

**Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Supervisor Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
**Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023**



**Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:** Jim Simpson, Jan Niemeyer, Susan Gardner, Curt Rosman, Sigurd Jensen, Zoe Lilja, and David Sturman (at 6:58p)  
Allen Branine (joined via Zoom at 6:40p)

**LCCD Staff and Partners:** Caroline McDonald LCCD, Camryn Gamble BSWC

**Members of the Public:** MonaRae Tuhy, Red Owl Road; Heidi Fleury (via zoom at 8:45p)

**Excused:** Ben Montgomery, NRCS

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

Open mic: None

**2. Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.**

*First:* Curt

*Second:* Jan

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

**3. SB-310 PERMITTING**

**a. Rhett & Patricia Johnson, Alder Creek: Complaint**

The following motion was brought forward: Given the information we have access to and the inability to reasonably contact the homeowners, we (the board) believe that no 310 violations occurred and this is NOT A PROJECT.

*First:* Sig

*Second:* Zoe

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

**b. Steve Aukland: Considering construction in spring; sent a 310 application:**

Caroline will put on calendar to touch base with Aukland in the spring.

**4. Coordinator's Report**

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing training opportunities. The Board wishes to have LCCD remain involved in the planning for the 2024 Western MT Grazing and Agricultural Conference. The Board instructed Caroline to reserve Ninepipes for the Christmas board meeting and party in December.

**5. Bills & Financial Reporting**

Caroline and Jan reviewed new financial reporting documents generated directly from QuickBooks to ensure accuracy and transparency. Board members requested minor presentation changes.

a. Approve Bills and Financial Reports

*First:* Susan

*Second:* Zoe

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

b. Designate Existing Savings account as “Planned Operations Reserve”

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Susan

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

Board members instructed Caroline to place \$25,000 of the Planned Operations Reserve into a short-term CD (8-months) with Whitefish Credit Union.

*First:* Susan

*Second:* Allen

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

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

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Allen

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

d. Approve Septic cost share outreach costs (grant funded) not to exceed \$1000.

*First:* Susan

*Second:* Sigurd

*Discussion:* Add Post Creek to the planned targeted mailing.

*Passed:* Unanimous

**6. Old Business**

a. Red Owl Subdivision—County planning dept. has reviewed planned subdivision in Swan, “Red Owl”. The developers want to increase density from recommended 20 to 27 lots. Concern about the impact of individual septic systems on the aquifer and surface water. Planning dept. recommendations. will go before the Commissioners at 2 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment: MonaRea Touhy, Swan/Red Owl neighborhood-area citizen. Touhy expressed concerns about the lack of investigation into the impacts of this development on the aquifer. Requested that the Board submit a letter to the Commissioners raising these concerns.

Board Discussion: It was determined that it is appropriate for the Board, in its capacity as elected representatives of Lake County, to provide input to the Commissioners about issues that impact water quality.

Recommendation to submit a letter to the Commissioners expressing unanimous concern over the lack of adequate investigation of the potential negative impacts of septic and increased impervious surfaces on the health of the existing aquifer. Include a recommendation that the Commissioners consider a community system as an alternative.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Allen

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

b. Truck maintenance

Upon review of the repair estimate prepared by Don Aadsen Ford, members decided to proceed with tie rod replacement, power steering leak fix, and an oil change (up to \$1500). Caroline should get an additional quote from K&O Auto before proceeding.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Sigurd

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

**7. New Business**

a. DNRC- Desk Review

Caroline shared the findings outlined in the completed Forestry Cost Share Desk Review conducted prior to her employment. Caroline assured the Board that new grants and financial management procedures have been implemented to return LCCD to good standing with the DNRC.

b. Adopt Financial Policy for Disbursement of Advance funding

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Zoe

*Discussion:* Caroline noted that this policy will be integrated into a comprehensive financial policy for LCCD that is currently being drafted.

*Passed:* Unanimous

c. Adopt FY24 Goals (See Attached)

Caroline recommended that last year's goals (with minor changes) be adopted for FY24 with the understanding that a more in-depth short and long-term planning process will be undertaken by the Board sometime around March.

*First:* Jan

*Second:* Allen

*Discussion:* None

*Passed:* Unanimous

d. Loan AR Sandbox

Heidi Fleury presented a request to loan out the AR Sandbox for this academic year to a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher working for Kalispell Middle School. Consensus that although there is a preference to have the equipment used in Lake County, it is better to have it in use. Caroline will contact the teacher and draft an agreement to bring to the board in October.

**8. Communication/Discussion**

- a. NRCS—Ben: Excused but left message to remind everyone about protocols if we have a gov't shutdown at the end of September.
- b. BSWC—Camryn: Fall pollinator seeds will be offered, Camryn is interested in screening the movie “Kiss the Ground” in Polson.
- c. MACD— Jim: Area meetings coming up. Looking for a NACD (national) MACD Representative.
- d. County Planning—Sigurd: No meeting this month.
- e. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd: No meeting this month.
- f. City-County Planning –Jan: Will report on missed meeting next month.

***Final Comments: none***

There being no further business, Supervisors voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20P,

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

***The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm***

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(Date)

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(Signature) *Jim Simpson, Board Chair*