

Lake County Conservation District
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Lake County Conservation District Meeting Agenda
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

November 30th, 2021

Present: Supervisors: Allen Branine, Jan Niemeyer, Jim Simpson, Curt Rosman, Susan Gardner, Zoe Lilja, Sigurd Jensen

Partners: Leo Rosenthal FWP 310 Rep

LCCD Staff: Sarah Klaus, Heidi Fleury and BSWC members Abby Schmeichel & Jill Herichon

Excused: Ben Montgomery NRCS

Jan called the meeting to order at 6:33

Minutes from previous meeting

Jim moved to approve the minutes and Susan seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Open Mic

- It is Abby's and Jill's last meeting with LCCD, we got to hear about the work that they will be doing after the LCCD. The board and staff thanked them for their service and hard work.
- Jan mentioned adding to the scholarship requirements for next year something about volunteering in Conservation.
- Jim informed the group that from 11am-12pm county commissioners and legislators are having meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are very informative and might be worth attending

I. ACTIVE SB-310 APPLICATIONS

- A. 310 complaint—Sprenger—Swan River - The board reviewed the after-the-fact application. There was some discussion about removing the rocks. Leo talked about suggesting removing quite a bit of the loose rock in order to make sure that the plants can establish. Allen requested that we send the state nursery information for the native plants to the landowner so they can purchase the plants there. Jim moved that we approve with the recommendation that sufficient rock be removed and the plantings are watered for the first few years to aid establishment. Allen seconded. The motion passed.
- B. LA21005—VanRy—Cilly Creek—Tributary Project - Allen updated the board on his visit and said everything looks really good. He is surprised that they left the old culvert in there. Allen made a motion to approve the follow up, Susan seconded. The motion passed. They want to follow up about taking out the old culvert as it might cause some standing water.

- C. LA21003—Weisner—Carney Creek—Wetland Project - Sarah explained the updates with the project and how she has not heard anything from the landowners. Jim requested that Allen go over and see if there is anything going on with the project.
- D. LA21007—Marriott—Swan River - Sarah explained that Rod has finished this project without a valid permit. Leo spoke on the concern he has about this project, and how if it is not done correctly we will be looking at it again next year. Allen went by and took a look at the work that was done and showed the board pictures of the “completed project”. There was discussion about how the changes might affect the flow of the stream. Jim made a motion to hold the project now to be a violation and that we require an engineer to get involved and provide their expertise on how this project can be improved. There was some discussion about the project. Leo wanted to know the size of the rip rap, the stable angle, how it is keyed in. Also to make sure that the rip rap does not narrow the stream bank. There was some discussion about the process. Everyone agreed this project was necessary, but it was not done the correct way, and if it gets left this way, more would likely be needed. The motion passed.
- E. LA20003— Maas—Dayton Creek - Proposed Change - Sigurd moved that we accept this as amended, Jim seconded. All were in favor.
- F. LA20002— Mckee— Schmidt Creek— Bridge - Follow up Inspection - Allen explained the work that he saw. He did recommend some -- Allen made a motion to approve, Sigurd seconded. All voted in favor.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Pollinator Initiative - Abby gave an update of the online workshop about site prep, and that we planted a few wildflower plots. Jim made a request to include more monitoring of types and species of pollinators that are in the area using the plots.
- B. Pollywog Park - Abby, Jill, and Sarah planted 12 native shrubs on Tuesday in the park and put in a pollinator plot!
- C. No-till Drill - It’s time to store it, we will ask Liam if he is available to bring it over to Curt’s next week.
- D. DNRC forestry cost share - Heidi talked about the 50 acre project they have going on, Tim Bebe is helping out as a contractor. There was discussion about projects outside of the focus area on the east shore because there is a lot of interest for larger acreage projects. Jim wants a project tour next spring. Jim also talked about notifying the county commissioners that this program is happening.
- E. DNRC Fire Restoration Funding - Sarah updated that the MOU and Contract are complete, and we are just waiting on the Lakers to sign the MOU.
- F. LCCD Natural Resource office - Jan has a contact at the USDA about the lease on the current rental arrangement. Jan has also been talking to Brenna and mission west, she wants to know how much money we want, the business plan, and the legal entity of our organization. There was some discussion about where we could lend the money for a building. Mass timber construction, smart lam
- G. Supervisors Recruitment - Jim talked about inviting Casey Lundsford to our board meeting. Or bringing the class he works with to come look at the no-till drill.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NACD Mercer Health Care - The board reviewed the slideshow and asked the following questions: What is the current cost, and what would this cost be? Could we purchase it with permissive mill levy monies?
- B. MACD Resolutions - The board reviewed and voted on the resolutions so that Jan can be the appointed voter at the Convention next week.
- C. MACD Convention - Jan is joining on Tuesday, Wed, & Thursday, Susan and Curt will be there on Tuesday and stay through Friday.
- D. Minimum Allocation Grants - Sarah explained that this funding could potentially be used to continue and expand the work Jill has been doing. A possibility would be to get the funding for a 2023 BSWC member to dedicate time to this program in Lake County. ARPA
- E. 4th Grade Ag Days Meeting - Pushed back.
- F. December Meeting - Start it at 5pm at ninepipes, Heidi will help Sarah with planning.
- G. Bank accounts - Missing a few signatures on the paperwork for Glacier Bank, will drop it off tomorrow. Sarah has reached out to Whitefish credit union via email and phone for a few months and not heard anything back.
- H. Bills and Financial Report - There was some discussion about the bank accounts. Jim made a motion to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Sigurd seconded the motion. The motion passed. There was some talk about switching to the state fund to save money on the workers comp payments.

IV. REPORTS

- A. BSWC—Jill and Abby - Jill and Abby shared the highlights of their terms of service.
- B. NRCS—Ben - Jessica from FSA asked about grazing losses and this letter that Ben wrote for Lake County. Ben would like to set a date for the working group. Week of Dec 13 – any day that week. Either 10 AM to noon, or 1 PM to 3 PM Week of January 3rd – any date that week. Either 10 AM to noon or 1PM to 3 PM The location of the meeting will be TBD. Probably can't have it at the office, unfortunately. Jim can do it on the 13th at 1pm, Jan and Sigurd agreed.
- C. LCCD—Sarah K., and Heidi
- D. MACD—Curt and Jim - No report
- E. EO—Heidi - SET Training was successful
- F. Flathead Basin—Jim - no meeting
- G. County Planning—Sigurd - Meeting tonight, going over lakeshore protection lands.
- H. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd - They are having a retreat in Lewis town at the end of the month!
- I. City-County Planning –Jan - no meeting

There being no further business at 10:15pm Susan made a motion to adjourn Sigurd seconded, All were in favor.

The next Regular Supervisors Meeting for December will happen on **Thursday, December 9th at 5 pm** at Ninepipes.

Submitted By:

Sarah Klaus, Conservation Coordinator
Minutes approved by LCCD Board motion made on:

(Date)

(Signature) Jan Niemeyer, Board Chair