

Lake County Conservation District Minutes

Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Location: NRCS Service Center, Ronan



Attendance:

Present Supervisors and Associate Supervisors:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Niemeyer, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig McClure | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Hoffman, Assoc. EXCUSED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sigurd Jensen, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Gardner - EXCUSED | <input type="checkbox"/> David Sturman, Assoc. at 7:30PM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curt Rosman, Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Allen Branine - EXCUSED | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Simpson, Assoc., EXCUSE |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Max Krantz | |

LCCD Staff, Partners, and guests:

- Caroline McDonald, LCCD
 - Daisy Coyne, LCCD BSWC
 - Leo Rosenthal, FWP Excused
 - Amy Elkins, NRCS
 - Angie Knoll, prospective associate
- Martin Oakland, Missoula Co Conservation District, offered support to assist with 310 site visits if interested.
Jim Bliss, 310 Extension

1. OPENING

- a. Call to order: Caroline called the roll. Observing a quorum, Jan called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- b. General Public Comment – None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May Minutes were approved with the following corrections: Under 5.h. Rental program expansion discussion, include the option to explore a sod cutter cost share option in the next grant proposal to support the Native Plant Cost Share and Pollinator project grant.

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Curt
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

3. SB-310 PERMITTING:

- a. LA25001 Andrews, Crystal Creek: 1 YR Extension request
A motion to approve one-year extension for same scope of work described in originally-approved permit was made.

FIRST	Curt	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

A motion to approve one-year extension for same scope of work described in originally-approved permit was made.

LA25002 Bliss, Forrey Creek: 1 YR Extension request

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. *Other open 310s—no action required:* LA2 5001 Andrews, Crystal Creek; LA25002 Bliss, Forrey Creek; LA25003 Hubbard, Kaser Creek

4. FINANCIALS

- a. Approve Monthly Financial Reports – May, as presented.

FIRST	Curt	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. Approve Preliminary FY27 Budget

Jan noted that the budget committee had met to review the preliminary budget in detail and recommended its passage by the full board. Jan also noted that a Final FY27 budget will be brought before the board in August after the County provides Tax Valuation information.

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

5. BUSINESS

- a. Having attended 3 regular meetings of the LCCD board, it is recommended that Angie Knoll be appointed to the position of Associate Supervisor. Angie has a background in soil health and forest conservation and is currently a Ronan high school teacher.

FIRST	Curt	SECOND	Max
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- b. Schedule Permissive Mill Levy Public Hearing

The permissive Mill Levy Public Hearing will be held July 9, 6:30 PM, immediately preceding the regular Supervisor meeting.

FIRST	Curt	SECOND	Sigurd
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

- c. 310 Adopted Rules Updates Discussion

Additional guidance from the EO, DNRC, and the 310 Rules Working Group has clarified the process for updating the District’s 310 rules. The Board discussed the need to revise the rules to incorporate new emergency permitting provisions and better align them with Montana Code. While additional revisions may be necessary following future legislative action related to fee structures, the Board agreed that updates should not be delayed.

Caroline will provide copies of the current rules and proposed revisions for Board review this fall so that Allen can participate in the discussion.

d. TSD New Rental Rates

Current rental rates are \$100/day or \$10/acre. It was recommended that the fees be increased to keep up with maintenance costs and similar fee structures around the state. It was recommended to increase the fees to \$130/day or \$13/acre beginning in the fall of 2026.

FIRST	Max	SECOND	Craig
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

e/f. Local working group AND Virtual Fencing Workshop Planning and Budgeting. Coordinator requested being granted specific budget authority to include food costs for the upcoming workshops within the preliminary budget limits established earlier in the meeting.

FIRST	Curt	SECOND	Craig
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

g. David Sturman presented information on his soil health experiment. Has been depositing rabbit hutch and show cow manure on a bare area with poor soil (less than ½ inch topsoil). After two years, the area is lush and preferred by the sheep for priority grazing.

6. COORDINATOR REPORT:

Caroline reviewed the status of existing projects and ongoing outreach activities that are included in her written report. The Pollinator, Native Plant Cost Share, and Septic have all transitioned from education/outreach to active implementation with multiple applications/payouts and active ongoing monitoring. Daisy updated the board on her attendance at the Grazing Academy and her work doing irrigation/soil hydration sampling.

7. COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION

- a. NRCS District Conservationist: Amy, provided additional information on workshop planning and Rebecca’s Rejuvra ventenata research trials July/August.
- b. Resource Exec. Committee: Sigurd; Daisy reported on the Grazing Academy
- c. City/County Planning: Jan; None
- d. County planning – Sigurd, None

8. Final Public Comment

- Jan reminded attendees that bullfrogs are invasive species. Cara Thompson with CSKT Wildlife has a program to help remove these species.
- Craig asked for follow up information on the scholarship winner.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Supervisors adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

FIRST	Craig	SECOND	Max
DISCUSSION	None		
RESULTS	Passed, unanimous		

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the supervisors will be July 9, 6:30 PM at the district offices.

(Date)

(Supervisor Signature)

(Date)

(Preparer Signature) Caroline McDonald