

MINUTES TO THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING

USDA SERVICE CENTER

12 3<sup>RD</sup> Street NW

Great Falls, MT

Corrected 10/16/2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gayla Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:28 pm. A quorum was present. The meeting attendees were as follows:

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

**Staff:** Tenlee Atchison, Laura Crawford

**Guests:** Matt Crampton, NRCS; Travis Wilson, Sun River Watershed Group; Cari Ostberg, NRCS; Scott Blumfield, Catalyst Commercial Broker; Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner

**310's:** Merrill McKamey; Kurt Wiggins; Jim Edwards; Todd Martin; Susan Conell, Cascade County Planning

***Rollo moved to excuse supervisor Elliot Merja. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**MINUTES**

***Rollo moved to approve the August 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

***Shane moved to pay the unpaid bills with additions for a total of \$36,670.05. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

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

**BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

Scott Blumfield from Catalyst Commercial, presented the board with ideas on buildings and acres. CCD is currently looking in to the prospects of purchasing a building as part of the Annual Plan of Operation.

**WORK CALENDAR**

- Review/Evaluate Education programs – October
- Supervisor Summit 2017 – October & November

- All agency meeting **pursuant to the Cascade Conservation District Strategic Plan** – November
- Annual Plan of Operation update – November

## **DISTRICT REPORT**

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

- Atchison will be attending the Area III Meeting in Glacier Park Lodge on September 18, 2017.
- The Aquatic Invasive Species local meeting will be held in Great Falls, MT on September 28, 2017 at the Cascade Conservation District office.

**\*Supervisors:**

John Chase reported the following:

- The Glacier Park Lodge has a historical display in the lobby that was made by John Chase.
- Forest Stewardship Foundation is interested in making an education program, DVD and website projects for homes and home sites in forested areas to deal with fires, taxes and assessments, and rights of access for landowners.

Alan Rollo reported the following:

- Fort Shaw Irrigation District is looking to apply for a 223 grant and is asking CCD for sponsorship of the grant.

Stevie Neuman reported the following:

- The Water Pollution Control Advisory Council meeting will be held this week to discuss action on Senate Bill 325.

Gayla Wortman reported the following:

- Wortman will be attending the Area III Meeting in Glacier Park Lodge on September 18, 2017.

***Merja moved to allow Gayla Wortman and Tenlee Atchison to attend the Area III Meeting in Glacier Park. Shane seconded. Motion carried 5-1. Rollo **casted dissenting vote**; Wortman abstained from vote.***

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

- The Annual National Association of Conservation Districts will be held in January 27-31, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **PARTNER'S REPORTS**

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**Cari Ostberg reported the following:**

- The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is in effect in Cascade County and Eastern Montana to assist producers with fencing destroyed by fire and provide livestock water due to drought.

**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** – One pivot that was contracted this spring is in and paid for. The other is being installed. The contract for energy efficiency is complete. The practice was installed and paid for.

**CSP** – The one application that was approved for Gt Falls is completed and being obligated. We are starting on the three renewals this week.

**CRP** – I have completed the TIPS and working on the early outs.

**FSA** – The tracts drawn for the residue check will be flown the last week of September. Letters were sent to each of the land owners/operators that had a tract drawn letting them know the tract will be flown.

Cascade was approved for ECP. It still needs to go through the County Committee. There are at least 6 producers signed up and interested in stockwater projects.

We have a volunteer in the office. His name is AJ Cronk. He was able to get on with the county now so not sure how many hours he will be spending in the office.

No weather handouts.

Matt Crampton  
District Conservationist  
Great Falls & Stanford Field Offices

#### **MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COUNCIL**

As a written submitted report:

- The CMR Community Working Group met in Jordan, MT on August 24 to discuss collaborative strategy for weed management, and assessing education needs of local landowners.
- MRDC members met with MT Fish Wildlife & Parks Region 7 Director, Brad Schmitz, in Miles City to discuss future conservation in Eastern MT, challenges of conservation post-fire and drought, and how landowners can work with FWP to improve wildlife management.

#### **SUN RIVER WATERSHED REPORT**

Travis Wilson reported the following:

- Sun River Watershed Group is working on applying for a 319 grant application to fund animal waste control projects on the Upper Muddy Creek area.
- Travis Wilson, Jason Mullen of Fish Wildlife & Parks, and Richard Boyle met with Fort Shaw Irrigation District headworks and siphon to discuss possible fish salvage projects and other related fisheries concerns.

***Rollo moved to write a letter of support for a 319 Grant Application for Sun River Watershed Group. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

Elliot Merja reported the following:

- Elliot Merja attended a planning meeting that discussed the future of a parking lot next to the Black Eagle Post Office.
- There is a minor subdivision apartment complex project to go in near the Sletten Cancer Institute in Great Falls.
- Elliot Merja attended the Great Falls Urban Area Planning Policy Coordination (PCC) budget meeting to discuss where funding is coming in for studies on transportation.

**310 – BUSINESS**

**CA-20-17 – MISSOURI RIVER FORESTRY, LLP  
NEW APPLICATION**

**UNNAMED TRIBUTARY ON CARPENTER CREEK  
TEMPORARY STREAM CROSSING**

This is a new application to create a temporary stream crossing on an unnamed tributary of Carpenter Creek. It is a perennial flowing spring fed “E” channel. The purpose is to provide log skidding access. Logs will be placed across the small channel upon which fill material will be packed in place to allow log skidding to occur while concurrently protecting that portion of the stream channel. Approximately 20 linear feet of bank will be impacted creating approximately a 16’ wide access route. All disturbed areas will be smoothed and revegetated following the project.

The applicant stated that this is the quickest, easiest, and less intrusive method for fording this very small “E” channel while still allowing the water to flow through. Larger concrete or gravel options would actually dam this small of a stream and result in more damage to the banks and surrounding area.

Past projects approved using the same construction: CA-49-11    CA-50-11    CA-68-11

**Inspection Team Recommendation:** Approve CA-20-17 as submitted.

***Rollo moved to approve CA-20-17 as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CA-21-17 – KURT WIGGERS  
MODIFICATION REQUEST**

**SUN RIVER  
BANK STABILIZATION**

Application is to prevent erosion along 287’ of bank. A combination of riprap, vegetative armoring and bank slope reduction is proposed. Impact will not extend into the river bed but will begin at the toe of the slope. Class II riprap will be keyed into the bank toe to an elevation slightly lower than the scour depth of the river, then develop a 3:1 slope from the existing bank toe to an elevation slightly above the bank-full water surface elevation. Voids in the riprap will be filled with native soil and vegetated with willow cuttings. A non-woven geotextile fabric will be used under the riprap to ensure treatments do not migrate into the existing soil. From the top of the riprap location, a 3:1 slope will be maintained until the slope daylight. The slope without riprap will be covered with a permanent erosion control mat and seeded with native grasses to promote vegetative growth for long-term

stabilization of the slope. Excavated soil will be used to fill in the riprap for willow plantings. The remaining soil will be spread out in field away from the bank. An excavator and bull dozer will be used on site. Work will take place during low water flows.

Historical data shows very little bank migration. The most recent Sun River Assessment by Warren Kellogg states that due to the dynamic nature of the river and the potential riprap has to cause problems both upstream and downstream, it should only be used to protect vital infrastructure.

**This application was permitted with the following modifications:**

- Do not riprap.
  - Slope upper portion of cutbank leaving the lower bank in place to allow the lower bank to reestablish vegetation naturally over time. Erosion has been minimal in recent years, and appears to be moving back to the south. This will allow the lower bank to reestablish vegetation naturally over time. Revisit if more erosion of lower bank occurs in future.
- OR
- Slope the upper bank 3:1 as proposed. Slope lower bank and reestablish vegetation along lower bank, including willow and grass.
  - Complete willow work when dormant.

Applicants consulting engineer and contractor are requesting a modification to the permit. They would like to have riprap be toed in at scour depth with a matting used to reinforce the sloped bank and help establish vegetation.

We are proposing a revision to our plans and your recent approval of the Wiggers 310 permit application. Our proposal is to install the toe rocks to scour depth as shown on our original plans, but in lieu of carrying riprap up the slope as originally proposed, we would utilize an erosion control mat to cover the proposed 3:1 slope that would allow vegetation to grow up through it. This way, the project will be protected from scour at high velocities (per our calculations from the 10 to 100 year event the velocities are in the range of 5-8 feet per second, which is highly erosive). The erosion control mat would be keyed in by the toe rocks and carried up the proposed 3:1 slope in lieu of riprap to provide stabilization. The Wiggers have discussed this with their contractor, and he has installed several bank stabilization projects on the sun river over the past few years, and those where he has not stabilized the bank have required him to come back and repair due to erosion. We believe this to be a fair compromise between our original plans and the approved application. Thank you for your consideration – Shawn Higley, P.E. WWC Engineering.

***Rollo moved to table the decision on the modification for CA-21-17 until the CCD board hears from the engineer, Shawn Higley. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CAV-25-17 – DANIEL & CAROLYN BALL  
ALLEGED VIOLATION**

**UNNAMED TRIBUTARY ON BELT CREEK  
DAM/IN STREAM POND**

Cascade Conservation District received a complaint about a dam and in stream pond. The complaint states that water flowing downstream on an unnamed spring fed tributary to Belt Creek stopped suddenly the weekend of August 5, 2017. The stream was originally dammed but has since been

opening up to allow natural drainage. An overflow culvert was placed at the top of the pond but seems a little high for a small pond.

**Inspection Team Recommendations:** Find CAV-25-17 a violation. Rule 12 (16) of the Rules for the Cascade Conservation District states that the construction of in-stream ponds is prohibited. In-stream ponds change the stream banks and stream hydrology, which can cause erosion and adversely affect water quality, aquatic habitat and fish populations.

***Rollo moved to find CAV-25-17 as a violation and requests the applicate to submit a mitigation plan within 30 days. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CA-26-17 – MERRIL MCKAMEY  
NEW APPLICATION**

**HOUND CREEK  
REMOVE DEBRIS**

This is a new application to remove a fallen tree while the water is low. The fallen tree has impeded the water flow. The tree will be cut up into large pieces and will be removed with a loader. The removal of the tree will improve water flow and reduce the chance of flooding. It will also allow better fish passage.

**Inspection Team Recommendation:** Approve CA-26-17 as submitted waiving the 15-day waiting period.

***Shane moved to approve CA-26-17 as submitted and to waive the 15 day waiting period. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CA-27-17 – TODD MARTIN  
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER  
BOAT RAMP**

This is a new application to build a boat ramp on the Missouri River. The bank is approximately 3' high from low stream to the top. Soils are extremely sandy. The bank will be sloped back at a 3:1 grade. A 6" – 12" gravel base will be placed and concrete logs used to stabilize the ramp. The logs will extend approximately 4' into the stream. Side walls will be sloped and revegetated. Some rock may need to be used to secure the side walls due to soil conditions and for erosion control. Applicant requests the 15-day waiting period be waived.

**Inspection Team Recommendation:** FWP conducted a survey in 2012 of the Missouri River from Ulm to Great Falls and identified 75 boat ramps in this 30.8 mile reach. 72 of these boat launches were private. 15% of the bank was considered armoured (car bodies, concrete, rock, etc.) during the survey. The results of this survey were reported to the Cascade Conservation District at that time. FWP asks the board considers this study in permitting future boat ramps, as well as bank armoring projects. FWP recommends not permitting more private boat launches that would contribute to increased bank armoring when other alternatives are present, including using public boat launches, removable boat docks, and community boat ramps for subdivisions. Recommend working with city and county to develop boat ramps for entire communities/subdivisions, rather than each landowner constructing a boat ramp.

***Neuman moved to approve CA-27-17 as submitted and to waive the 15 day waiting period. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CA-28-17 – FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERTIVE  
NEW APPLICATION**

**LITTLE BELT CREEK  
UTILITY CROSSING**

This is a new application to bury a powerline under the creek to serve the residents on Pinewood Lane to avoid outages caused by dead trees falling into the existing overhead powerline. This will also help mitigate the probability of fire sparked by downed lines. The proposed project is to use a plow cat with a ripper blade to install 7.2 KV single phase underground wire a minimum of 36" deep. The creek is approximately 10ft wide – 3" deep with no banks and a rock bottom.

**Inspection Team Recommendation:** Approve CA-28-17 as submitted waiving the 15-day waiting period. Revegetate any disturbance to streambank.

***Neuman moved to approve CA-28-17 as submitted with plan to revegetate any disturbance to the streambank and waive the 15 day waiting period. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

**CALENDAR REVIEW**

- September 18 ~ Area III Meeting, Glacier Park Lodge, Glacier Park
- September 26-28 ~ Women Stepping Forward, Double Tree, Billings, MT
- October 9 ~ Columbus Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- October 10 ~ Board Meeting
- October 31 ~ Supervisor Summit Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT
- November 1 ~ Supervisor Summit Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT
- November 13 ~ Board Meeting
- November 23 ~ Thanksgiving Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

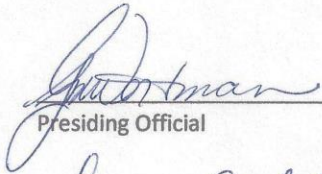
Supervisor Elliot Merja attended at 12:33 pm.

Supervisor Gayla Wortman left the meeting at 4:20 pm and supervisor Elliot Merja conducted the remainder of the meeting.

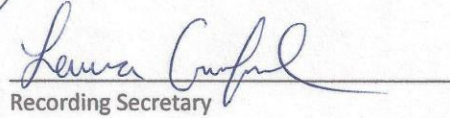
The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES  
USDA SERVICE CENTER  
12 3<sup>RD</sup> Street NW  
Great Falls, MT

The regular September 11, 2017 minutes have been corrected and approved by the Cascade Conservation District Board.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Official

10-16-17  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

10/16/2017  
Date

Cascade Conservation District  
September 11, 2017  
Signature Page