



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

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February 28th, 2018

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes  
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 PM Meeting Start  
February 8th, 2018

Present: Supervisors—Jim Simpson, Sigurd Jensen, Carlos Rodriques, Susan Gardner, Zoe Lilja joined by phone; Associate Supervisors— John (Jack) Sutphin, David Sturman and Lita Fonda. Sam Tappenbeck from SWCDM, Heidi Fleury, District Coordinator, Karli Becher Education and Outreach Specialist, Lauren Odom Big Sky Watershed Corps member and Ben Montgomery, NRCS.  
Excused: Curt Rosman and Mark McGuyer.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January by Susan second by Sigurd. All approved meeting minutes, motion passes to approve minutes.

Open Mic—David Sturman made a motion that the CD add two books recommended by Fred Provenza to the NRCS Library. Carlos seconds the motion; all vote affirmative, used copies will be purchased if possible. Sigurd announced 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag Days will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Polson Fairgrounds. Planning will start in March. Zoe lead a conversation about planning for the Country Living Workshop schedule, price and possible speakers were discussed. Price will be \$10/person, we will provide lunch and speaker recruitment assignments were given. Details to be finalized at the March meeting.

- I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS—No new applications.
  
- II. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Yearly Goal Setting—Jim suggested that we try shifting our annual goal setting to May just ahead of annual budgeting to coincide with our fiscal year that begins June 2018. All agreed to try it. Susan mentioned that she would like to see our involvement in local Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention efforts increase and that it be added to the annual work plan.

- b. Supervisor, Associate and Officer Elections—Due to unforeseen circumstances Mark McGuyer, Ronan City Council appointed Urban Supervisor has stepped down, efforts to recruit a new supervisor will commence immediately. Susan, Carlos and Sigurd are up for reelection, they were informed they must fill out the Declaration of Candidacy and turn it into the Lake County Elections office no later than March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Elections, if contested, will be held June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Sigurd made a motion to reelect our Associate Supervisors John (Jack) Sutphin, David Sturman and Lita Fonda for a one year term ending 12/31/2018. Carlos seconds the motion, all vote yes, motion carries to reelect three associate supervisors. Susan makes a motion to appoint Curt as the 2018 Treasurer, Carlos seconds, all quickly voted affirmative for Curt Rosman to serve as LCCD's treasurer. Zoe made a motion to re-appoint Sigurd Jensen as the Vice Chair, Carlos seconds. Motion passes. Sigurd made a motion to re-appoint Jim Simpson as the Chairman of the Board. Carlos seconds motion and all concur, Jim Simpson will serve as the Chairman of the LCCD Board. Mark was our representative on the City/County Planning Board, until a new Supervisor can be added, Jim asked Lita to update us on the meetings, as she attends them monthly due to her day job. Lita mentioned that this situation will work for now but, due to her meeting duties, we will need to find a new LCCD Representative for the Planning Board as soon as we can.
- c. Area V CD Supervisor Forum—a date has been set for the event. It will happen in Polson at the Library on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Personnel Committee—it was discussed that, due to the nature of the NACD/NRCS funding we acquired, we do not have to advertise and recruit applicants we can use the funding to extend our current temporary employee, Karli Becher. Jim discussed the importance of individual employee contracts to have a record of employment agreements made with employees. These will be completed by the March meeting.
- e. Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)—after studying the benefits of membership Heidi suggested that we join. Susan made a motion for LCCD to spend \$100.00 to join MWCC as a Watershed Partner for a one year trial. Sigurd seconds, motion passes.
- f. Flathead Basin Stream Gauging Workshop—Karli, Lauren and Heidi attended the Workshop in Kalispell that was put on by Sam Tappenbeck with SWCDM, Sam gave the board an overview of the successful event.
- g. Sandbox Project—15 sessions are scheduled with local schools. Carlos informed the board that the Sandbox was in need of some modification for transport as well as a cover; costs are estimated at no more than \$300. Sigurd made a motion to spend no more than \$300 on Sandbox upgrades, Susan seconds, all vote yes to Sandbox improvements.
- h. Pollinator Initiative—we are continuing to plan our Spring outreach to local youth and landowners and will put an article in the Valley Journal soon.

- i. No-till Seed Drill –a No-Till Seed Drill Committee Meeting was scheduled at 10 am Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> with Tom Benson of the Lake County Weed District to discuss rental specifics.
- j. DNRC Forestry Stewardship Cost-Share—still weighing the pros and cons of this possible partnership.
- k. Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference—financial statement from the Conference was shared and invoicing of grants will be completed ASAP. It was mentioned we should advertise more on the Northern Ag Network for events in the future.
- l. Spring Conservation Speaker Series—interested in holding the event in March on a weeknight from 6-8:30 pm at a local establishment. Contacting Denver Holt and Montana Audubon to see if they would give talks. Confirming location as well.
- m. Swan Study—Jim discussed the radio story about the SFI that aired January 29<sup>th</sup> on MTPR. He informed the board that if support for the project cannot be found with local congressional delegates by September 2018, he will advise the Board to end the Swan Study.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Partnerships—several local organizations have approached LCCD about new partnerships including Flathead Lake Biological Station regarding AIS sampling work. The board advised Heidi to follow up on all partnerships to ensure they are mutually beneficial and work into LCCD's work plan goals.
- b. Financial Report – Curt sent out an email covering the monthly financial report and bills prior to the meeting.
- c. Bills – Carlos moves to approve the financial report and the bills. Sigurd seconds. All voted in favor of approving the financial report and paying the bills.

### IV. Reports

- a. SWCDM—Sam mentioned the Clark Fork Watershed groups had a meeting soon, she'll keep us informed.
- b. BSWC—Sigurd made a motion for LCCD to buy Lauren muck boots for the field season. Susan seconds, all approve.
- c. NRCS—Ben—holding a community round table on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> with large scale producers to discuss Reduced Tillage practices.
- d. LCCD—invoicing grants and planning events.
- e. Flathead Basin Commission—Jim—meeting in Whitefish on February 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss AIS efforts and next steps for the Commission.
- f. County Planning – Sigurd—meeting next week about the density map.
- g. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd—updated the Board on the Winter Grazing Seminar held by the RREC and the Helena CD in Helena. RREC is hosting a Range Intern, a grazing event at Fort Keough and a Range Forum.

- h. City-County Planning –Lita—met in January to discuss Lake County Growth Policy.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The March Supervisors' meeting will be held **Thursday, March 8th at 6:30 pm.**

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Jim Simpson, Vice Chairman

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Heidi Fleury, Coordinator