

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
North Lincoln County Annex, Eureka  
August 17, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:**

Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Johnson, Chairperson; Laura Garner; Darris Flanagan; Mike Garner, John DeLeo  
Absent: Don Crawford and Katrina Newton  
Associate Supervisor(s):  
Advisor(s): Brian Stephens, MT FW&P  
District Administrator: Rae Lynn Hays  
Guest(s): Chuck Chappelow, Mark Dugopolski, Cheryl Dugopolski, Joe Lewicki

**Called to order:** 4:01 p.m. by Chairperson, Kathleen Johnson

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:**

- July 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes
  - **Motion** by Mike Garner to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2022, Meeting. **Second** by John DeLeo. **Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

- July 2022 Financial Report
  - Laura Garner provided the Treasurer's Report to the board.
  - **Motion** by Darris F. to approve the July 2022 Financial Report. **Second** by Mike G. **Motion passed.**

**NRCS Report – Brian Ressel**

- No report

**MTFW&P Report – Brian Stephens**

- Juvenile bull trout population estimates have been completed on nine Kootenai drainage tributaries. MFWP continues water quality monitoring of Kootenai River and Lake Koocanusa. Five Cabinet Mountain lakes have been surveyed for native fish enhancement potential. Redband and westslope cutthroat trout samples were collected from six streams for genetic and/or disease testing. White sturgeon downstream from Kootenai Falls continue to be monitored. The agency is working on finalizing the draft of the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan. In addition, work on the Fishing Regulation setting process continues to occur. Locally, MFWP processed five SPA 124 permits for USFS and DNRC. Rainbow Lake westslope cutthroat trout restoration project EA is out for public comment.
- Upcoming: Lake Koocanusa gillnet surveys, Kootenai River rainbow trout population electrofishing surveys (6 nights), fish genetics survey in Wee Lake/Arbo Creek (Yaak), and collecting redband trout for brood stock establishment at Libby.

**District Administrator's Report – Rae Lynn Hays**

- Volunteer hours were recorded
- Rae Lynn reported that numerous calls have come into the office regarding sedimentation on Lake Creek. DEQ also received calls and asked for information about the area. Rae Lynn sent photos and an email from Brian Stephens and DEQ closed the file.
- Area 5 administrators held a Zoom call to discuss a combined Native Grass Seed Program. Area 5 received a pollinator grant and \$500/CD can be allocated to the native grass seed program. Flathead CD will be contacting the seed company to see if they can produce the seed mix on a larger scale. Currently, three mixes are available including valley, forest, and reclamation. Grass seed has been averaging \$6/lb. retail. Native grass seed is \$11/lb. The CD would cover \$5/lb. as a cost share. Seed comes in 5 lb. and 25 lb. bags. Rae Lynn left a message with retailers in Lincoln County to see if they would want to participate.
- Pollinator program – the grant is for \$20,000 and could cover opportunities for CDs to obtain seed, plugs, and host a pollinator event such as a movie, bee specialist, etc.
- Area 5 will also be hosting the Western Montana Grazing and Ag Conference in January.
- MFWP contacted the office to see if the CD would be interested in managing an AIS inspection station in Eureka. The Eureka crew did well last year. If so, Rae Lynn is encouraged to attend meetings in Great Falls and Helena in October.
- Environmental Quality Council draft bill requires comment. Supervisors should submit comments to Rae Lynn by August 24.
- Kathleen Johnson was appointed to represent Western Montana on the Conservation District Advisory Council
- Area 5 Meeting will be in Kalispell October 5. MACD Convention is November 15-17. Board trainings will be held over Zoom on Sept. 22 and Oct 20.

**Planning Board Report – Laura Garner**

- A dock on Middle Thompson Lake was approved. A second RV park at Indian Springs was approved. Previously, an RV park at Happy's Inn received approval to move forward. After receiving pushback from people in the area, there will now be a meeting to review public comment on that project.

### 310's

#### LI-08-01-22 – Baffa, Bobtail Creek

- This project was previously denied by the board as the application required more information. Since that time, the applicant hired a contractor who is familiar with this type of project. The current application addresses bedding with appropriately sized rock.
- **Motion** by John DeLeo. to accept Li-08-01-22 as a project, approve the application as presented, and waive the 15-day wait period. **Second** by Darris Flanagan.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

#### Li-08-02-22 – Fiscus, Pipe Creek

- John D. reported this stream has a significant history including a shift that caused pocket erosion. A tree that was in the stream will be a good anchor piece. The applicant proposes to rake back two point bars that were created during the stream shift. On the far downstream area, the applicant proposes to use some large rock to stabilize the bank.
- **Motion** by Darris F. to accept Li-08-02-22 as a project, approve the project as presented and waive the 15-day rule. **Second** by Laura Garner.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

#### Li-08-03-22 – Giesey, Porcupine Creek

- **Motion** by Darris F. to postpone Li-08-03-22. **Second** by Laura G.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

#### Li-08-04-22, Dugopolski, Pike Creek

- Kathleen J., Laura G. and Brian S. conducted the site visit. The applicant proposes to clean up 650 ft of shoreline and vegetation in the pond, using a long reach excavator. Kathleen J. noted that during the site visit, they saw sandbags in the stream. Mr. Dugopolski said they placed some of them at the site. Brian S. expressed concern about the degradation of the sandbags impacting the stream. Trout are in the stream and could be impacted by sedimentation. Removing the sandbags should be done gradually and be conducted between the end of July and early September to minimize impact on fish. Mrs. Dugopolski said they wanted to do what was best for the land and fish. Brian S. said the project would have minimal impact on the stream if setback away from the proposed site.
- **Motion** by Laura G. to accept Li-08-04-22 as a project, approve with a modification including a setback that is 100 ft to the north of the dock and 300 ft to the south of it, and waive the 15-day wait period. **Second** by Darris F.
- **Motion** passed unanimously
- **Motion** by Darris F. to declare Li-08-04-22 a violation for placing sandbags in Pike Creek without a 310 permit. The stream should be returned to its natural

condition, or as close as possible. The landowners must submit a 310 application by July 1, 2023, to complete this work. **Second** by Mike G.

- **Motion** passed unanimously.

**Li-08-05-22**, Chappelow, No Name Creek

- Kathleen J. conducted the site visit. Mr. Chappelow proposes to put in a longer culvert as the current one is mashed down, the road is too narrow, and is unsafe. Mr. Chappelow said he will replace the culvert with one that is 24x36 and place it below the stream to move water and avoid people driving into the stream. Brian Stephens recommended armoring the sides on the inlet as well as the outlet.
- **Motion** by John D. to accept Li-08-02-22 as a project with the modification that the applicant place riprap on the upstream and downstream sides of the embankment and waive the 15-day wait period. **Second** by Darris F.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

**Li-08-06-22**, Barren Creek Road Association, Fisher River

- The bridge was installed by Montana Department of Transportation. DOT has been inspecting the bridge and providing the landowners with reports. They assumed the landowners were maintaining it. The bridge failed. It will be taken down in three sections and slung to the far side of the stream. The new bridge will be placed in one section. John D. recommended that straw bales be placed, and the applicants take appropriate measures to prevent woody debris from falling into the river.
- **Motion** by Darris F. to accept Li-08-06-22 as a project with modifications to include installing strawbales that are properly secured to the bank on both abutment slopes. Bales should be placed at or near the water's edge. They should take appropriate measures to prevent woody debris from falling into the river. The 15-day wait period will be waived. **Second** by Laura G.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**C-08-07-22**, Huber, Yaak River

- A site inspection was not conducted in time for the meeting.
- Motion by Mike G. to postpone C-08-07-22. **Second** by Darris F.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**Postponed 310's**

**New Business:**

• **Doug Fir Beetle Control, MCH Bubble Cap Distribution Program**

- Joe Lewicki reported that several Doug Fir trees in the area have died due to beetle infestation. LCD obtained a 223 grant years ago to purchase bubble caps for landowners to prevent attacks. The bubble caps slowly release a pheromone that repels beetles. Caps should be put out in April. The smaller caps are \$2.70 each and the bigger caps are \$4.05 each. Megan Strom, USFS, recommends the larger caps. Lewicki wonders if the LCD would be interesting in sponsoring the program again with a 223 grant.
- Rae Lynn will research the grant cycle deadline and bring information to the next meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

• **Pull Your Share Program**

- Three sites were proposed for the Eureka area to include the Fortine Cemetery, River Walk, and Rails to Trails. Brian S. will research potential sites for the south end of the county.

• **Final 2022-2023 Budget**

- \$20,000 is allocated for a shed and equipment. The remainder will be allocated to cost share programs for weed management, native grass seed and Pull Your Share program.
- **Motion** by Mike G. to approve 2022-2023 budget. **Second** by John G.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

• **Website**

- Laura G. discussed the committee recommendation. The website should include a 310 application that can be submitted through the website. There should also be a section for Supervisors to submit mileage directly through the website. Individuals should be able to contact the CD directly through the website. Several sections of it are not working as they should.
- **Motion** by Mike G. to have Rae Lynn and Laura work with Eric at MACD to create a new website based on the recommendations from the committee and make decisions as needed. **Second** by Darris F.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

• **Best Management Practices Document**

- Rae Lynn spoke with Jason Garber at DNRC regarding the BMP document. To use it, the BMP must be included in the Model Rules. To make that change, the supervisors will need to hold a public hearing.
- **Motion** by Laura G. to postpone until the November meeting. **Second** by Mike G.
- **Motion** passed unanimously.

- **LCD Strategic Plan**
  - Postponed until all supervisors are present to discuss.

**Final Inspection Reports**

**Open Mic and Other Business –**

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Johnson, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rae Lynn Hays, District Administrator

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