

**Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
**Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2023**



**Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:** Jim Simpson, Jan Niemeyer, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, and David Sturman

**Present Online:** none

**LCCD Staff and Partners:** Caroline McDonald LCCD, Heidi Fleury LCCD, Camryn Gamble BSWC, and Ben Montgomery NRCS.

**Members of the Public:** None

**Excused:** Allen Branine

Noting presence of a quorum, Jim called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Minutes from the May meeting

Minutes approved with correction: *Farm Bureau was incorrectly identified as Farmers Union*

1<sup>st</sup> Curt

2<sup>nd</sup> Zoe

Passed - unanimous

No Public Comment

1) ACTIVE SB-310 APPLICATIONS: No action required on open applications

2) ACTION ITEMS

a) LCCD Insurance: Quotes sought from Farmers Union Insurance and Rocky Mountain Insurance Services (RMIS). Farmers Union declined offering coverage. When a quote is received from RMIS, it will be submitted to Supervisors via email for review and approval.

b) PERS: *Agency Motion to Adopt Contract* and *CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM COVERAGE* (documents required and prepared by the State) were reviewed. LCCD will join the Montana State Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERS) to provide retirement benefits for full-time employees. Supervisors voted to execute both documents.

1<sup>st</sup> Susan

2<sup>nd</sup> Sig

Passed - unanimous

c) FY24 Budget: The LCCD FY24 budget only includes estimated costs to be applied against mill levy funds. It does not include other revenue (e.g. grants) or expenses specifically

connected to said revenue (e.g. direct grant-project activities and grant administration). Jim requested that a second, District-wide budget be prepared that includes grant-related revenues and costs (including Heidi's salary). Jim noted that several line items have increased in cost over the last year. Significant increases of note: \$3,000 was added to the FY24 budget to provide a housing incentive for next year's BSWC position (if placed). Dues and Insurance both increased and an additional \$1000 was added to Training.

LCCD FY24 Budget was passed as presented.

1<sup>st</sup> Jan

2<sup>nd</sup> Susan

Passed - unanimous

- d) Permissive Mill Levy: The Board discussed the increased cost of group medical benefits for its one full-time employee and the subsequent Re-authorization of the Permissive Mill Levy for healthcare for FY24 for \$7400. The Board continues to contribute \$100/month (\$1,200/annually) toward health insurance for the full-time Coordinator position. An additional contribution of \$100/month (\$1,200/annually) is made by the employee. The Re-Authorization of the Permissive Mill Levy will be presented to the public for input. Caroline will prepare the legal notices to be published in the local newspapers. Supervisors voted to set aside time at the beginning of the regularly-scheduled monthly meeting, July 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm, to discuss this issue prior to a reauthorization vote.

1<sup>st</sup> Jan

2<sup>nd</sup> Curt

Passed - unanimous

- e) Bills and Financial Report: Supervisors reviewed and approved the balance sheet, financials, and bills presented for payment.

1<sup>st</sup> Sig

2<sup>nd</sup> Susan

Passed - unanimous

- f) Signatories: LCCD Supervisors decided to update the approved LCCD signatories for the Glacier Bank Commercial Checking Account and the Whitefish Credit Union Savings Account to include: Caroline McDonald, LCCD Conservation Coordinator; Jim Simpson, Board of Supervisors Chair; Jan Niemeyer, Board of Supervisors Vicechair; and Curt Rosman, Board of Supervisors Treasurer. Heidi Fleury, former LCCD Conservation Coordinator, will be removed from the authorized signatories list.

1<sup>st</sup> Susan

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan

Passed - unanimous

### 3) UPDATES AND REPORTS

- a) No-Till Seed Drill—maintenance is scheduled for 6/14-15. The equipment is anticipated to last 5+ years with continued regular maintenance.
- b) Pollinator Initiative—Camryn provided an update. Community seed distribution is done for the spring season. Plot monitoring will be starting soon. Pollinator week (June 19-25) will be celebrated with a chalk walk and a trivia night at the Ronan Brewery. Two pollinator kits (\$35/ea.) remain.
- c) Septic Cost Share— We continue to receive applications. This summer, we will focus on marketing. Additional funding may be available next year through the new/consolidated Flathead Basin Commission.

### 4) REPORTS

- a) NRCS—Ben—Currently working on obligating contracts. Once complete, pivot fencing and stock water project will start. Tribal liaison position has been offered but is not yet public. Jim discussed potential for future predator management partner project.
- b) BSWC—Camryn—in addition to other duties, will be updating the website. Attended Deer Lodge ranch tour (irrigation and cattle husbandry). Assisted with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bison Range Trip with Sarah Klaus.
- c) LCCD
  - i) Caroline updated supervisors (see attached)
  - ii) Heidi trying to limit work to every other Friday, focusing mostly on financial management.
- d) MACD— Jim: Just got back from meeting with MACD Spring Board Meeting including strategic planning. See the MACD website for updates and events. Trust fund for CDs established in the last legislative session. Funding mechanisms for new trust fund drafted/suggested that funding will flow from DNRC to CDs for Admin. grants. This may greatly reduce our annual contribution to MACD (will take approx. 5 years to establish). Will hear more at Area 5 meeting.
- e) County Planning—Sigurd: Public comment for Red Owl subdivision hasn't come up yet. Jack Norberg has proposed a major trailer park subdivision east of Pablo.
- f) Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—David: Outreach with 5+ landowners. Discussed Marsh Creek grizzly issues. Will be attending Range Days. Rabbit laws have been changed during last legislative session. Lena has applied to become a 4-H ambassador.
- g) City-County Planning –Jan: no meeting.

There being no further business, Supervisors voted to adjourn the meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Jan

2<sup>nd</sup> Sig

Passed - unanimous

---

(Date)

---

(Signature) *Jim Simpson, Board Chair*