

MINUTES TO THE DECEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT
Corrected 1/8/2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gayla Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:31 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: Jim Freeman, Associate Supervisor; Matt Crampton, NRCS; Dave Donohue, HydroSolutions; Jason Mullen, Fish Wildlife & Parks; Robin Baker, Senator Steve Daines Office;

310's: Mike Wirth; Greg Wirth, Stahly Engineering; Sharon LaFaver, Devil's Kitchen Ranch

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Rollo moved to approve the November 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED COST SHARE PAYMENT

Rollo moved to approve CSW-03-15 payment in the amount of \$300.00. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to pay the unpaid bills for a total of \$20,305.41. 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 report as submitted. Rollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARE

- The ranking committee met December 1, 2017 to rank the cost share applications.

Rollo moved to approve cost share funding for CS-03-17, CS-04-17, and CS-06-17 the max amount of \$6,540.00. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

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

- Malmstrom Air Force Base is preparing an Environmental Assessment that evaluates environmental impacts on a stretch of Big Otter Creek near Raynesford.
- Missouri River Conservation District Council will be holding their quarterly business meeting in Great Falls on January 24 & 25, 2018.

***Supervisors**

Rollo reported the following:

- Rollo has resigned as a supervisor for the CCD effective December 31, 2017, but will remain on the board as an associate supervisor effective January 1, 2018.

Wortman moved to appoint Rollo as an associate supervisor beginning January 1, 2018. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane reported the following:

- There will be an Area III supervisor training in Fort Benton, MT on February 15, 2018.

Chase reported the following:

- Missouri River Conservation Districts Council is holding a meeting on December 18, 2017 for the Living on the Bank projects in Helena.
- Missouri River Conservation Districts Council is working with Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation on a new project similar to Living on the Banks called Homes and Homesites in the Urban Wildland Interface.
- The Sun River Watershed Group meeting is on December 12, 2017 in Fairfield to work with Montana Watershed Coordination Council to hire a new watershed coordinator.

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

- David Donohue from HydroSolutions, presented a proposal for planning study to control acid mine drainage by microbiological management for the Sand Coulee drainage. The request is to have Cascade Conservation District sponsor a Reclamation and Development Grant through Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC) grant program.

Wortman moved to support and sponsor the planning grant for HydroSolutions. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER'S REPORTS

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

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 – List of active contracts. There is one that may be cancelled due to transfer of land ownership.

1	EQIP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	CASCADE COLONY INC
2	EQIP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	ORVILLE & ARLENE SKOGEN DBA SKOGEN RANCH
3	EQIP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	RILEY V DENNING
4	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	CARL ROBERT MEHMKE
5	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	DIEHLIA D RAINS
6	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	ERIC J BERGMAN
7	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	MEDICINE RIVER RANCH LLC
8	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	NICHOLAS F MEHMKE
9	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	NORTH FRONTIER FARMS INC
10	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	ROB SCOTT SAUKE
11	EQIP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	SUSAN EGBERT

CSP – Completing the one renewal contract for 2018. There are 5 contracts that want their payments in 2018. They have to be reviewed and certified, but will not be sent for payment until after the first of the year. List of active contracts.

No.	Program	County	Field Office	Participant
1	CSP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	COUNTRYHOME COLONY INC
2	CSP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	KENNETH L MESAROS - renewal to 2018
3	CSP 2008	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	STANDLEY BROTHERS PARTNERSHIP
4	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	4R VENTURES
5	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	BUMGARNER RANCH
6	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	DARYL E LASSILA
7	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	E & S BRONEC FARMS
8	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	GETTEL FARMS INC
9	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	HASTINGS RANCH INC
10	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	HUBER RANCH
11	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	J & R GETTEL GRAINS, INC.
12	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	KEASTER LAND & LIVESTOCK INC
13	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	KEVIN KELLER
14	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	RACHEL A HEBERLY
15	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	RICHARD D CUMMINGS
16	CSP 2014	CASCADE	GT FALLS FO	SUN RIVER FARM INC

We have a volunteer in the office. Her name is Nora Wittmayer. She graduated from MSU last spring in animal science with a minor in range/ecological science. She will be volunteering on Wednesdays.

The budget process is still in limbo as the CR has been kicked to the 22nd. There is the potential for a Government shutdown at that point. We still do not have a Chief for NRCS and do not have any more information as to when we can start to hire to fill some of the empty positions.

Matt Crampton
 District Conservationist
 Great Falls & Stanford Field Offices

MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COUNCIL

As a submitted written report:

- The next Quarterly meeting is on January 24 & 25, 2018 in Great Falls, discussing tributary watersheds and active conservation groups in the Upper Missouri.
- Loni Blackman has been hired as the new Range Technician for the Fergus Conservation District office.
- Rachel Frost attended the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) in Helena on November 30, 2017 to request support for the efforts to coordinate management of salt cedar and Russian Olive on riparian systems in Montana.

CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Elliot Merja reported the following:

- The planning committee is looking at another conservation easement on 6,500 acres near Portage.

310 - BUSINESS

CA-14-17 – DANA RANCH PERMIT MODIFICATION

This permit was originally approved on July 17, 2017. Original permit conditions stated a 10" diameter steel pipe would be attached to a pivot span to carry irrigation water from one irrigation ditch across the creek to another irrigation ditch. The pipe would span 3'-4' above the stream and be gravity fed. There would be no pillars, posts or other obstructions in or on the stream banks.

Request for modification: Permit holder would like to change the 10" diameter pipe to a 20" diameter pipe. Pipe would free span the stream bed. Pipe will connect to PVC pipe that will be buried and connect the irrigation ditch diversions.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve modifications as submitted.

Shane moved to bring CA-14-17 to the table for discussion. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to approve CA-14-17 project as modified. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CAV-18-17/CA-33-17 – DEVILS KITCHEN RANCH/MARK PIELOCH VIOLATION MITIGATION

- ✓ **May 25, 2017** - CCD received a complaint about heavy debris being washed into the Missouri River.
- ✓ **June 9, 2017** - Cease and desist letter was issued.

MISSOURI RIVER ROAD BUILD

- ✓ **June 20, 2017** - site inspection was held (CCD, FWP, ACOE, MDT, landowner consultant and manager).
- ✓ **July 17, 2017** - project found in violation of the 310 law due to the impact on the Missouri River. An engineering study and plan for the project site was requested. The plan was to address short and longterm erosion control measures and needed to include resource conservation solutions for a project of this type.
- ✓ **August 14, 2017** - CCD agreed to allow the landowner to implement BMP temporary control measures per DEQ specifications until a full engineering report and design could be completed. A 60-day 310 permit was issued for that work.
- ✓ **September 18, 2017** - Landowner returned the work completion form for the temporary control measures. DEQ noted several deficiencies that needed to be corrected.
- ✓ **October 16, 2017** - CCD agreed to extend the 60-day permit another 60 days to allow corrections in the temporary control measures as required by DEQ.
- ✓ **October 27, 2017** - DEQ issues violation letter and completes the compliance inspection report.
- ✓ **November 9, 2017** - Devil's Kitchen Ranch submits joint permit application and a full engineering report.
- ✓ **December 1, 2017** - ACOE closes enforcement action on this portion of the property.
- ✓ **December 5, 2017** - MDT continues to work with applicant on approach and hydraulics.

RECOMMENDATION: Find the engineering report and assessment on mitigation complete. Approve CA-33-17 as submitted with scheduled inspections quarterly until completed. Follow-up site inspections should be conducted yearly until 2020.

Rollo moved to approve the mitigation plan on CAV-18-17 as submitted with an understanding that 310 permits will be submitted for other impacts on the river. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rollo moved to approve CA-33-17 as submitted and any debris entering the river would need a follow-up 310 with yearly checkups. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

- ✓ **September 11, 2017** - Cascade Conservation District found CAV-25-17 a violation.
- ✓ **October 2, 2017** - the registered violation letter was not signed for and was returned to the district.
- ✓ **October 3, 2017** - the registered violation letter was resent to the address in Colorado.
- ✓ **October 13, 2017** - the landowner called stating they had received the letter. The confirmation receipt has since been received.
- ✓ **November 9, 2017** - an extension was granted by the board to allow more time to respond to the mitigation request. The deadline for that report was November 15, 2017
- ✓ **November 20, 2017** - the landowner's mitigation letter was received stating the banks of the stream will be restored using a backhoe and Bobcat skid steer to fill in the pond and reconstruct the stream channel to natural grade so that the small stream flows easily downstream with little to no pooling. The banks will be reshaped and vegetated as close as possible to the original state. This will be completed as weather permits.

RECOMMENDATION: Require the following mitigation:

- All work must be completed before heavy flows before June 1, 2017
- Native material will be used to fill in the pond area and build the stream back to natural grade avoiding any pooling in the disturbed area.
- Banks will be naturally shaped.
- All disturbed areas will be reshaped and reseeded with native vegetation.
- Any deviation must be submitted in writing to the Cascade CD board of supervisors for approval.

Rollo moved that the letter on the mitigation plan is unacceptable and another mitigation plan be submitted before the January meeting. Chase seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Shane moved to proceed with the letter of mitigation as submitted and all work must be completed by March 1, 2018. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

CALENDAR REVIEW

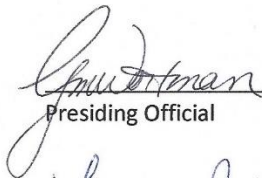
- December 25 ~ Christmas Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 1 ~ New Year's Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 4-5 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Lewistown
- January 8 ~ CCD Regular Board meeting
- January 15 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 16 ~ Soil Health Workshop, Three Forks
- January 17 ~ Soil Health Workshop, Holiday Inn, Great Falls
- January 18 ~ Soil Health Workshop, Big Horn Resort, Billings
- January 19 ~ Soil Health Workshop, Sleep Inn, Miles City
- January 19 ~ Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet, Heritage Inn, Great Falls
- February 6-7 ~ Winter Grazing Seminar, Radisson Colonial Inn, Helena
- February 8-9 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Ronan
- February 12 ~ CCD Regular Board Meeting
- February 13-14 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Choteau
- February 19 ~ President's Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- February 21-22 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Great Falls
- March 8-9 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Glasgow
- March 12 ~ CCD Regular Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE
DECEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT

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



Presiding Official

1/8/18
Date



Recording Secretary

1/8/2018
Date

Cascade Conservation District
January 8, 2017
Signature Page