



**Lake County
Conservation
District**

64352 US Highway 93
Ronan, Montana 59864-8738
Phone: 406-676-2842, ext.102

April 27, 2017

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 PM Meeting Start
April 13th, 2017

Present: Supervisors-Jim Simpson, Sigurd Jensen, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Zoe Lilja; Associate Supervisors-Carlos Rodriques, David Sturman and Lita Fonda Karli Becher BSWC, Kristi D'Agati LCCD/SWCDM, Sam Tappenbeck SWCDM and Heidi Fleury, District Coordinator.

Excused: Mark McGuyer,

Absent: Ben Montgomery NRCS

Chairman Simpson called the Regular Supervisors Meeting to order just after 6 30 pm.

Due to the quorum not being met at the March meeting, February meeting minutes were approved. Motion by Curt, 2nd by Sigurd. A motion for February financials to be approved was made by Curt, second Sigurd, financials pass.

A motion was made to approve March 2017 meeting minutes by Sigurd, second by Zoe, motion passes.

Open Mic:

- Jim congratulated our Vice Chairman, Sigurd Jensen, for his appointment by the governor's office to the DNRC Rangeland Resource Executive Committee, a statewide advisory board for rangeland management resources and youth involvement in range sciences.
- Kristi mentioned that Georgia Smies from CSKT would be happy to make a presentation about where the AIS situation stands on Flathead Lake and surrounding waters.
- Heidi announced that LCCD will present on soil health and the pollinator initiative at two outreach events on 4/19/2017. The first is Annie's Project, a workshop specifically for women farmers and ranchers put on by the MSU Extension agent from Sanders County, event is taking place at the Red Lion in Polson. The

second is the EPA Tribal Non-Point Source Workshop (Education portion) being held by CSKT Non-Point Source Program at the KwaTukNuk in Polson.

- Jim has a conflicting meeting on the date of the next meeting, May 11, so the May Regular Supervisors meeting will be changed to May 8th at 6:30 pm.

I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Voting on Chair and Vice Chair—Jim made a motion for Sigurd Jensen to remain Vice Chairman for 2017, Curt 2nd the motion, all affirmed, Sigurd is Vice Chairman. Sigurd nominated Jim Simpson to remain the Chairman of the Board, Zoe 2nd, unanimous vote, Jim Simpson remains Chairman of LCCD.
- B. Toni Burton Resignation—Curt motioned that the board give Toni a \$100 gift to thank her for 10 years of service. Zoe 2^{nds}, motion passes.
- C. New Supervisor/Associate Supervisor Appointment—John (Jack) Sutphin submitted his resignation as supervisor and asked to be reinstated as an associate supervisor on 3/9/2017, since there was no quorum, a new supervisor could not be voted in but associate supervisor Carlos Rodriques was recommended to fill the vacant position. Sigurd nominated Carlos for the vacant Supervisor position and John (Jack) to be reinstated as an associate supervisor. Zoe 2nd, all voted yes, John (Jack) Sutphin is reinstated as an associate supervisor and Carlos will complete Jacks Supervisor term that was to end on 12/31/2018. An Oath of Office will be completed by Carlos by the May 2017 meeting.
- D. Low-Stress Livestock Handling Workshop—Curt Pate has agreed to hold three workshops around Area V September 18-21, 2018. The cost for the Ronan workshop will be \$1000.00. Curt made a motion to approve costs up to \$1000.00 to hold the workshop, Sigurd 2nd, all in favor, motion carries.
- E. Sandbox Project Update—Due to unforeseen circumstances involving volunteer materials and labor we need to purchase a computer. Zoe made a motion to approve \$2000.00 in added costs for the Sandbox bringing LCCD's total contribution to \$2500.00. Sigurd 2nd, all agreed and the motion passed. Kristi has been spearheading this project and has worked through a lot of technical difficulties and we are excited to announce it will be operational soon.
- F. 4th Grade Ag Days—Sigurd has confirmed with all schools and the event will be held on May 4th and 5th. Carlos volunteered to pick up the Watershed Trailer at the Flathead CD on the 3rd and everyone will meet at 3 pm on May 3rd at the Polson Fairgrounds to set up. Sigurd and Heidi will confirm all booths and gather food and volunteers before then.
- G. Conservation Scholarship—still deciding on criteria, there will be an education committee meeting on April 24th at 1:30 pm to discuss it further. Jim found out from the lawyer that mileage costs owed to Supervisors for monthly meetings can be donated back into this fund.

- H. No-Till Seed Drill—223 Grant deadline is April 26, 2017. In order to qualify for the grant we must provide 50:50 match of funds. The Mission Valley Pheasants Forever guaranteed a donation of \$5,000.00 towards the cost and the Lake County Weed District will add some funds towards the cost or annual maintenance (TBD). Sigurd made a motion to spend up to \$20,000.00 on the purchase of a 2017 John Deere 10' 1590 No-till seed drill. Curt 2nd with the addition that the funds will only be spent if we get the grant. All in favor, motion to match up to \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a no-till drill passes.
- I. Pollinator Initiative—has been a great success! Over 70 people have called and 53 have received free seed so far totaling 2.2 acres of new pollinator habitat! Karli and Kristi have taken the lead on this and will be working with other partners to present pollinator information to local schools.
- J. River Stewardship Workshop—will be held April 22, 2017 at the Swan Community Hall in Bigfork.
- K. Swan Resource Management Study –Jim drafted two statement/resolutions about LCCD's policy on the transfer of federal lands and sent them out. The discussion was productive and Jim will finalize the language and a motion was made by Sigurd to revisit voting on adoption of the statement until September. Zoe 2nd, all agreed to table decision until September. Friends of the Wild Swan have requested a copy of the comments, under the Montana Right to Know Law, from the Swan Study so far. Jim consulted Don McIntyre and he advised us to adopt a policy for the protocol to use when responding to a request of this sort. The draft policy was sent to the board prior to the meeting for review. Zoe made a motion to adopt the draft LCCD Public Information Requests Policy, Sigurd 2nd the motion; all were in favor of adopting the policy as written. Heidi will send Friends of the Wild Swan our information policy, mention the costs of printing/creating and follow up with how they want the document (electronic or paper copy).

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Personnel Committee—briefly discussed and clarified what was meant by “core hours” of office time.
- B. 2017 Events Calendar—Heidi highlighted all the events we are hoping to host this summer and asked that board members continue to brainstorm interesting topics and get the word out about our events.
- C. Soil and Water Conservation Society Bus Trip—the SWCS of MT is hosting a bus tour to Burleigh County, ND September 12-14th to look at ranches that are implementing improved grazing systems and alternative forage cover cropping. Ben would like to consider sending a few members of our Conservation District to it including Arnold Foust. The cost would be about \$450/person. It will be discussed in upcoming 2017/2018 Budget planning sessions and voted on at a later time.

- D. Leadership Flathead Reservation—Jim was approached by Kris Schrock from the Job Service about Heidi attending a 9 week leadership development training. The cost is \$1200.00 and there are scholarships available. Susan made a motion for Heidi to pursue attending by putting in the application and finding out how much funding assistance is available. Zoe 2nd, affirmative vote, motion passes.
- E. Financial report –Carlos (in Marks absence) the initial Budget Committee brainstorming session will be held on Monday, May 8th at 10:00 am the LCCD office. Heidi will attend a Lake County Budget Workshop 4/27 and bring back any helpful information.
- F. Bills—See Financial Report. Motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills was made by Curt and 2nd by Zoe. All in favor, motion to pay bills passes.

IV. REPORTS


- A. BSWC—Karli—Pollinators, pollinators and more pollinators! Outreach is in full swing.
- B. SWCDM—Sam—Heading up the communication and partnership effort for the River Stewardship Workshop.
- C. NRCS- Ben—Absent
- D. Flathead Basin- Jim—the meeting was about AIS funding and policy. The FBC voted to ask MT FW&P for authority to conduct inspection before launch program, to become effective ASAP. However, FBC does not have the money or resources to get the work done.
- E. County Planning—Sigurd No news.
- F. City-County Planning – Mark—Absent

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. The May Supervisors' meeting will be held on **Monday, May 8th at 6:30 pm.**



Jim Simpson, Chairman



Heidi Fleury, District Coordinator