



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

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April 3rd, 2020

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes  
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 PM Meeting Start  
Thursday, March 10th, 2020

Present: Supervisors—Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja and Jim Simpson. Jan Niemeyer joined by phone. Associate Supervisor—David Sturman. Also in attendance; Sarah Klaus BSWC, Ben Montgomery NRCS, Lauren Odom LCCD, Zach Lenning LCCD and Heidi Fleury LCCD Conservation Coordinator.

Excused: Susan Gardner and Curt Rosman.

Due to Chairman Jan Neimeyer being on the phone Jim Simpson ran the meeting. Jim called the Regular Supervisors Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The February minutes were discussed, Jim mentioned the omission of Ben from the list of people present, Jan motioned to accept the minutes with the addition. Sigurd seconds, all approve February minutes.

Open Mic—

- There was discussion about a USDA Slaughter/Butchering facility in Lake County. Interested parties are gathering more information before scheduling another public meeting.
- The Chamber sent us Ag Appreciation Dinner Tickets with our sponsorship. Some board members took them and will be attending.
- David mentioned that the Mission Valley Pedal to Plate event will be showcasing his own Shady Maple Farm.

I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS-

- a. 310 Violation—Meadow Creek—Speicher—still waiting for contractor assessment.
- b. LA19-004—Swan River—Cotton—Bank Stabilization—Swan Valley Connections does have funds to help with a design for the project. They will work with Ben Cotton to get the design in motion.
- c. Hammer—Woods Bay—Culvert—Mr. Hammer provided the Board with the modified design done by a licensed engineer as requested previously. Zoe made a motion to approve the 310 permit with modifications, Sigurd

seconds. All vote to approve permit. Due to time constraints of an MDOT permit the permit holder would like to begin work ASAP. Sigurd made a motion to waive the 14-day wait period and allow work to begin immediately. Zoe seconds, all vote affirmative.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. LCCD Logo—Lauren took the changes from the last meeting back to Kate and presented the new designs. She will work on a survey to send out to the Board.
- b. No-Till Seed Drill—an ad ran in the Farm and Ranch insert from the Valley Journal and we have been getting some calls. Work on more fun advertising ideas; pull it in a parade in Ronan, put a banner across it that says RENT ME when it's sitting around. Put flyers up at Westland, Cenex and Lakes.
- c. Pollinator Initiative—we are working to get the seed mixed and out to Area V. Seed will be ready the first week of April. Advertising has begun.
- d. Conservation Speaker Series—we have one last event this Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Glacier Brewery @ 6:30 pm on Moose.
- e. LCCD Vehicle—Jim and Heidi met on 3/6 and talked with car dealers. Heidi will look for donations too and call other car dealers.
- f. 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag Days—we had the meeting and brainstormed stations. All other help with tables, venue, food have been contacted just have to get the contract from the fair grounds and sign it.
- g. Noxious Weed Trust Fund-Whitetop Symposium—we heard that we may not have been funded at 100% for this grant request. There are other opportunities for grant funds available now. Sigurd made a motion to look for and apply for additional funding to cover the cost of the Symposium. Zoe seconds, all vote to apply for additional funding.
- h. NACD/NRCS TA Grant Funding 2020—continue to pursue this funding source for 2020 by applying for the position.
- i. Supervisor Elections—everything is all set and the forms are filed with the Lake County Elections office.
- j. 2020 LCCD Conservation Scholarship—the Eastern Sanders CD asked if the scholarship was only available to Lake County residents or if it could be available for Sanders County residents that go to Lake County schools. Board unanimously agrees it is for Lake County residents only.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Rocky Point Forestry Project—Ben updated the Board that he is working with CSKT Tribal Forestry to implement a large thinning contract on Rocky Point. If this happens he will not seek further funding for this area.
- b. MACD Leadership Training—DNRC and MACD are looking to host leadership training for Supervisors. Jan, Curt and Sigurd would consider it.
- c. Newspaper Subscriptions—LCCD used to subscribe to the Leader. The Valley Journal now has a subscription fee. Should LCCD subscribe to

them? Zoe made a motion to subscribe to the Valley Journal, Sigurd seconds, all vote to get a yearlong subscription.

- d. Montana GLCI Grant—Zach is working with NRCS to set up a cover crop trial at a local ag producers operation. Sigurd made a motion to apply for this grant to the maximum amount available \$1,000.00. Zoe seconds, all vote to apply for grant.
- e. DNRC Education Mini-Grant-Sandbox Display—LCCD is looking for innovative ways to get the Sandbox out in the community and has the opportunity to create a traveling display that helps users interact with the Sandbox individually in a public space. The Flathead Lakers have a new education space and are interested in hosting the Sandbox display there to test it out. Zoe made a motion to apply for a Ed mini-grant to create a display that will help community members interact with the Sandbox. Sigurd seconds, all vote to apply for funding.
- f. Financial Report and Bills-the Board reviewed the financial report that had been reviewed by Curt earlier that day. Jan has been out of town and will complete the monthly reconcile when he returns. Jan made a motion to accept the financial report, Zoe seconds. All vote affirmative to accept the financial report and pay the bills.

#### IV. Reports

- a. BSWC—Sarah—she missed last meeting due to a training in Helena that she had a great time at. Since she returned she has been working on continuing the Junior Conservationist Program and is currently Championing the Boys and Girls Club Community Learning Garden.
- b. NRCS—Ben—discussed future TIPS; Cover Crop Cost Share for Lake and Sanders County, Leafy spurge in Elmo. He will keep us in the loop for all new ideas.
- c. LCCD—Heidi, Lauren, Zach—Lauren went over the publications and other projects she has been working on. Zach is heading up the WRP seeding efforts out at Fousts, working on publications and the possible release of the Whitetop gall mite. Heidi shared she has been traveling all over the state to Pollinator trainings, 4 Areas are complete, 2 more trainings to go. LCCD will continue to work to create signs for producers participating cost-shares or other programs that promote LCCD.
- d. MACD—Jim—MACD let their Executive Director go; Jim is working with SWCDM staff to figure it out. Merger talks have stalled and Jim is trying to a bylaw committee meeting scheduled.
- e. Flathead Basin Commission—Jim—meeting coming up. He missed the last one.
- f. County Planning – Sigurd—no meeting.
- g. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd—no meeting.
- h. City-County Planning –Jan N.—no meeting.

There being no further business at 8:15 pm Sigurd made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, Zoe seconds, all agree. The April Regular Supervisors meeting will be held **Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 pm at the LCCD office in Ronan.**

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Jim Simpson, Board Member

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Heidi Fleury, Coordinator