

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes
Regular Supervisor Meeting, 5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023



Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors: Jim Simpson, Jan Niemeyer, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, Allen Branine (at 5:40 pm), and David Sturman at (6:56 pm)

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

Members of the Public: Catey Bauer, DNRC CD Bureau

Excused: N/A

1. Noting presence of a quorum, Jim called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Open mic: Susan shared outcomes from her property. Without irrigation, sheep grazed on non-irrigated, dry grass land and gained more weight than when bale fed.

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

<i>First:</i>	Curt	<i>Second:</i>	Susan
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

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

Due to privacy concerns and data security, LCCD has not uploaded 310 permit information to the State website. It's been several years since this was considered. Should revisit.

Cotton Property: 310 permit (now expired) approved bridge construction, but the approach and fill has never been completed. The approach is made of creosote railroad ties that will be covered by high water and may leach into the Swan River and tributary. Landowner will be contacted and a formal site visit planned to determine future plans to address current situation.

Johnson Creek/Kootenai Estates (Evans): All complete and looks good.

Hubbard/Kasser Creek: Recently extended permit included completion of thinning. Instead, almost all vegetation (excluding grass) has been cleared. Currently using it as a horse pasture. The original permit included plans for creek crossings. Currently, crossings are made of logs haphazardly placed across creek. Current condition does not reflect plans described in permit.

Landowner will be contacted via mail requesting an onsite review and discussion of plans to bring into compliance.

Rainbow Drive: Overall—great job. Much of the vegetation survived, but not all on the bank. Consider a site visit in the spring to see how high the water comes up the bank to determine if a recommendation for re-seeding is appropriate.

Ludwig/Grassy Creek: Permitted culvert looks good and is working well.

Potential Violation: No permit was issued for a major new single residential construction right on Swan River. Allen will complete a Complaint form and submit to LCCD office. Once received, a notice of complaint will be sent to the landowner.

VanRy-Cilly Creek: 310 permit included construction of a bridge, which is complete. It appears that the owner didn't build the permitted new bridge wide enough, so still using the old road which is (find permit and look at letter).

This exercise has proven that sending a completion form to the owner and relying on self-reporting without an onsite review by LCCD is not working well. LCCD will be setting up a schedule for follow ups and revising/revisiting 310 procedures and record-keeping.

4. Coordinator's Report

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing training opportunities. Reviewed upcoming events. (see attached)

5. Bills & Financial Reporting

a. Approve Bills and Financial Reports as presented

<i>First:</i>	Susan	<i>Second:</i>	Zoe
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

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

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Sigurd
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

6. Old Business

a. Truck maintenance: Still having issues. Schedule a transmission flush, delay tune-up, evaluate next steps.

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Allen
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<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

- b. Red Owl Subdivision—Update from Commission Meeting
Commissioners denied the variance to increase density from 20 to 27 lots. Our letter will be submitted along with other comments to DEQ for their review.
- c. AR Sandbox: Update –Get it working, develop usage agreement, lend to Ronan Library first.

7. New Business

- a. 2023 MACD Convention
- i. Determine Convention Donation: \$100

<i>First:</i>	Zoe		<i>Second:</i>	Allen
<i>Discussion:</i>	Remember, this should be funded from the ADMIN fund (not mill levy dollars).			
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous			

- ii. Determine Supervisor Attendance (Jim for MACD)

No supervisors wanted to make the trip to Billings. Jim will be attending in his capacity as MACD Board member. He will also carry out LCCD representation responsibilities.

- iii. Jim will act as LCCD Representative for Convention

<i>First:</i>	Jim		<i>Second:</i>	Allen
<i>Discussion:</i>	None			
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous			

- iv. Review & Support/Reject Proposed Resolutions passed at the area meetings.

Resolution Passed at Area 1, drafted by Petroleum County CD

23-01 A resolution to coordinate reuse of used infrastructure materials

<i>First:</i>	Curt		<i>Second:</i>	Jan
<i>Discussion:</i>	Oppose in current form. Not enough consideration about how it might be implemented.			
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous			

Resolution Passed at Area 5, drafted by Missoula CD

23-02 Natural Water Bodies and Land Preservation Disclosure

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Susan
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous Support		

Resolution Passed as amended at Area 1, drafted by Roosevelt CD

23-03 Irrigator Water Rights

Authorize Jim to decide whether to support or oppose once at convention with more information.

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Allen
<i>Discussion:</i>	Unclear what this is solving, need more information		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

Resolution Passed as amended at Area 3, drafted by Phillips CD

23-04 Opposition to BLM's proposed Public Lands Rule for Conservation Leasing

Need more time to review. Will postpone this decision until next meeting

Resolution passed at Area 1, Drafted by Valley County CD

23-05 Resolution to Support the Governor's Recommendation to Exclude Grizzly Bear Encroachment Into Eastern Montana

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Curt
<i>Discussion:</i>	F&W did not do an adequate job managing Wolves, unlikely they would do any better with Grizzly Bears		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous opposed		

- b. Envirothon: July 28-Aug 3; Geneva, NY (The schedule for the statewide event has not yet been posted). Caroline will contact previous team leader to see if there is interest this year. Also contact the other Lake County School Districts. LCCD will consider sponsoring teams up to \$1000 total (as last year).
- c. Approve Proposal Submission for DNRC mini-education grant to support WMGAC 2024

<i>First:</i>	Susan	<i>Second:</i>	Sigurd
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

- d. December Meeting Planning: Invitation List
Once menu is determined, develop invitations. Include: Board and staff spouses/significant others, NRCS & staff, Austin Allen, the new Soil Conservationist in Pablo, Chris Malgren, Heidi Fleury, Sarah Klaus, Potential Board Associates.

8. Communication/Discussion

- a. NRCS—Ben: Contracts and applications for equipment
- b. BSWC—Camryn: Kiss the ground, Nov 2, 2pm Polson, pollinator seed
- c. MACD— Jim: all covered in meeting.
- d. County Planning—Sigurd: none
- e. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd: Having a meeting on the 17th
- f. City-County Planning –Jan: Nothing

Final Comments: none

There being no further business, Supervisors voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20P,

<i>First:</i>	Jan	<i>Second:</i>	Allen
<i>Discussion:</i>	None		
<i>Passed:</i>	Unanimous		

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be November 9th at 6:30 pm

(Date)

(Signature) *Jim Simpson, Board Chair*