



**Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
**Thursday, Aug 10, 2023**

**Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:** Jim Simpson, Jan Niemeyer, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, David Sturman, and Allen Branine (via Zoom)

**LCCD Staff and Partners:** Caroline McDonald LCCD, Camryn Gamble BSWC, and Ben Montgomery NRCS, and Leo Rosenthal FWP (via Zoom)

**Members of the Public:** Ryan Currie (via Zoom), Holl Hubbard (via Zoom)

**Excused:** None

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

Open mic: Susan reported on an article describing water absorption mechanics in plants as it relates to groundwater, snowpack, and rainfall. This should be on our radar as it may inform future water usage and how water rights are quantified.

**2. Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved with the following corrections: Susan was listed twice in the attendance list. The NRCS report omitted the name Austin Allen as the next Tribal Liaison.**

*First:* Curt

*Second:* Jan

*Discussion:* As a follow up to last meeting's discussion, Jim noted anyone interested accessing the MACD private page should reach out to Eric Rannestad, MACD Communications for guidance.

*Passed:* Unanimous

**3. SB-310 PERMITTING**

**a. Tomas Holloman Hubbard, LA-22004, Kaser Creek:**

**i. 1-Yr Extension Request**

*First:* Susan

*Second:* Sigurd

*Discussion:* It was noted that the original permit was granted without issue. A standard year extension should be granted.

*Passed:* Unanimous

**ii. Change existing Permit No. from "LA-22004" to "LA-22004(A)" to correct record-keeping error.**

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Sigurd

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

b. Ryan Curry, LA-23002, Swan River, Bank Stabilization Team Member Report:

Ryan provided before and after pictures of tow-wood projects similar to his proposal. Since the submission of his original application, he has contacted River Design Group for input and guidance. Board members recommended withdrawal of existing project application with the understanding that Ryan would submit a new application (with an attached report from River Design Group) when design is complete.

*First:* Curt *Second:* Sigurd  
*Discussion:* None  
*Passed:* Unanimous

The board requests before/during/and after pictures once the permit is granted and work commences. This could be a flagship kind of project for the Swan River area.

c. John Van Ry, LA-23003, Cilly Creek: Team Member Report

Days prior to the LA-23002 Site Visit, LCCD received another 310 application. Since the team was already assembled, they visited the site and produced a TMR.

Designate the Cilly Creek project as A Project

*First:* Curt *Second:* Susan  
*Discussion:* Concerns an outlet of pond that goes into the stream and wetland area. Not that complex of an effort but IS a project. Owner wants to add 18" of gravel to existing surface and a 16" culvert to an existing dyke/road to access land. We have taken jurisdiction of this area before, so to be consistent, should do so again. Concern about 16" culvert (probably plastic)—won't hold truck weight and traffic over time. Consider using steel instead of plastic.  
*Passed:* Unanimous

Approve application with the following modification: *If a culvert is installed, it shall have adequate cover and be of a material approved for road construction.*

*First:* Sigurd *Second:* David  
*Discussion:* None  
*Passed:* Unanimous

d. Rhett & Patricia Johnson, Ader Creek: Complaint

LCCD rec'd anonymous complaint. Allen visited the location and completed a formal complaint noting possible under-permitting on multiple fronts BUT NO 310 VIOLATIONS. A 310-complaint letter was sent to the homeowners via certified mail requesting a meeting with the owners. No one has yet signed for the letter; redelivery has been scheduled for 8/10. Allen has seen the project. He recommends that this is not a (310) project. Appears homeowners are building a

pond that is filled with groundwater. It is over 100 yards away from the creek and ¼ mile from Swan River: NO APPEARANT 310 VIOLATION. West Slope (contractor out of Seeley Lake) is on site. Allen will try to get a phone number to reach the homeowners to let them know that we would like to visit the site and wrap up the process, which was concern about Alder Creek. Caroline will follow up with original complainant.

#### 4. Coordinator's Report (see attached)

##### ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Bills and Financial Report

*First:* Sigurd

*Second:* Zoe

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

b. Truck Maintenance: The LCCD truck has developed a shake/shimmy when driven above 55 MPH. An evaluation and regular oil change has been scheduled for 8/21 at the Ford Dealership. Caroline will inform the board of recommendations. If less than \$1000, Caroline should go ahead and get fixed. Quoted costs exceeded \$1,000 will have to be considered by the Board.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Susan

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

c. Send donation to MACD

General agreement that a donation would not be a good use of LCCD'S limited resources. MACD already receives income from leasing the building. Moreover, the building is only partially owned by the State of Montana.

d. Approve Caroline's request to obtain QuickBooks training not to exceed \$1000.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Zoe

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

d. Implement Caroline's Salary Increase to \$25/hr. starting August 11<sup>th</sup> to reflect her increase in financial duties. The budgeted salary increase to \$27/hr. will be considered at the end of her 6-month probationary period.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Susan

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

#### 5. COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION



