

Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Location: 64352 US HWY 93, Ronan, MT**



Attendance:

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

LCCD Staff and Partners: Caroline McDonald, LCCD; Ben Montgomery, NRCS

Members of the Public: Steve Hoffman

Excused: Allen Branine and Susan Gardner,

1. Noting presence of a quorum, Jim called meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

Jim welcomed guests and explained the role of Associate Supervisor. Note: Must attend 3 meetings before can entertain a vote on associate status.

2. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

First: Curt

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

3. SB-310 PERMITTING: No new business. Follow ups will be scheduled for late April or early May

4. Coordinator's Report

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing outreach activities. Caroline considering an April funding/outreach workshop sponsored by MCC. Supervisors supported Caroline attending the workshop if further investigation demonstrates its usefulness.

First: Jan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

5. Bills & Financial Reporting

a. *Approve Bills and Financial Reports as presented*

First: Curt

Second: Jan

Discussion: Supervisors would like to see only the critical "macro" level financial reporting with an occasional in-depth review.

Passed: Unanimous

6. Old Business

- a. Range Days Update: Contacted Colter Brown who is currently serving on the selection committee. Waiting for further information.
- b. Strategic Planning Special Meeting scheduled for April 17th 1:00-4:00 at the District Offices. Caroline will post the requisite notice.

7. New Business

- a. BSWC MOU
- b. PF MOU

Caroline presented the MOU between Pheasants Forever (PF) and LCCD for the agreed cost share for the BSWC interns (PF will provide required BSWC Financial Support while LCCD will provide housing stipend). Caroline also presented the corresponding MOU between BSWC Program and LCCD. Jan recommended both MOUs be approved without changes.

First: Jan

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

- c. NTSD Outreach Opportunities

Caroline would like to have some new banners made to promote NTSD Rental. She will also be looking for opportunities to highlight the NTSD in the community.

- d. Letter of Support for NSF Science-Enabled Effluent Pollution Solutions (SEEPS) Project has been requested by Flathead Biological Station staff seeking funding. Curt recommended that we approve the letter of support that includes a commitment to provide outreach and promotion support for the project should it be awarded.

First: Curt

Second: Sigurd

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

- e. Curt led a discussion with the group about a series of articles highlighting impacts of snowpack, weather outlook, and irrigation techniques on the overall health of the watershed.

8. Communication/Discussion

- a. NRCS—Ben: The Local Working Group meeting is scheduled for March 20th at the Polson Library 1-2:30p. Ben noted that NRCS will be hiring a District Conservationist to serve under himself as the Supervisory Conservationist.
- b. MACD— Jim: Nothing to report
- c. County Planning—Sigurd noted that the County is raising many fees
- d. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee—Sigurd: Nothing
- e. City-County Planning –Jan: No meeting

Final Comments:

- Sigurd noted that 4th Grade Ag Days planning is underway. It will be held at John Senecal's place on May 14th & 15th. Ben offered to help with soil demonstrations. David said Lena will help as well.
- Caroline noted the need to clean out and reorganize the storage room and outreach supplies.
- Lena is going to Sieben Land and Livestock, in Helena. Lena will be presenting in April.
- Jim noted that he will not be seeking re-appointment to the Board in December.

There being no further business, Supervisors voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm.

First: Jan

Second: Zoe

Discussion: None

Passed: Unanimous

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be April 11th at 6:30 pm at the Conservation District Offices in Ronan

(Date)

(Signature) *Jim Simpson, Chairperson*