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March 3rd, 2021

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes  
Regular Supervisor's Meeting at 6:30 PM  
Thursday, February 11th, 2021

Present: Supervisors—Sigurd Jensen, Curt Rosman, Jan Niemeyer, and Jim Simpson and. Joining virtually were Supervisors Susan Gardner and Allen Branine, Associate Supervisor David Sturman, Leo Rosenthal MTFWP, Abby Schmeichel BSWC, Jillian Herichon BSWC and Sarah Ogden LCCD. Also present Sarah Klaus LCCD, Ben Montgomery NRCS and Heidi Fleury Conservation Coordinator.  
Excused: Zoe Lilja.

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 virtually via Zoom. Jan called the Regular Supervisors Meeting to order just after 6:30 pm.

Open Mic—

- The Montana Grape and Wine Growers Association is hosting their annual meeting and we usually do a \$100.00 sponsorship. Sigurd motions to sponsor the event at the \$100 level, Susan seconds. All vote yes to sponsoring their meeting.

I. SB-310 APPLICATIONS-

- a. LA20003—Maas—Dayton Creek—Culvert—he is closer to having drawings and has been in contact about the project.
- b. LA21001—Beavers—Meadow Creek—Road Construction—discussed times to set up a site visit.
- c. LA21002—Hammer—Unnamed creek—Diversion Point—try and set up the meeting for the same time as other site visit in the Swan.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Pollinator Initiative—the seed is mixed and Pollinator Week will be held the first week of April. Sarah is working on setting up a showing of “The Pollinators” at the Polson theatre.
- b. Permissive (Healthcare) Mill Levy—due to a miscommunication about the process of how to assess this in Lake County the mill levy request was not submitted to the correct parties and LCCD will not receive a permissive healthcare mill levy in FY21. We will try again for FY22.
- c. DNRC Forestry Project—Heidi met with Ashley at the state and has the necessary paperwork to start the project but funds can’t be spent until LCCD receives the signed contract back.
- d. 2021 Conservation Speaker Series—70 people attended the first hybrid talk on 1/27/21. There are two more talks to come!
- e. Boys and Girls Club Community Garden—Sarah and Abby met with staff and told them what LCCD has to offer at the garden now that the initial project is up and running. The initial project included ensuring installation of boxes and irrigation, additionally, due to COVID our Americorps member tended the garden for the 2020 growing season and helped ensure the success of the first years harvest. Moving forward LCCD will help with Spring planning and host 5 hands on lessons with youth in the garden including water quality, soil health and pollinator conservation, Club staff will deal with the daily tending of the garden.
- f. Whitetop Symposium—we scheduled the event for September 22 and 23, 2021 in Ronan at the Fairgrounds and will have an option for people to join virtually.
- g. NRCS Cooperative Agreement—Ben went over it briefly again and Jan signed it.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Supervisor Election of Officers—Jim made a motion to maintain the officers as is with Jan as President, Susan as Vice President and Curt as Treasurer. Sigurd seconds, all vote affirmative to re-elect current officers for 2021.
- b. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag Days—due to continued concerns from COVID-19 LCCD would like to host a scaled back in-person event with just the kids from the Ronan 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade if possible (4<sup>th</sup> graders that missed out on last year). There will be fewer stations and smaller groups.
- c. 2021 Conservation Scholarship—Abby updated us on how outreach for it was going.
- d. Local Working Group—work on scheduling a meeting as soon as we can.
- e. 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.

#### IV. Reports

- a. BSWC—Jill and Abby—Jill is working on the Septic Cost-Share, Lake Mary Ronan Tree Planting with the Dayton School and assisting the Flathead Basin Commission compile all the studies of septic related things in the basin. Abby has been working on the plan for the Community Garden and working to improve the ease of delivery of the Jr. Conservationist Program so we can start promoting it to local teachers for next year.
- b. NRCS—Ben—discussed what NRCS is up to, doing EQIP rankings and starting the cover crop tip. Began the conversation for a future partnership meeting with the CSKT Compact Implementation Technical Team. Jan, Curt, Jim, Ben and staff will meet about this.
- c. LCCD—Sarah K., Sarah O. and Heidi—Sarah K. is working on several outreach and tech projects including completing the grant for Pollywog Park, creating an online reservation system for the Sandbox and helping with the garden and the Jr. Conservationist Program. Sarah O. updated the Board on her work helping to figure out bumblebee monitoring sites and follow up work for the bear fencing TIP. Heidi is working on staffing funds and ramping up for the upcoming forestry work. We need to set up an HR Committee meeting in the near future to discuss employee pay in regard to grant work.
- d. MACD—Curt and Jim—Jim introduced the names of the new chairs of two MACD committees the Water Committee, Jeff Pattison and the SLRA Chair, Steve Wanderass. He then reviewed the new combined budget document and Curt made a motion to accept the MACD Budget as proposed. Allen seconds, all vote yes to accepting the budget and sending our decision on to Rebecca at MACD.
- e. EO—Heidi—planning a statewide QuickBooks training for March 3-5.
- f. Flathead Basin Commission—Jim—the focus of the Commission will remain on septic leachate and storm water runoff effects and mitigation around Flathead Lake.
- g. County Planning – Sigurd—no report.
- h. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd—Sigurd shared the RREC pamphlets with staff.
- i. City-County Planning –Jan N.—no meeting.

There being no further business at 8:20 pm. Curt made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, Sigurd seconds, all agree. LCCD will hold the March Regular Supervisors meeting at the Ronan Flower Mill Meeting Room. The Regular Supervisors Meeting for March will start **Thursday, March 11th at 6:30 pm.**

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Jan Niemeyer, Vice Chair

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Heidi Fleury, Coordinator