

MINUTES TO THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 MEETING
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT
Corrected 11/9/2017

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, Elliot Merja

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Laura Crawford

Guests: Matt Crampton, NRCS; Travis Wilson, Sun River Watershed Group; Jim Freeman, Associate Supervisor; Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner

310's: Greg Wirth, Stathly Engineering; Sharon LaFaver, Devil's Kitchen Ranch; Shawn Higley, WWC Engineering; Susan Conell, Cascade County Planning

Rollo moved to excuse supervisors Marc Shane and Stevie Neuman. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Rollo moved to approve the September 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rollo moved to approve cost share payment CS-02-16 and weed cost share payment CSW-06-15 for a total of \$2,637.54. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rollo moved to pay the unpaid bills with additions for a total of \$20,115.40. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rollo moved to approve the monthly treasurer's report as submitted. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARDPAQ PROGRAM

Rollo moved that Cascade Conservation District move forward to exclusively use BoardPaq. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to get cost quote from a supplier for tablets to look at the November 13, 2017 meeting. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FORT SHAW PIPELINE

Fort Shaw Irrigation District has asked Cascade Conservation District to sponsor a 223 grant to replace 6,000 feet of meandering open ditch with a 3,640 feet PVC pipe.

Wortman moved to sponsor the Fort Shaw Irrigation District 223 grant application. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Wortman abstained from vote.

DISTRICT REPORT

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

- Wildland Hydrology Consultants is holding a training in Seely Lake, MT on June 4-8, 2018.
- Atchison will be attending the Montana Association of Conservation Districts Employee Opportunities business meeting at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) state convention in Bozeman, MT on November 14-16, 2017.
- There will be a cost share ranking on December 1, 2017 at 10:00 am in Great Falls, MT.
- A building committee will have a meeting on November 17, 2017 at 10:00 am discussing building potentials.
- Vaughn Public School had applied for a 223 mini education grant and contracted last summer.
- An Aquatic Invasive Species meeting will be held Friday, October 27, 2017 at the 911 call center, Great Falls, MT.
- Department of Environmental Quality Scoping meeting is on October 30, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Great Falls Civic Center discussing the Tintina-Black Butte Copper Project.
- Chamber of Ag Annual Appreciation Banquet is January 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT.
- Atchison requested leave for November 3, 17, 22, 2017 and December 21 & 22, 2017.

Merja moved to approve for Atchison to attend the training in Seely Lake, MT in June. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Rollo moved to authorize Atchison to attend the MACD EO business meeting only at MACD state convention. Chase seconded. Motion carried 3-2; Wortman and Merja casted dissenting vote.

Wortman moved to pay the Vaughn School 223 mini education grant out of CCD education funds. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to sponsor 2 tables at the Chamber of Ag Annual Appreciation Banquet. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to approve Atchison leave request for November 3 & 22, 2017 and December 21 & 22, 2017, with the exception of November 17, 2017. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to provide administration leave for the staff on November 24, 2017 and December 26, 2017. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

***Supervisors:**

Wortman reported the following:

- The next Resource Conservation Advisory Council meeting is November 14, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Bozeman, MT at 8:30 am.

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

- Working on writing a letter to form an Envirothon team to compete at the 2018 competition in Lewistown, MT.
- Will be interviewing a person for the Women and Agriculture Oral History Project.

PARTNER'S REPORTS

CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jim Larson reported the following:

- A new business called Madison Foods LLC has applied for a permit to build an all meat processing plant east between Belt and Great Falls. They purchased 3,018 acres and say that 3.5 million gallons of water per day will be used out of the Missouri River.
- The Planning Advisory Board/Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing meeting on December 7, 2017 at the Fairgrounds in Great Falls, MT.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES

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 – Working on applications as we have time. There are 11 applications. We have sent letters out asking if they would like to proceed with, defer or cancel the application. We have not received any response back yet. As of now we have: **(4)** to defer, **(1)** is RMS (includes a grazing system), **(2)** that are progressive range (infrastructure), **(1)** that is in the beginning farmer/Vet pool, **(1)** that has never gotten back to us so not sure, and **(2)** that are irrigation related.

We have several payments to make on practices that are completed.

CSP – Working on 3 applications. These are all eligible and do not have to be ranked. These can be contracted if the applicants want to move forward. We have 2 contracts to reviews that were drawn on the national draw.

FSA – The data from the flight came back and all the tracts are in compliance.

ECP - Cascade was approved for ECP for drought (water development) and fire (fence). I have done the field reviews on three applications. I have 7 more to do. There are several more that have shown interest, but have not signed up yet. The County Committee will meet on the 25th and review the information on each of the applicants and decide if they meet the criteria for ECP.

Matt Crampton

MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COUNCIL

As a written submitted report:

- Missouri River Conservation Districts Council had a quarterly meeting in Lewistown on September 5, 2017 where an annual plan was approved.
- Rachel Frost attended the Montana Range Tour that was co-hosted by Fergus and Petroleum County Conservation Districts, where they visited several area ranches learning about high-tech water and fencing systems, drone monitoring on water and livestock, and how cover crops and grazing management were helping people in the drought.
- The Water Activities Work Group, Montana Watershed Coordination Council and the Musselshell Watershed Coalition held a tour on the Musselshell River, seeing the irrigation infrastructure of the river and a tour of the post-fire recovery efforts in Petroleum and Garfield County.
- Phase 1 of the saltcedar treatment from Wolf Point to the North Dakota border was completed in September, treating over 50 miles of river.

SUN RIVER WATERSHED REPORT

Travis Wilson reported the following:

- The Sun River Watershed Group is in the last month of their water quality sampling and shut down the gauges for the season.
- There will be a Water Quality Working Group meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2017 in Great Falls, MT at 1:00 pm.
- There will be a Water Management Work Group meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 in Great Falls, MT at 1:00 pm.

310 – BUSINESS

CA-39-15 – LEE WILSON EXTENSION REQUEST

Current permit is good until May 2018 however, work has not begun on the upper reaches of the stream (reach A) this season. Applicant is requesting a 1-year extension which would push the permit good until May 2019.

Recommendation: Extend CA-39-15 to May 2019.

Rollo moved to deny CA-39-15 request for extension. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Pieloch was granted a 60-day permit in order to construct temporary erosion controls. This was to allow the consultant time to complete the necessary environmental, construction and mitigation

SPRING CREEK STREAM RESTORATION

MISSOURI RIVER ROAD BUILD

reports requested by CCD. The Work Completion Form was received on October 10, 2017. Consultants are working on a complete report and permitting application.

Received from Dan Danesi, Environmental Compliance Inspector, MT DEQ 10/10/17:

My preliminary findings were stated to the SWPPP Administrator as follows:

- BMPs that have been implemented near the outfall (straw wattles and silt fence) are inadequate, improperly installed, and need to be re-evaluated
- I questioned the acreage of disturbance that was stated in the NOI versus what I observed during the CEI
- I noted there were no sediment traps installed as identified on their SWPPP Map (I was unable to access the entire site and sediment traps may be located further up the access road)
- I stated they must remove the sediment that has accumulated in the outfall pipes and culvert under the access road's apron in order to prevent a large discharge of sediment into the Missouri River.

In conclusion, I have not provided Stahly Engineering with a completed inspection report nor have I verbally approved of any plan or implementation of BMPs for those conclusions to be made.

RECOMMENDATION: Extend CAV-18-17 for another 30 days so that corrections (if necessary) can be made to the temporary BMP erosion control measures and a fully updated report can be finalized by DEQ with an onsite inspection to be held by December 1, 2017.

Rollo moved to extend the permit on CAV-18-17 for 60 days. 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 cut bank 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 take CA-21-17 off the table for discussion. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rollo moved to approve CA-21-17 with plans of modification as submitted by Shawn Higley, WWC Engineering. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Cascade Conservation District found CAV-25-17 a violation on September 11, 2017. 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.

The registered violation letter was not signed for and was returned to the district on October 2. It was resent to another address on October 3, 2017. Confirmation of receipt has not been received yet; however, the landowner called on October 13, 2017 stating they received the letter. Contractor

notified CCD that he will remove the pond and restore the stream to its natural state. A full report will be submitted.

Recommendation: Table further action until the November 13, 2017 meeting so that a full report can be submitted.

Rollo moved to extend the decision making process on CAV-25-17 to the December 11, 2017 board meeting. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-29-17 – 2 BUTTES WATER USERS ASSOC.
NEW APPLICATION**

**ADOBE CREEK
WATER LINE CROSSING**

This is a new application to bore a new 6" water line under Adobe Creek in order to service the town of Fort Shaw and surrounding area with drinking water. The line will be placed right next to the old line. No bank will be disturbed. Current line is approximately 4' below the creek. All disturbed areas will be smoothed and revegetated following the project. Inspection was waived.

Recommendation: Approve CA-29-17 as submitted.

Rollo moved to approve CA-29-17 with the stipulation to notify the Cascade Conservation District if problems occur. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

CALENDAR REVIEW

- October 25 & 26 ~ conservation Workshop: *Managing Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on Montana Waterways*, Great Falls, MT
- October 31 ~ Supervisor Summit, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT
- November 1 ~ Supervisor Summit, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT
- November 10 ~ Veterans' Day Observation, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 13 ~ CCD Board Meeting
- November 23 ~ Thanksgiving Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- December 11 ~ CCD Board Meeting
- December 11 ~ Team Building, Great Falls, MT
- December 25 ~ Christmas Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**

OTHER BUSINESS

The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.