



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

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January 29th, 2021

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes  
Regular Supervisor's Meeting at 6:30 PM  
Thursday, January 14th, 2021

Present: Supervisors—Sigurd Jensen, Curt Rosman, Jan Niemeyer, and Jim Simpson and Associate Supervisor David Sturman. Joined by phone Supervisor Susan Gardner as well as Leo Rosenthal MTFWP. Also in attendance; Abby Schmeichel BSWC, Jillian Herichon BSWC, Sarah Klaus LCCD, Sarah Ogden LCCD, Ben Montgomery NRCS and Heidi Fleury Conservation Coordinator.  
Excused: Zoe Lilja and Allen Branine.

Due to USDA COVID-19 restrictions, the LCCD Board could not meet at our office. An in-person meeting was held at the Ronan Flower Mill meeting room. There was also an option to join via teleconference. Jan called the Regular Supervisors Meeting to order just after 6:30 pm. There being no meeting held in December the November minutes were discussed. Jim motioned to accept the minutes. Curt seconds, all approve November minutes as presented.

Open Mic—

- Heidi presented a few miscellaneous items; Polson Chamber Citizen of the Year nominees, MACD survey for outreach postcards and a request for specific comments to MACD from LCCD on our support of CD's receiving funding from the future tax on recreational Marijuana. A letter of support will be created and passed around for comment.
- Logistics for holding a more limited in-person 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag days at the Ronan Fairgrounds were discussed, and it will be on the agenda at the February meeting.
- Jim Simpson discussed some different funding sources available from NRCS to bring on additional staff and Ben discussed the challenges of bringing on more staff (mainly space).

- David discussed having a showing of the Kiss the Ground film in our area.
- I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS-
    - a. LA2003—Maas-Dayton Creek—Culvert—still waiting for additional info from applicant to finalize permit.
    - b. Beavers—Meadow Creek—Road Construction—the application was discussed and Allen, Curt and possible Jan will join Leo and the landowner to complete a site visit as soon as possible.
  - II. OLD BUSINESS
    - a. Pollinator Initiative—Sarah presented on the state of the Pollinator Initiative; seed has arrived and will be mixed soon. Jan signed one-year contract extensions for Pollinator outreach funding from DNRC that was unable to be spent due to COVID-19 crowd restrictions.
    - b. Permissive Mill Levy-Heidi has had trouble getting communication back from Scott Beggs, the Financial Director for Lake County and is trying to track down the funds.
    - c. BSWC Members 2021—members have arrived!! Abby and Jill introduced themselves and let everyone know what they have been working on.
    - d. DNRC Forestry Project—final contracts were received, signed and sent back to DNRC. Heidi will set up a meeting with them as soon as there is more information. There are already about 10 landowners interested in the program.
    - e. Junior Conservationist Program—Sarah K. and Abby are working to refine, expand and continue to support the program in Ronan and throughout Lake County.
  - III. NEW BUSINESS
    - a. Boys and Girls Club Community Garden—LCCD was approached by Eric for a letter of support for a USDA grant supporting staff to run the garden. Curt made a motion to send a letter of support, Susan seconds. All vote yes to send the letter.
    - b. Whitefish Credit Union Account—Jim made a motion to remove Carlos Rodriques from the account and add Board Chair Jan Niemeyer and Conservation Coordinator Heidi Fleury. Sigurd seconds. All vote affirmative to updating the signatories on the account.
    - c. 2021 Conservation Speaker Series—Sarah and Abby made a plug for our first ever virtual speaker series event that will take place on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the other speaker topics as well.
    - d. DNRC District Development Grant—Heidi and Sarah presented on the reasons we should submit a District Development grant to help with staffing costs for Sarah K. Curt made a motion to apply for a \$10,000.00 grant, Jim seconds. All vote yes to LCCD applying for the grant.

- e. DNRC 223 Grant—staff are currently planning several outreach events and tree plantings with local youth for the spring 2021. 223 grant funding would be used to support these events and purchase resources. Susan made a motion that LCCD apply for the 223 grant funds not to exceed \$5,000.00. Sigurd seconds. All vote aye.
- f. DNRC Education Mini-Grant—Abby is working on making a LCCD Junior Conservationist Program Trunk, funds would be used to create the prototype. Jim made a motion to apply for the \$500.00 mini-ed grant. Susan seconds, all vote yes to applying for the grant.
- g. Montana Native Plant Society Grant—Abby and Sarah K. are working with staff and administrators at K. William Harvey Elementary in Ronan to help rehab an outdoor learning space called Pollywog Park, funding from this grant would go towards the purchase and protection of native plant clusters throughout. Susan made a motion to apply for the \$1,500.00 grant. Curt seconds, all vote aye to applying.
- h. December Bills and Financials—bills were paid even though we did not meet in December. Jim made a motion to retroactively approve the December financial reports and pay the bills. Sigurd seconds, all approve the financial statement and paying the December bills.
- i. Financial Report and Bills—Curt went over the financial report and all is balanced. Jim motioned to pay the bills and accept the financial report. Sigurd seconds. All vote affirmative to accept the financial report and pay the bills. In reconciling the account, Jan came across some receipts that did not have clear projects and/or descriptions. Staff will make sure to write more info on receipts from now on.

#### IV. Reports

- a. BSWC—Jill and Abby—started! It was their first week and they are just working on getting the hang of things.
- b. NRCS—Ben—discussed NRCS happenings.
- c. LCCD—Sarah K., Sarah O. and Heidi—Sarah K. updated all on her work during the agenda. Sarah O. updated the Board and discussed a small grant from the Montana Audubon Society, Jim made a retroactive motion to approve applying for the grant for \$300.00, Sigurd seconds. All vote to apply for the grant. Heidi reviewed the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year Goals with the Board and Staff. A lot has been accomplished and COVID has stifled a lot of our outreach efforts, but we are adapting.
- d. MACD—Curt and Jim—no report (Curt). (Jim) updated the Board on MACD happenings.
- e. EO—Heidi—planning statewide trainings, serving on the programs committee for MACD and helping with statewide leadership efforts by attending partner meetings and convening CD employee meetings.
- f. Flathead Basin Commission—Jim—there is a meeting on the 19th.
- g. County Planning – Sigurd—met and Sigurd discussed current planning projects they reviewed.
- h. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd—meeting soon.

- i. City-County Planning –Jan N.—no meeting.

There being no further business at 9:06 pm Jim made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, Curt seconds, all agree. LCCD will hold the February Regular Supervisors meeting at the Ronan Flower Mill Meeting Room. The Regular Supervisors Meeting for February will start **Thursday, February 11th at 6:30 pm.**

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Jan Niemeyer, Vice Chair

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Heidi Fleury, Coordinator