

# Lake County Conservation District Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Location: MSU Extension Offices, Ronan



## Attendance:

### **Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curt Rosman, Chair        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoe Lilja               | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Hoffman, Assoc. Excused    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sigurd Jensen, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Craig McClure Excused              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Sturman, Assoc. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Niemeyer, Treasurer   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Gardner           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Simpson, Assoc.   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Branine, via zoom |   |

### **LCCD Staff and Partners:**

- ☒ Caroline McDonald, LCCD
- ☒ Ashley Stivers, BSWC Member
- ☐ Dillon Martini, NRCS - furloughed
- ☒ Leo Rosenthal, FWP via zoom
- ☐ Amy Elkins, NRCS – furloughed
- ☒ David Friedlander, representing Golden 310 application
- ☒ Sandy Golden, representing Golden 310 application, via zoom

### **Guests:**

## **1. OPENING**

- a. Call to order: Caroline called the roll. Observing a quorum, Curt called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.
- b. General Public Comment – None

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.**

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

## **3. SB-310 PERMITTING:**

- a. LA25004 Golden, Swan River (LA24005 was withdrawn, and a new application has been submitted for review)

The application was reviewed for completeness, and it was formally accepted.

FIRST	Allen	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

Board members discussed the new design plans. Leo suggested the need for a second onsite visit now that the design plan is complete. The site visit has been scheduled for Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>, with Leo, David, Curt, Allen, and Jan. Due to need to start work, the board authorizes the site team to make a final determination and issue a permit at the conclusion

of the site visit if deemed acceptable. This “contingent permit” was signed by all members present and provided to the site team.

- b. *Other open 310s—no action required:* LA25001 Andrews, Crystal Creek; LA25002 Bliss, Forrey Creek; LA25003 Hubbard, Kaser Creek

#### 4. FINANCIALS

- a. The monthly financial reports were presented and reviewed along with checks to be approved. It was moved that the reports and checks be approved as presented.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Zoe
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

#### 5. COORDINATOR REPORT:

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing outreach activities.

#### 6. BUSINESS

- a. MCC Big Sky Watershed Corps Member Host Site MOU Approval  
The Host Site MOU was reviewed and approved as presented.

FIRST	Sigurd	SECOND	Zoe
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. MACD BSWC Cost Share Agreement Approval

Caroline presented the BSWC Cost Share Agreement with MACD for review. Caroline noted that the board approved the pursuit of cost share funding support back in July.

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Zoe
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- c. Area V Meeting Re-Cap

Caroline and the supervisors reported on the meeting including the final cost of hosting. It was noted that (assuming all outstanding registration fees are paid), the cost of hosting exceeded registration revenue by approximately \$500.

- d. Confirm Convention Attendance

Craig McClure will attend the Convention along with Caroline McDonald

- e. Designate Representative and Alternate for Convention

It was moved that Craig be LCCD’s representative at convention.

FIRST	Susan	SECOND	Jan
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DISCUSSION	None
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous

No alternates were designated.

f. Develop District Position on Approved Area Resolutions

1. Requirement to Adhere to MACD Resolution Process (Area 5) - *Approved at Area 5 meeting (approved by LCCD at meeting in September)*

2. Requirement to Adhere to MACD Resolution Process (Area 6)

FIRST	Sigurd	SECOND	Zoe
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

It was noted that these 2 resolutions were virtually identical. Both resolutions were approved by LCCD with the understanding that they will likely be combined into a single resolution during the amendment process at Convention.

3. Stabilize and build capacity for Montana's forest Product Industry – *Approved at area 5 meeting (approved by LCCD at meeting in September)*

4. Encourage NGOs to qualify for Ag Status tax exemption. Seems pre-mature. May not hold up in court. Not enough information/data. *Move to not support.*

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Susan
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, Zoe and Sig abstained		

5. Adjust FWP Parks fees for tax support for county roads.

Support this resolution, with the following amendment (otherwise no)

*Amendment: include that any funds generated from this change will be used to augment county road maintenance and would not supplant any sources of existing funding.*

FIRST	Jan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

6. Reduce and eliminate Geoengineering – *Rejected at the Area Meeting*

7. Reform Civil Penalties for 310 Violations

*Propose support for this resolution as submitted.*

FIRST	Allen	SECOND	Susan
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- g. Set Date and Venue for December Meeting: Ninepipes, December 11<sup>th</sup>
- h. Follow up on Evergreen Donation –  
The draft pamphlet that was developed by the Evergreen foundation about the forestry industry was reviewed LCCD. Members noted that they would like to see the next version of the publication when available.
- i. Operations Policy Final Revision and Adoption - Postpone
- j. WMCC Grant Agreement Approval – POSTPONED Due to delay in preparing contract documents from WMCC

## 7. COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION

- a. NRCS District Conservationist— Amy is on furlough due to the federal government shutdown. No report
- b. County Planning – Sigurd, Reviewed the draft County permitting fee schedule
- c. Rangeland Resource Executive Committee: Sigurd attended Helena meeting. Rangeland improvement loans are being offered at 3.25%. Eligible property improvements include wells, pipelines, etc. A new biocontrol for Houndstongue is being tested. Virtual fencing with “Halter” was discussed. MT is considered the gold standard for managing sage grouse. There are still two vacancies on the committee.
- d. City-County Planning: Jan, no meeting.

## 9. Final Public Comment

- Jim: There is a new director at MACD. LCCD should consider asking her to join the board meeting once per quarter to do an MACD update. LCCD supervisor(s) should consider having a member join the Ad Hoc legislative committee.

## Adjourn

There being no further business, Supervisors adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

FIRST	Susan	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

***The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be November 13th at 6:30 pm at the District Offices in Ronan***

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Preparer Signature) Caroline McDonald

