

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 pm
Thursday, Nov 9, 2023



Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors: Jim Simpson, Jan Niemeyer, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, Allen Branine (via Zoom), and David Sturman (at 6:42 pm)

LCCD Staff and Partners: Caroline McDonald LCCD, Camryn Gamble BSWC, Ben Montgomery, NRCS

Members of the Public: Randy Andrew (Singley Contractor), Elisa Andrews, Caleb Deitz (Via Zoom)

Excused: Leo Rosenthal, FWP

1. Noting presence of a quorum, Jim called meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

Open mic: None

2. Minutes from September meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.

First: Curt

Second: Zoe

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

3. SB-310 PERMITTING: Follow up site visit Report by Allen

a. LA23005 Singley Family Trust Complaint, Team Member (Site Visit) Report

A major concern is that the weight of the rock wall will cause the bank to sag and possibly collapse. A silt fence has been installed (per team member advice) to keep debris from entering the river. Woody shrubs have been suggested to add stability.

Curt offered a motion that this is a valid complaint and is a project.

First: Curt

Second: Allen

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

Allen moved that LCCD follow Leo's recommendation that the owner consult with a stream consultant to determine the best way forward.

First: Allen

Second: Curt

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

Sigurd recommended that the application be withdrawn and then resubmitted prior to April 2024 with recommendations from a stream consultant. LCCD recommends Sugden

Environmental, but contractor is free to choose. In the meantime, the contractor may make reasonable accommodations to forestall erosion.

First: Sigurd

Second: Zoe

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

b. LA23006 Flathead Ridge Ranch, LLC, Joint Application Review

The site involves a crossing adjacent to a dry draw. There is a cistern 200 ft. away. Proposing widening of road and culvert installation. There is no visible scouring. *This is not a project.*

First: Allen

Second: Jan

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous – Not a project

c. LA23001 Kelly Kasser, Meadow Creek, Completion Form Rec'd

Completion form and photos comply with permit and is accepted. No further action needed. LCCD reserves the right to do an on-site inspection in the future.

First: Jan

Second: Susan

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

d. LA22004(a) Holl Hubbard, Kasser Creek, Follow Up Findings

Application says will leave single willows. Virtually all willows have been removed. The Creek is no longer shaded. *On-site follow up visit recommended.*

First: Allen

Second: Susan

Discussion: Contact landowner and schedule a visit

Passed: Unanimous

Allen, Curt, Leo, Jan, Jim interested in attending for site visit (no more than 3 supervisors may attend).

e. LA21005 John VanRy, Cilly Creek, Follow Up Findings

Jim recommends an on-site visit. Would be good to combine it with a visit to Hulett's other project crossing the bog.

First: Susan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: Contact landowner and schedule a visit

Passed: Unanimous

- f. LA19004/5/6 Ben Cotton, Swan River & Cilly Creek, Follow Up Findings
Approach is unfinished and may lead to leaching. *Site visit is recommended.*
First: Jan
Second: Curt
Discussion: Contact landowner and schedule a visit
Passed: Unanimous
- g. Clarify 310 project completion procedure: Spot checks/self-report with pictures. Follow up one month before permit expires to make sure completion form is received and pix are reviewed for integrity with permit instructions. Update green procedure form. Send original permit/application with site visit. Include language in procedure – up to 3 board members (not just one). Ask Hailey Graf if there is a special team member report/site visit for complaints.

4. Coordinator's Report

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing training opportunities.

5. Bills & Financial Reporting

- a. *Approve Bills and Financial Reports as presented*

First: Curt

Second: Zoe

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

- b. *Review and approve forestry cost share reimbursements to be released when money is received from DNRC.*

First: Jan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

6. Old Business

- a. *Truck maintenance: Recommending replacement of clutch fan and tune-up.*

First: Jan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

- b. AR Sandbox: Update -working on scheduling the library to do a tech update

- c. 2023 MACD Convention: Review & Support/Reject Proposed Resolution

23-04: Support for removing conservation Leasing from the BLM's Public Lands Rule

First: Sigurd

Second: Zoe

Discussion: Allen and Curt do not support

Failed: 3 Yay, 4 Nay, LCCD will not support this resolution at Convention.

23-05 – Support the Governor’s Recommendation to exclude Grizzly Bear encroachment into Eastern Montana. Note: originally the board opposed this resolution. Sigurd would like to revisit. There exists a lot of heartburn around the grizzly bear issue because of the potential loss to ranchers in eastern MT should the grizzly population increase.

Sigurd moves to reverse board’s earlier position to a position of support

First: Sigurd

Second: Zoe

Discussion:

Passed: 3 Yay, 2 Nay, LCCD WILL support this resolution at Convention

- d. Envirothon: State (April 21-23, Great Falls); National (July 28-Aug 3; Geneva, NY) – State competition information hasn’t been posted yet. Caroline will do outreach once information is available to provide to potential teams.

- e. December Meeting Planning: Invitations have been distributed

7. New Business

- a. Poll Supervisors up for re-election in 2024. Enthusiastic yes from Curt & Zoe!! Jan and Jim’s appointed terms expire at the end of 2024. Will contact Ronan and Polson City Councils to schedule reappointment in Dec. 2024 for 2025.

- b. Approve Allocation for 2024 LCCD Scholarship \$1000
Would like to support a student to do training/travel or consider supporting Convention for FFA. Is included in the annual outreach budget passed in July.

- c/d. Caroline’s Probation Ended. *Recommend changing status to regular, full-time; Recommend Salary Increase to \$27/hr.; and work from home on Friday’s (allowing for half day work/half day comp time as appropriate).*

First: Susan

Second: Zoe

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

- e. Soil Health Symposium Attendance for Caroline

First: Jan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None
Passed: Unanimous

- f. 2025 MCC Fellow/Intern Opportunity—Investigate and Invite Ben
First: Susan
Second: Jan
Discussion: None
Passed: Unanimous

8. Communication/Discussion

- a. NRCS—Ben: Investigating potential partnering projects with the CD. Looking at working with Rangelands and ranchers in Sanders and Lake County – best practices/incentives, working potentially with Liam on private lands with habitat restoration projects. Looking at working with smaller grain growers. Getting ready for local working group meetings for 1st quarter of 2024. Austin doing a great job with the Tribes and the Bison Range.
- b. BSWC—Camryn: Screened the Kiss the Ground documentary. Thanked the Board.
- c. MACD— Jim: Nothing at this time.
- d. County Planning—Sigurd: No meeting
- e. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd: Went to Boulder, MT for a meeting. Talked about grizzly bear fencing. Using electrified mats instead of fences. Radon health mine claims it helps with inflammation. Rangeland has a loan program for 3.5% for upgrades. Intern program to stay in different ranches limited to juniors and seniors of MT schools. American Prairie Reserve (APR) buying up range land. Grasshopper problem impacting livestock weight (negatively).
A local rancher has funded the Ranchland Stewardship Award International Rangeland Society.
- f. City-County Planning –Jan: No meeting

Final Comments: none

There being no further business, Supervisors voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:10p,
First: Jan
Second: Zoe
Discussion: None
Passed: Unanimous

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be December 14th at 5:30 pm followed by Holiday Dinner at 6:30 PM at Ninepipes in Allentown.

(Date)

(Signature) Jan Niemeyer, Vice Chairperson