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September 28, 2017

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 PM Meeting Start
September 14th, 2017

Present: Supervisors—Jim Simpson, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, Carlos Rodriques; Associate Supervisors— John (Jack) Sutphin, David Sturman and Lita Fonda. Karli Becher, BSWC, Elena Evans, MACD. Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM and Ben Montgomery NRCS.
Excused: Mark McGuyer and Heidi Fleury, District Coordinator.

Chairman Simpson called the Regular Supervisors Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made to approve August minutes by Curt second by Sigurd. All approved meeting minutes, motion passes to approve minutes.

NRCS Report started the meeting to accommodate schedules.

Open Mic—No one from the public present, no open mic comments.

I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS

- a. Swan River – Mariott-bridge footings – Curt presented photos from the site visit and the board discussed. It was recommended that this was a non-project.
- b. Freeland Creek – Miller Basement Siphon – Photos were presented and discussed. The permit was signed.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sandbox Project – Carlos will attend Tribal PIR Days September 18th and have a sign-up sheet for 20 classroom sandbox sessions. Karli was able to connect the projector and TV.
- b. Pollinator Initiative – Also at Tribal PIR Days, there will be a signup sheet for 5 classrooms to build bee houses and provide a pollinator presentation

or assist with installing a pollinator garden. We are still looking for kits for Mason Bees.

- c. No-till Seed Drill – Email went out earlier in the week announcing the arrival of the drill. It is in the parking lot for those who want to look at it. A committee meeting will be organized soon to determine rental procedures.
- d. 2018 Big Sky Watershed Corps Member – Interviews will be happening soon. All costs, except \$500, for the 2018 member were covered by grants.
- e. Curt Pate Low-Stress Livestock Workshop – This workshop begins at 9am on Monday. Let Karli know if you plan to attend. We expect at least 50 people. The cover crop pasture walk at the Fousts was well attended with around 40 people. Susan suggested that Brooklyn Foust provide her 4-H presentation on cover crops to the board.
- f. Area V Meeting – The annual report is done and copies are available. Those who want to carpool should meet at the office at 7:30 September 26th, 2017.
- g. MACD Annual Convention – November 14-16th in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn. Three board members, one staff and our BSWC member will attend.
- h. Swan Study – Jim presented the history and background of the study. Karli presented a summary of the public comments. Individual comments were also available for supervisors to read. Curt motions that Lake CD discontinue the study. Susan seconds. Discussion of merits of continuing or discontinuing study and different management philosophies occurred. Jim, Sigurd, Zoe and Carlos opposed the motion. Motion failed 2-4. Sigurd motions to move forward with the study. Motion seconded by Zoe. Discussion covered workload for Jim and the size of the study. Curt and Susan opposed the motion. Motion carries 4-2. The next step is to inform decision makers and stake holders. PERC is having a conference October 26-27th and would like Jim to attend to present on the Swan Study. Susan motions that Jim attend and present the study with caveat that the dissent within the board is also presented. Zoe seconds. Carlos abstained from voting. All others in favor.

i.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. DNRC Forestry Stewardship Cost-share Opportunity – Meeting will be scheduled with Angela Wells to gather more information about time commitments and the program.
- b. Soil Health Grant – The previous request for funds for pollinator seed for the MCC crew was submitted. As funds continue to be available, another grant will be submitted to cover speaker fees for WMGAC and moving costs for Scott to maintain the dryland study for forage improvement study.
- c. Financial Report – Discussion of line items and importance of Pheasants Forever \$5,000 donation in securing the drill. Sigurd moves to approve. Zoe seconds. All in favor.
- d. Bills – Curt moves to approve. Susan seconds. All in favor.

IV. Reports

- a. BSWC – Projects Karli has been working on were touched on in other agenda items. Karli presented information on the AWRA meeting in Helena. Sigurd motions to send Karli to AWRA. Zoe seconds. There was a request for a presentation on the meeting upon return. All in favor.
- b. SWCDM – Sam reported that Rainbow Drive planting of up to 1,000 plants by a MCC crew will occur October 23rd. Heidi met with the Park Board and the fence will be installed on or before October 23rd. Demonstration plots show a success rate of ~70%. The deadline for the initial round of applications for Ranching for Rivers is Friday.
- c. NRCS – Ben’s report touched on a number of agenda items. Gabe Brown will be in Butte October 20-22nd to present on soil health. Sigurd motions to support David’s travel up to \$200 and Zoe seconds. All in favor.
- d. LCCD – Heidi not present
- e. MACD – Jim provided a summary of the MACD conference call on Monday, September 11th; discussion of partial dues payments and voting privileges
- f. Flathead Basin Commission – Jim reported that the next meeting is September 27th
- g. County Planning – Sigurd
- h. City-County Planning – Mark not present

V. Additional discussion:

- a. Update on Rangeland Resource Executive Committee – Sigurd reported that there is a range forum planned to take place in Billings in May 2018. Steve Hedstrom has proposed that rates for the Rangeland Loan Program be dropped from 3.5% to 1.5%. The Bureau of Land Management reports that ~50 grazing allotments were affected by the Lodgepole Fire and they are looking for assistance.
- b. The Winter Grazing Seminar is scheduled for February 6-7, 2018 in Helena.
- c. “Armed to Farm” Tour on David Sturman’s property October 9-13, 2017. Open to 30 people, goal of training ex-military to transition from active duty to civilian life in agriculture. Tour will highlight soil health and grazing practices.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The October Supervisors’ meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 pm.**

Jim Simpson, Chairman

Elena Evans, MACD