne Maahs reported the Floodplain Coordinator has contacted Mr. Welch regarding his project to open the existing head gate on Callahan Creek.
- Wayne Maahs noted with the announcement of staff retiring, the Board needs to consider training, hiring through L.C. Staffing and the interview process.
- With Weyerhaeuser selling their land holdings, we need to begin the process of finding a new meeting location.
- Keith Karoglanian suggested the Canoe Gulch Ranger Station.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Eureka, Montana.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Maahs, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____

