

MINUTES TO THE JULY 17, 2017 MEETING
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT
Corrected 8/14/2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gayla Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. A quorum was present. The meeting attendees were as follows:

Supervisors: Gayla Wortman, John Chase, Scott Brown, Alan Rollo, Stevie Neuman, Marc Shane

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Laura Crawford

Guests: Matt Crampton, NRCS; Travis Wilson, Sun River Watershed Group; Jason Mullen, FWP

310's: Matthew McCartney, MVI Great Falls; Greg Wirth, Stahly Engineering; Neil Skogen; Sharon LaFaver, Devil's Kitchen Ranch; Cherche Prezeau, Christensen & Prezeau

Rollo moved to excuse supervisors Elliot Merja and Marc Shane. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Rollo moved to approve the June 12, 2017 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE

Rollo moved to approve CS-03-16 cost-share payment of \$2,500 to Hystad. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rollo moved to pay the unpaid bills with additions for a total of \$16,452.64. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chase moved to approve the monthly treasurer's report. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW

- AIS Planning meeting – October
- Newsletter – October
- Review/Evaluate education programs - October

DISTRICT REPORT

***Administrator:** Atchison reported the following:

- One reach project of the **Missouri North Bank Project reach** has been expanded to include some of the more steep parts of another reach of the bank.
- Montana Youth Range camp went well with 21 students that attended. **A big** thank you to the instructors for their time and knowledge. Camp for summer 2018 is in the works and will be in Glendive.
- MACD Area meeting will be held September 18, 2017 at the East Glacier Lodge in East Glacier, MT.

***Supervisors:**

Brown reported the following:

- Brown will be attending the State Technical meeting Wednesday July 19, 2017 at the Hilton Garden **Inn** at 10:00 am.

Chase reported the following:

- Chase attended the River Rendezvous tour in June viewing the St. Mary Canal diversion structure, steel siphons that were started in 1907, and five drops at the end of the canal.

Wortman reported the following:

- A supervisor summit will be held October 31 – November 1, 2017 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT.

***Secretary:** Crawford reported the following:

- Crawford requested annual leave for Wednesday August 16 – Friday August 25, 2017.

Rollo moved to approve Crawford's annual leave request for August 16 – August 25, 2017. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER'S REPORTS

NRCS

Matt Crampton reported the following: *note that the NRCS report was authored by Matt Crampton and is printed here in its entirety and in original form at Crampton's request.

- Programs – Here is a summary of the dates coming up for programs.

EQIP – We have three applications we need to gather more information for range condition as we can get to the field. Craig has done some work on them, but needs more information. Cascade Colony, Amstutz, and Medicine River Ranch (Mike Walters) all have practices to be installed. Rains, Egbert, and Sauke all are in the process of installation.

CSP – We have one of the three applications that was ranked high enough to be pre-approved. We will do the field assessment/verification either this week or next. We will have two existing contracts to review for the year.

Renewals – We have three renewals to complete.

Eligibility deadline - paperwork in to the office by 7/28

CRP – I have one CP5A (tree/shrub) renewal to finish. There are three TIPS to do and one early out land prep I have to put together a plan for.

FSA – It was decided that the State Office will put together the maps for the fall residue check. The flight/check will be sometime in late September or early October. There are thirty tracts to review.

Last week was excellent. The group of kids were very pleasant and interested. Tenlee scheduled the hot weather for after the session. It was well run and went very smoothly, just like last year. Tenlee tackled several spur of the moment issues all in stride.

The bus trip to the Dakota Lakes Research, Beers, and Cronin Farms was a trip worth going on. No one from Cascade County went. There was a lot of discussion as to crops and rotations, especially at the Beers operation. A lot was discussed about cover crops and grazing. Pam said there was good discussion on the trip back to Great Falls and producers seemed interested in trying some cover crops and working it into their grazing.

No weather handouts.

Matt Crampton
District Conservationist
Great Falls & Stanford Field Offices

MRCDC

As a written submitted report:

- On June 15, 2017, Tom Woolf who is the new Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief, met with some folks from several Conservation Districts, discussing the role for districts with AIS inspections, education, and outreach to the constituents.
- Autumn Coleman from Department of Environmental Quality, attended the quarterly meeting in Shelby on June 26, 2017. She presented information on the acid mine water and plans for a treatment plant near Belt, MT.

SUN RIVER WATERSHED REPORT

Travis Wilson reported the following:

- SRWG held a Sun Canyon Spray Day with 13 participants spraying weeds with backpacks and ATV sprayers and covered about 180 acres.
- The Sun Canyon Weed Whacker Rodeo was held July 8, 2017 where 17 weed warriors pulled about 182 pounds of knapweed.
- BLM, Bureau of Land Management, has provided funding to keep the Muddy Creek discharge station at Vaughn, MT going with the nutrient and sediment monitoring.

310 - BUSINESS

CA-09-17 – LELAND WILSON NEW APPLICATION

Application is to continue reconstruction of Spring Creek on Rocky Reef Ranch. The purpose is to reconfigure and restore a spring-sourced channel and a slough in order to normalize channel geometry and increase aquatic habitat for fish and migrating waterfowl. The lack of consistent gradient due to human induced channel alterations has resulted in arrested sediment transport in a slough and the concurrent effects on cross-section area and overall fish habitat.

SPRING CREEK STREAM RESTORATION

The spring sources of the spring creek originate on the ranch and flow easterly to this project site (Reach D & E). The upper reaches have been restored (B & C). Reach A is currently under restoration.

Spring Creek is sourced from two major springs on the ranch. Reach D is a section of a slough channel and irrigation pond in an abandoned side channel of the Sun River, and Reach E is the combination of Reach D and the Rocky Reef Spring Creek. This channel ultimately flows into the main channel of the Sun River at the lowest end of the property.

The existing vegetation community immediately adjacent to the channels, is comprised of species adapted to saturated soils and inundated conditions. A dominance of cattail persists across the saturation gradient in the lowest section while bulrush and sedge species occur in the upper end of this reach. Willow and cottonwood are the dominant shrub and tree species within the project wetland as well.

- Proposed construction start date was May 1st.
- Disturbed areas will be revegetated with native sods and reseeded with native grasses, sedges and rushes. Onsite non-native species will be stripped and buried in disposal areas offsite.
- Upland and wetland see will be used and a vegetated buffer strip on each side of the creek will be maintained. Willow and native shrubs will be installed following regrading during the spring of subsequent construction years.
- Material will be borrowed from desirable wetland sod from the toe of the Fairfield bench where up-gradient irrigation wastewater provides hydrologic support to the sloped wetlands. Sedges and rushes will be the primary targeted species. Row stripes will be used in order to allow wetland areas to grow back.
- Undesirable, invasive grasses will be removed from the creekbanks and spread over barley fields, effectively killing them through conventional farming practices.
- Tracked excavators, a loader and 10-wheel dump trucks will be the equipment used for the project.

Action Required: Extend the decision-making process 90 days until a land use agreement is reached with the DNRC State Lands at request of applicant.

Shane moved to extend CA-09-17 for another 90 days pursuant to applicant request. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-14-17 – DANA RANCH/DAVID WORKMAN
NEW APPLICATION**

**HOUND CREEK
IRRIGATION FLUME**

Application is to create an irrigation flume across the creek. The purpose is to transport water from one irrigation ditch to another crossing over the creek. 1909 Adel Rd.

- 18" – 22" diameter steel pipe will be placed on concrete piers to carry irrigation water from one irrigation ditch across the stream to another irrigation ditch.
- The pipe will sit 3 – 4' above the creek
- Gravity fed
- No piers will be placed in the stream itself.

Update:

- Contractor is in the process of modifying the plan. He states he will have drawings to us soon but is planning to reduce the size of the pipe and increasing to a 140' span from ditch to ditch thus possibly nullifying the need for a 310 permit. Please extend the decision-making process 60 days per applicant request.

Action Required: Bring back to the table and extend decision making process for 60 days.

Rollo moved for CA-14-17 be removed from the table. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to approve CA-14-17 as submitted with new designs. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CAV-15-17/CA-19-17 – NEIL SKOGAN

**UNNAMED STREAM
INSTREAM POND**

ALLEGED VIOLATION/PERMIT AFTER THE FACT

A complaint was received about the construction of a dam to create an instream pond on an unnamed stream in the Deerfoot Ranches Subdivision. According to USGS mapping the stream is intermittent; however, according to subdivision covenants, a 310 permit is required for any work on the stream. There are wetlands throughout the drainage bottom.

- The dam is built and the pond is filled.
- Army Corps of Engineers has ruled that they have no jurisdiction because it is designated an intermittent stream.
- CCD originally stated they had no jurisdiction due to intermittent stream.
- An earthen dam has been built with a road for access to property on the other side. The pond is now full. It was filled with ground water and irrigation tailing water.
- DNRC water rights and Dam Safety have been notified.
- Applicants states the pond is for livestock.
- Total linear feet of bank affected nor acre feet have not been measured.
- Applicant states that they have replaced top soil and reseeded disturbed areas.
- Natural resource benefits stated by applicant are and island for geese and ducks to nest as well as creating upland bird habitat.

Action Required: Determine whether CCD will take jurisdiction. Determine if there is a violation. Accept or deny after the fact application and whether mitigation is required.

Rollo moved that CA-19-17 be found not a violation, but requests that a Dam inspection be done before a decision will be made. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CAV-18-17 – DEVILS KITCHEN RANCH/MARK PIELOCH

**UNNAMED STREAM/DRAINAGE
ROAD BUILD**

ALLEGED VIOLATION

A complaint was received about a road built over a water drainage that was creating a significant amount of sedimentation being deposited into the Missouri River, perennial, navigable stream. A site visit was held on June 20, 2017. Jason Mullen, FWP; Tim McNew, ACOE; Tim Holley, MDOT; Sharon Lafaver, Ranch Manager; the ranch consultant and the Cascade Conservation District Administrator were present. The issue has been forwarded to Lewis & Clark Conservation District because it spans both counties. The road is being constructed down the middle of the drainage, not following the contour of the hill. This is the second stream violation this landowner has received from ACOE and a CD.

Comments: “The construction of the road greatly increases the amount of exposed surface area, which will likely result in continued transport of sediment into the Missouri River during rain events. FWP recommends in addition to any penalty and or mitigation that the CD may assess, that the landowner install temporary mitigation measures to reduce the flow and sediment transport of material into the Missouri River. These measures would be temporary while a mitigation plan is developed to be approved by CCD, Army Corp of Engineers/EPA and other entities (e.g., DEQ, Lewis & Clark CD).”

Inspection Team Recommendation: Find CAV-18-17 a violation that will require mitigation including a professional engineering report and immediate protective measures to prevent excessive sedimentation deposition onto the main road and into the Missouri River during storm events and that corresponds and cooperates with other permitting agencies' mitigation requirements. May require a time limit.

Rollo moved to consider CAC-18-17 a violation and submit an engineering plan for short and long-term erosion no later than August 7, 2017. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

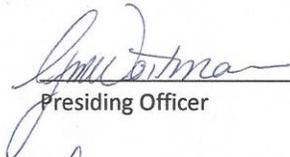
No announcements

CALENDAR REVIEW

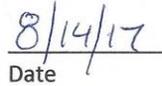
- July 17 ~ Board Meeting
- July 10-14 ~ Montana Youth Range Camp
- August 14 ~ Board Meeting
- September 4 ~ Labor Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- September 11 ~ Board Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.



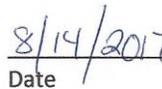
Presiding Officer



Date



Recording Secretary



Date