

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Location: 64352 US HWY 93, Ronan



Attendance:

Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curt Rosman, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoe Lilja | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Hoffman, Assoc. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sigurd Jensen, Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig McClure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Sturman, Assoc. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Niemeyer, Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Gardner | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Simpson, Assoc. - Excused |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Branine | |

LCCD Staff and Partners:

- Caroline McDonald, LCCD
- Ashley Stivers, BSWC Member
- Leo Rosenthal, FWP via zoom
- Amy Elkins, NRCS via zoom

Guests:

- Holl Hubbard, Via Zoom
- Sue Ball, guest

1. OPENING

- a. Call to order: Caroline called the roll. Observing a quorum, Curt called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.
- b. General Public Comment – None

Curt tabled the 10-minute Google Drive and Tablet training until the conclusion of the 310 agenda items.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved.

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Susan
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

3. SB-310 PERMITTING:

- a. LA22004(a) Hol Hubbard, Kasser Creek, LA22004 (a) Site Visit
Craig McClure, Jan Niemeyer, and Allen Branine conducted a site visit pm 7/15/25 to determine if an extension for this permit was warranted or if an application for a new permit was needed. The team recommended that the existing project be closed and a new application submitted for the remaining work.

FIRST	Sigurd	SECOND	Allen
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

Having been made aware of the team’s recommendations in advance, Hubbard submitted a new application for the full board to review. Upon review, it was moved that this be made a project.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

New project: Plan to revegetate the riparian area with alders. Complete a bridge (that was described but not completed) from original 2022 permit. This bridge will allow small equipment (ATV/Tractor/truck) for access of property for one side to the other, personal use only. It was moved that a permit be granted based on the application subject to FWP waiving their right to another site visit. Leo from FWP (via zoom) indicated his support for granting the permit.

FIRST	Allen	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. *Other open 310s—no action required:* LA24005 Sandy Golden, Swan River; LA25001 Randy Andrews, Crystal Creek; LA25002 Bliss, Forrey Creek

10 minute training – Google Drive and board tablet use

4. FINANCIALS

- a. The monthly financial reports were presented and reviewed along with checks to be approved. It was moved that the reports and checks be approved as presented.

FIRST	Allen	SECOND	Jan
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. Caroline presented the Final FY26 budget for approval
Caroline discussed the changes that had been made since the approval of the Draft FY26 Budget in June. It was moved that the FY26 Budget (referenced as “alternate” be approved and submitted to the County as the Final FY26 Budget.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- c. The board passed the new financial policy with edits from Treasurer along with minor spelling and grammar corrections.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Craig
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- d. Increase Reserve Fund: Establish Guidelines for Use

Jan recommended that the existing reserve fund be increased to \$50,000 to comply with the recommendations from DNRC to maintain 6 months of operational funds in reserve. These funds will be placed in a second 4-month period CD.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Allen
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

The board reviewed and approved the presented new LCCD Operational Reserve Policy

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Jan
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

6. COORDINATOR REPORT:

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing outreach activities.

7. BUSINESS

a. Pollinator Initiative 2026

Caroline requested the Board approve application to DNRC for a 3-year grant to support the Pollinator initiative and the Native Plant Cost-share program that would be submitted in early October.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

b. Schedule Coordinator’s Review (Personnel Committee)

The personnel committee scheduled the Coordinator’s Annual Review for September 11, 2025, at 5 PM at the district offices.

c. Review Draft Annual Workplan (for September adoption)

Caroline reminded the board to review the draft workplan and FY25 progress report included in their green folders

d. Lake CD Guide Development

In addition to the draft guide outline, the board reviewed the “living on the flathead” website. It was noted that the Living on the Flathead site had much of what was “needed” in a rural living guide. The board instructed Caroling to draft a short pamphlet or booklet that outlines the information included in this comprehensive website. The booklet would be targeted toward an audience of those new to the area or rural living in general. When completed, the booklet would be published and a distribution plan developed. In the meantime, Caroline requested that the board take a deep dive into the website and determine if there is any information “missing” that would need to be included in the booklet.

e. BSWC 2026 Updates – Caroline is seeking financial support from various sources to assist with the cost of a 2026 BSWC member. She has applied to MWCC and planning to also apply to MACD. If funding is successful, she will apply to be a host site for 2026.

- f. Follow up on Evergreen: Caroline read the following update from Jim to the board: *I am still waiting for the final copy of the 24-page booklet. I have a draft but am not willing to share because it really needs work. The booklet is at the editors right now. I hope I can send you an electronic copy before the next meeting. We raised \$26,000 (more or less) but that was for an 8-page pamphlet. It grew. We are continuing to raise money for printing and travel costs for a speaker's bureau.*

7. COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION

- a. NRCS District Conservationist— Amy provided information from the NRCS Communications Office. Amy reported the transfer of Ben to a new position as the Tribal NRCS Liaison in Pablo. Dillon Martini (Plains) will be the unofficial acting unit supervisor for Ronan. TIPS have been approved for FY26
- b. County Planning: Sigurd, No Report
- c. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee: Sigurd, No Report
- d. City-County Planning: Jan, No Report

9. Final Public Comment

- Swan Lake Connections revived the *Swanland's Coordinating Committee* that considers issues affecting the watershed in the Swan. We will be getting an invitation to participate in the fall.
- BioControl sent a thank you for our donation.
- Amy took an insect pinning class at the Butterfly House and was able to acquire an Atlas Moth.
- Flathead Lakers Projects: Boetcher Park Stormwater project

Adjourn

There being no further business, Supervisors adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Allen
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be September 11th at 6:30 pm at the District Offices in Ronan

(Date)

(Supervisor Signature)

(Date)

(Preparer Signature) Caroline McDonald