

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
NORTH LINCOLN COUNTY ANNEX, Eureka  
February 17, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:**

Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Johnson, chairperson; Darris Flanagan; Mike Garner; Laura Garner; Tom Maffei; Don Crawford  
Absent: Katrina Newton  
Associate Supervisor(s): Wayne Maahs  
Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS  
District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays  
Guest(s): Hailey Graf, DNRC; Brian Gorman

**Called to order:** 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Johnson

**Public Comment:** Hailey Graf introduced herself and described her role with DNRC. She represents Conservation District in the Western portion of the state and can be a resource for districts and supervisors moving forward. The Conservation District Bureau recently reorganized with specialists in three locations of Montana. The bureau is undergoing the process of updating its workplan if anyone would like to offer input.

**Minutes:**

- January 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - Meeting minutes should say “one” member instead of “on” on page 4.  
**Motion** by Darris Flanagan. to approve the minutes of the January 2022 with the correction. **Second** by Mike Garner. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

- January 2022
  - Laura Garner presented the treasurer’s report. **Motion** by Darris F. to approve the January 2022 financial report as presented. **Second** by Mike G. **Motion passed.**

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- Brian Ressel said the Libby Surround fuels reduction project was approved by the Joint Chiefs. The project area is over 260,000 acres and is a collaborative effort with the Forest Service. Also, the Edna/Fortine Creek project has been ongoing for four years. The Forest Service would like to do implement a 4,000 acre project adjacent to this area. Ressel said the project was likely proposed because of the work that has already been accomplished.

**MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens**

- No report

# LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

North Lincoln County Annex

February 17, 2022

Page 2

## District Administrator's Report – Rae Lynn Hays

- Volunteer hours were recorded
- Rae Lynn Hays reported that the technical support provided by DNRC is to review 310 applications rather than to provide guidance on moving forward with the restoration project. Only approved contractors can provide this service. River Design Group, who has been working with Brian Gorman on the Brimstone project is one of the reviewers. The others located in Western Montana include Mountain Contracting, NewField and Geum. Rae Lynn conducted a Zoom meeting with Nat Wyatt at RDG and Brian Gorman to discuss the potential of a restoration project on Brimstone.
- Rae Lynn met with John Muhlfeld for River Design Group to review the site for a streambank stabilization project on Grave Creek. It is possible to submit a planning grant for Grave Creek as well as Brimstone but they would be competing against each other for funding. The planning grant is the first step to be eligible for an RRGL Grant that is due in May. Since Muhlfeld is familiar with the project on Grave Creek, it is possible to have the preliminary engineering completed in time for the RRGL application in May. This would not be the case for the Brimstone project. Therefore, Rae Lynn will submit a planning grant application for Grave Creek
- At the UC3 meeting, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks reported moving toward delisting Tiber Reservoir. This would result in Montana having a mussel free status. FWP also provided a chart showing the mussel infestation potential in the state. Lake Koochanusa and Flathead Lake rank highest in the state. AIS inspection stations between Alberta and BC are not being funded putting Montana at higher risk. FWP is also conducting crayfish surveys to determine the level of mercury in them as people are consuming them. A new bio control agent is being proposed to treat Flowering Rush on Flathead Lake. Finally, the board discussed the importance of funding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) programs as this can impact tourism and agriculture in Montana. Aquatic Invasive species can clog boats, spread through irrigation canals and now are being discovered in hydro systems.
- Rae Lynn and Russ Hartzel, FWP, met with the Director of the Port of Roosville about the AIS inspection station. The director anticipated that the inspectors would not have to show evidence of a Covid vaccine to be at the port. If that changed, the inspectors could set up outside in the parking lot. This would prevent having to move the station to another location. Two individuals who worked in previous years contacted the CD about an application.
- Rae Lynn reviewed a committee recommendation from last year to spend down excess money in the savings account as it seemed there was some confusion at the last couple of meetings when the board discussed purchasing a shed and spray equipment. The committee proposal consisted of requests that have come into the office such as a burrow builder, no till drill, weed sprayer, and cost share

programs. Rae Lynn also asked for a storage shed to store equipment and files. The committee recommended that weed sprayers be purchased and suggested allocating \$15,000 to cover the cost of a larger storage shed and equipment in addition to \$35,000 for cost share programs. The remaining \$57,000 should stay in savings.

- Rae Lynn will be at PAT training in Billings Feb. 22-23 and would like to use comp time the first part of March to move. The Area 5 Employee Organization Meeting will be held in March.

#### **Planning Board Report – Laura Garner**

- The planning board is looking at a proposal for two docks on a road where specific rights were given to an oil company. Laura G. said it would be more problematic for the county to deny the application than to grant it.

#### **310's**

##### **Li-02-01-22 – Peterson, Libby Creek**

- **Motion** by Don Crawford to approve Li-02-01-22 as presented subject to the same conditions as the applicant's previous permit. **Second** by Laura G.
- **Motion** passed

##### **Li-02-02-22 – Lucier, Wolf Creek**

- **Motion** by Don C. to approve Li-02-02-22 as presented with the requirement to clean equipment prior to crossing the stream. **Second** by Tom Maffei.
- **Motion** passed

#### **Postponed 310's**

##### **Li-12-02-21, Leader, Keeler Creek**

- **Motion** by Darris F. to postpone Li-12-02-21 as the snow level has not permitted access for a site visit. **Second** by Laura G.
- **Motion passed.**

**New Business:**

- **AIS Inspection Station Employee Process**
  - Tom M. questioned some of the required qualifications since training would be provided. Darris F. suggested forming a committee to review the position descriptions and newspaper advertisement.
  - **Motion** by Laura G. to create a three-person committee to review the position descriptions, advertisement, and hiring schedule. Second by Darris F. Laura G., Darris F., and Kathleen J. volunteered to be on the committee. It will meet Monday, February 21, 2022 at 11 am. The board will hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 24 at 3 pm. to discuss the AIS inspection station.
  - **Motion passed**
- **Best Management Practices Sheet**
  - The sheet was not attached to the email sent out to supervisors including board packet materials. This item will be postponed until the March meeting.
- **Envirothon Teams**
  - Derek Deshazer indicated that Eureka plans to send two teams to the Envirothon competition.
  - **Motion** by Mike G. to pay registration fees for two teams to attend Envirothon. **Second** by Darris F.
  - **Motion passed.**

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Annual Work Plan and Strategic Plan**
  - Don C. does not like the annual plan. Laura G. suggested the annual plan be formatted as a document. She also suggested using the format of the proposed annual plan to document progress on CD activities, but the colors should be changed. Kathleen J. suggested removing the section on the Yaak Easement. Don C. does not see a need for a strategic plan and prefers the way it used to be. He does not understand why the district is changing things and says it is all just a bunch of gobbly gook.
  - Motion by Mike G. to accept the strategic plan. Second by Laura G.
  - Discussion – Tom M. would like to propose edits and have the chance to be able to do that. He suggests making edits to the document starting with the strategic plan, as that is what forms the annual plan, for the next meeting.
  - Mike G. and Laura G. withdrew motion.

- **Brimstone Creek**
  - Brian R. reviewed the memo proposed by River Design Group and noted a disconnect between the proposal and Brian Gorman's intent that he expressed when the CD started discussing a restoration project on the stream. Brian R. met with NRCS leadership to discuss the proposal. The agency is open to the idea if it is something that would enhance the wetland and show a benefit to the easement. NRCS is concerned that installing a channel might drain the easement.
  - Brian G. reported that RDG conducted an extensive review of the site but did not understand the 60 acres to the north of the ranch is an easement in WRP. Brian G. would like the wetland to be utilized as a wetland and would be willing to give up some land to further enhance the wetlands and fish habitat. The lidar data indicates that aside from the high point, historically, most of the property was a wetland. Brian G. would like to increase the amount of water that comes on the property to benefit everyone and everything. He would like to see the springs flooded, the channel moved, and fencing to keep cattle out of the stream. He would also like to look into the upstream issues. Brian G. and Darrel Miller plan to hold back water upstream and then let it all go at once to determine flow by using water monitoring stations. Additionally issues upstream may also be a pond with significant siltation, channelization, and a fish barrier. Brian G. has put personal money into this project to keep it moving. He thinks this project would be a win for cutthroat trout and is willing to give up some land into an easement and keep cattle out 25-100 feet if needed but he can't fund the entire project. He noted that he wants to do what is best for the land and the habitat, but he also needs to make a living with his cattle.
  - Brian R. said one option would be to roll more acreage into the WRP. NRCS could cover the costs of the changes and the engineering.
- **Website**
  - Kathleen J. noted a few websites that she has reviewed and suggested that the board review them and make suggestions for changes to the LCD website. MACD has a staff person that can assist with making design changes. Mike G. asked if Kathleen could email names of the websites to the board.

## **Final Inspection Reports**

**Open Mic and Other Business –**

Kathleen J. will be gone next week at the RCAC meeting. Don C. asked where the next meeting will be held.

The next Conservation District Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the North Lincoln County Annex in Eureka as well as conducted via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Kathleen Johnson, Chairperson

---

Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_