

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gayla Wortman called the meeting to order at 9:38 am. A quorum was present. The meeting attendees were as follows:

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

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Laura Crawford

Guests: Matt Crampton, NRCS; Jim Freeman, Associate Supervisor; Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner; Jacob Doggett, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

310's: Brett Severinsen

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Rollo moved to approve the October 16, 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 \$15,522.31. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to pay Dean Rogge for travel to the Supervisor Summit for a total of \$480. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Shane moved to approve the petty cash. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WORK CALENDAR

- Update Annual Plan of Operation – December
- Election of officers - January
- AIS Summit – moved to February

RIVER RENDEZVOUS

- CCD and Missouri River Conservation District Council will co-host the 2018 River Rendezvous in late June or early July.

Rollo moved to host the 2018 River Rendezvous with some perimeters to be identified as we move through. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SUMMIT REVIEW

- A supervisor summit was held on October 31 and November 1, 2017 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT. Administrators and supervisors from 20 counties were joined by Natural Resources Conservation Service, Montana Salinity Control Association, Missouri River Conservation District Council, Department of Natural Resources, and Cascade County Commissioners.
- The 2 day summit was filled with workshops on tools for engaging landowners, drone technology, conservation districts' role in fire recovery, aquatic invasive species mussel threat, crafting a land use ordinance, and a Q&A time with Montana Association of Conservation Districts board members.

MACD CONVENTION

- Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention will be held in Bozeman, MT on November 14-16, 2017.

Wortman moved to retract Cascade Conservation District's position to not allow Tenlee Atchison to participate in the MACD convention 2017 and that she be allowed to go be apart of any function at convention she finds fit. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rollo moves to authorize any supervisor to go the business meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2017. Shane seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Rollo moved to authorize any member from the board to attend MACD convention if so choose. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Jacob Doggett reported the following:

- Jacob Doggett is a habitat specialist from at Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Cascade County, that works with private landowners and public land management to improve habitat through Fish Wildlife & Parks programs.
- Fish Wildlife & Parks has a program, Working Grassland Initiative, for landowners with expiring CRP fields where FWP will provide material costs for water and fencing infrastructure needs and needs to meet the requirements to that program.
- Fish Wildlife & Parks' Food Plots program will offer payment for the seed for those who want to experiment with popular cover crop species, from their own choice of seed provider.
- Fish Wildlife & Parks also offers Habitat Management Lease Agreement which will pay the landowner annually for resting productive lands for wildlife habitat.

DISTRICT REPORT

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

- The Montana Invasive Species Council, DNRC AIS Bureau, and Fish, Wildlife & Parks Coordinator is creating a Missouri River System Earlier Detection and Rapid Response pilot project to continue work on the Aquatic Invasive Species threat.
- Building committee meeting has been moved to November 21, 2017 at 10:00 am.
- CCD received a Greg Gianforte letter asking for recommendations to the new Farm bill. The board recommendations were local working group, split off entitlements, adjustments to CRP program,

***Supervisors:**

Brown reported the following:

- Brown was presented with a certificate and pin for service of 5 years with the Cascade Conservation District.

Chase reported the following:

- Chase met with 3 foresters from DNRC to discuss Chase's proposed project for the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation on making DVDs and a website program on issues related to the urban wildland interface and the project will be presented to the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation for review.

Rollo reported the following:

- Rollo is working with the Sun River Watershed executive committee to work on hiring a new watershed coordinator as Travis Wilson has resigned.

Neuman reported the following:

- The Senate Bill 325 is going in front of the Board of Environmental Review for last changes.
- Wipik committee is looking at cities that have no money to clean up their treatment plants before entering any streams there allowing any variances and each city is allowed a number of years to correct the variances all over the state.

Wortman reported the following:

- There is a Conservation District Supervisor Training in Helena, MT, December 7, 2017 at 1:00 pm.
- Wortman and Brown attended the Department of Environmental Quality scoping meeting for the Black Butte Copper Project discussing the impacts on cold water fishery, outfitters, water quality, fishing, and economic benefits.

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

- The board will be using Boardpaq as the primary source of paperwork for meetings.
- Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) is holding a Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively workshop December 5-6, 2017 at the Lubrecht Forest, University of Montana in Missoula, MT.

- MSU Extension Economists will offer Farm Management Workshops in Lewistown, Ronan, Choteau, Great Falls, and Glasgow in January, February, and March.

Rollo moved to approve the acquisition of 8 tablets for the board members. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER’S REPORTS

NATURAL RESOURCE 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** – There are several payments pending for completed practices. Planning on applications has been on hold as we work on CSP.
 - CSP** – Two of the three applications for renewal have now dropped out. The one that is left will be contracted over the next week or so. We need to do a mod and the payment on the current contract before contracting the new one. The mod cannot be completed until next Thursday because of the contracting module needing to be updated. We have two contracts that were drawn on the national draw. One is done and I am working on the other one now.
 - FSA** – Craig is working on several HEL determinations. Always ongoing, but usually only an acre or two.
 - ECP** – I finished the ECP applications. There were 2 for fence and 9 for stockwater. The County Committee is reviewing them today for eligibility. The stockwater projects have to be completed by 12/1.
 - Acting State Conservationist – Tom Hedt – He is the State Resource Conservationist in California. He will be acting for 4 four months. Before California he was in Alaska and Arizona.
 - Acting Area Engineer – Scott Christiaens – he is a design engineer from the State Office.
- As Red Skelton would say at the end of a show, “Good night and God Bless”.

Matt Crampton
 District Conservationist
 Great Falls & Stanford Field Offices

MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COUNCIL

As a submitted written report:

- October began with interviews for Big Sky Watershed Members for 2018. MRDCDC, Petroleum County CD, and Musselshell Watershed Coalition together are co-hosting 2 members for 2018.
- Rachel Frost attended the US Army Corps of Engineers Annual Operating Plan on October 18, learning that lake levels are within ideal range of operation for this time of year, and forecasts indicate a wetter year than 2017.

- Folks from Conservation Districts and the Central and Eastern Montana Mussel Response (CEMMR) team met with Tom Woolf and other Fish Wildlife & Parks staff to review the 2017 mussel inspection station season.
- The Montana Saltcedar Team has wrapped up Phase 2 of the treatment project for the Lower Missouri, treating 114 river miles and 1,250 individual salt cedar plants below the high-water mark.

MONTANA SALINITY CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Scott Brown reported the following:

- A group of landowners are dealing with acid soil that can cause a 40 – 50% loss in the ground. Acid soil is caused by calcium going down the top 2 inches of soil and being taken off before it can seep completely down in the soil, acid is going up and the pH is going down. Most of this is in Chouteau County and a few in Cascade County.

310 - BUSINESS

**CA-09-17 – LELAND WILSON
NEW APPLICATION**

**ROCKY REEF SPRING CREEK
STREAM RESTORATION**

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.

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 upgradient 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.

Rollo moved to deny the request of extension on the decision-making process. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-31-17AP - GARY PARKER
ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION**

**SUN RIVER
IRRIGATION DIVERSION**

Upon further review, an annual plan of operations was approved in 2015 for 5 years (CA-09-15AP). This project will expire in 2020. No action required at this time.

Wortman moved that CA-31-17AP is not a project as it is duplicative and there is a project already in place. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-32-17 – BRETT SEVERINSEN
NEW APPLICATION**

**SMITH RIVER
IRRIGATION STRUCTURE**

Application is to replace existing pump and pipe to improve suction and minimize maintenance. The existing irrigation process is a pump placed in the deep instream hole along the bank. A 4' x 4' x 8' precast structure with screen will be placed in the bank to allow a gravity feed line to transport water to a sump where the pump will then push the water by pipeline to the pivot.

- Less than 60' total bank will be impacted (possibly 30' on either side of the structure).
- The precast concrete structure will encroach approximately 5' in the river.
- A 12" PVC mainline will be buried at a 3' depth and will extend 170' inland from the intake structure to the sump.
- 20 yards of rip rap will be used to reinforce the bank and protect the structure. Clean rip rap will range in size from 18" to 3'.
- A backhoe and excavator will be used.
- All disturbed areas will be reshaped and seeded.

Inspection Team Recommendation: Approve CA-32-17 with modifications:

- Make CA-32-17 an Annual Plan of Operations for 5 years in order to allow screen maintenance and debris removal at the end of each season.
- Key in rip rap at the upstream and downstream ends of the diversion site and into the toe of the stream.
- Align "face" of concrete structure flush with the bank to prevent development of an eddy.

Rollo moved to approve CA-32-17 with inspection team recommendation of making CA-32-17 an annual plan of 5 years, key in rip rap at the upstream and downstream ends, and the face is flush with the bank. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CA-14-17 – DANA RANCH

HOUND CREEK

MODIFICATION

CA-14-17 was approved in July for an irrigation flume to move water over the stream from one existing irrigation ditch to another. Due to changes in ranch managers, the original permit was lost. The new manager is requesting a slight modification to the permit. He would like to enlarge the size of the pipe from 10" to 20" and eliminate the pivot span that was going to be used to span the creek.

Recommendation: Approve the modifications as requested.

Rollo moved to table the request for modification until the Cascade Conservation District receives a new drawing with the modifications. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

CALENDAR REVIEW

- November 10 ~ Veteran's Day Observed, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 21 ~ Building Committee Meeting, Great Falls, MT
- November 23 ~ Thanksgiving Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- December 1 ~ Cost Share Ranking, Great Falls, MT
- December 11 ~ CCD Board Meeting
- December 25 ~ Christmas Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 1 ~ New Year's Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 8 ~ CCD Board Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

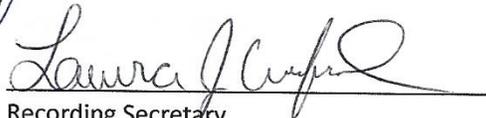
The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

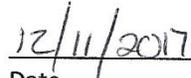
SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE
November 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT

The regular November 9, 2017 minutes have been corrected and approved by the Cascade Conservation District Board.


Presiding Official


Date


Recording Secretary


Date

Cascade Conservation District
December 11, 2017
Signature Page