

MINUTES TO THE FEBRUARY 12, 2018 MEETING
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT
Corrected 3/12/2018

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, Elliot Merja, Marc Shane

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Laura Crawford

Guests: Jim Freeman, Associate Supervisor; Barbara Bessette, Legislative Candidate; Scott Blumfield, Catalyst Commercial; Mike Tabacco, Tabacco Construction; Bill R Stuff, Fusion Architecture & Design; Jason Mullen, Fish Wildlife & Parks

310's: Martin Balukas, DNRC; Elena & John Stuker, Lee Wilson

Shane moved to excuse supervisor Stevie Neuman. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the January 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE PAYMENT

Shane moved to approve payment to CS-04-16 for amount of \$2,500. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to pay the unpaid bills for a total of \$14,833.37. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE

- Barbara Bessette is a legislative candidate for House District 24 that covers Great Falls from 9th Street South to 57th Street South and 10th Ave South to 3rd Ave South.

- Bessette works as a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist at Gateway Community Services and covers 6 counties of Cascade, Teton, Liberty, Pondera, Toole, and Glacier.

DISTRICT REPORT

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

- A 310-committee meeting was held on January 18, 2018 to revise the 310-permit application to include required information regarding endangered species, etc.
- The Missouri River Early Detection and Rapid Response meeting was held January 29, 2018 to update all parties on progress.
- Missouri River Conservation Districts Council is looking at July 11-13, 2018 for the River Rendezvous in Great Falls, MT.
- A watershed campaign that is event driven is coming soon to Cascade County that will include a river cleanup and an Aquatic Invasive Species awareness event this summer.

Wortman moved to allow Atchison to set up the watershed campaign for summer 2018. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

***Supervisors:**

Shane reported the following:

- There will be a public hearing on February 27, 2018 on the Butte Ridge development discussing the concern of storm water runoff.

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

- Supervisor training in Fort Benton on Thursday, February 15, 2018.
- Montana Envirothon is April 23-24, 2018 in Lewistown at the fairgrounds and Yogo Inn.

PARTNER'S REPORTS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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

Programs:

- EQIP: 1 high priority application to be ranked in the Great Falls Area Grazing RMS fund pool.
- CSP: March 2 deadline to submit application to the field office for 2018 funding. Currently we have 4 applications on file.

Cover Crop Tour: I have asked Marni Thompson from NRCS to discuss her experiences with producers that have been positive on dryland cropping systems without grazing. I asked her if she would be available sometime in June and she said she would be. I wanted to ask the board if there was a preferable time in June that would work for everyone to put on a cover crop field visit at Rick Cummings? Rick is busy June 6-8 and the 19th. He is available the rest of the month.

Ag Appreciation Banquet: My wife and I would like to thank the board for inviting us to the ag appreciation banquet. We really enjoyed it.

Next District Meeting: We need to go over and update the signatures on the Cooperative Working Agreement between the district and NRCS.

Max Blodgett
Acting District Conservationist
Great Falls & Stanford Field Offices

MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COUNCIL

As a submitted written report:

- Quarterly business meeting was held January 24-25, 2018 in Great Falls to discuss projects and happenings on the Sun River, Smith River, and Upper Missouri River.
- The Council attended an aquatic invasive species workshop with multiple agencies and partners for education and outreach coordination to agriculture and other important stakeholders.
- A tour on exempt water rights claims led by Jim Beck was completed in Central and Eastern Montana with a few more presentations lined up for March.

310 - BUSINESS

CA-39-15 – LEE WILSON EXTENSION REQUEST

SPRING CREEK STREAM RESTORATION

Current permit is good until May 2018 however, there was no work done in 2017 on the upper reach of the stream (reach A). December 29, 2017, Mr. Wilson requested a 1-year extension pushing the permit out until May 2019. This will allow time for the contractor to complete work throughout the summer months and early fall. An extension request was denied November 9, 2017.

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

Wortman moved to approve CA-39-15 for a 1-year extension. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CA-09-17 – LELAND WILSON NEW APPLICATION

ROCKY REEF SPRING CREEK STREAM RESTORATION

Application is to continue reconstruction of Rocky Reef Spring Creek. 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 1, 2018.
- 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 taken to date:

March 21, 2017 – Application submitted

April 18, 2017 – Site inspection with consultant (Neuman, Crampton, Atchison)

May 8, 2017 – CCD extends decision making process 60 days so that DNRC State Lands division can make a ruling on the proposed project.

July 17, 2017 – CCD extends the decision-making process 90 days so that DNRC State Lands division can make a ruling on the proposed project.

November 9, 2017 – CCD denies another extension in the decision-making process.

December 29, 2017 – Applicant requests the original application be brought back in front of the CCD board for consideration

January 23, 2018 - DNRC signs Land Use License for the changes to the stream.

January 25, 2018 – Talked to Mike Atwood and Martin Balukas with DNRC. Both stated the project was approved and that everything was good to go from their perspective.

February 6, 2018 – Site inspection with FWP biologist Jason Mullen.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-09-17 as submitted with a detailed progress report submitted every 90 days including any problems or concerns, variations, and a targeted species list for revegetation of disturbed areas through project completion.

Wortman moved to reconsider CA-09-17 for an extension. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brown moved to approve CA-09-17 as submitted. Shane seconded. Motion carried 4-1; Shane dissented.

**CA-35-17AP – John & Elena Stuker
NEW APPLICATION**

**ADOBE CREEK
CULVERT INSTALLATION**

New application to install a culvert on Adobe Creek for cattle and small equipment to cross the creek. This is in conjunction with the 2 Buttes water project. It will be located at the site where 2 Buttes is adding a water line for Fort Shaw residents. A 48" galvanized culvert will be placed in the creek and material added as a cattle and small equipment crossing. Loebro will place the culvert in the creek where a temporary 36" steel culvert was placed during the 2 Buttes project. Riley Denning will stabilize the crossing on either side of the creek by using native material. The bed of the stream will not be dredged. The culvert will just be placed on the bed of the current stream. An annual plan of operation is requested for required maintenance as needed each year. This will allow the water company easier access to maintain its lines as well. All disturbed areas will be shaped and reseeded.

A site inspection was held January 23, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation. Ensure the culvert matches the capacity and width of the 6 ft round culvert at the upstream county road crossing. Embed the culvert to allow fish passage and movement of bedload. Building up the right bank and riprap upstream and downstream ends to protect the culvert and prevent erosion. Add riprap to the bank where overflow water returns to the stream to prevent headcutting. When leveling and reseeding the trenched area, maintain natural elevations to keep the natural low spot along the creek bank to access the floodplain.

Brown moved to bring CA-35-17AP to the table for discussion. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Merja moved to approve CA-35-17AP as a 5-year annual plan and recommending a 4 foot squash culvert. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

CALENDAR REVIEW

- February 13-14 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Choteau
- February 15 ~ Supervisor Training, Fort Benton
- February 19 ~ President's Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- February 21-22 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Great Falls
- February 23-25 ~ MT Farmers Union Women's Conference, Hot Springs
- March 6-7 ~ Montana Water Summit, Helena
- March 8-9 ~ Farm Management Workshop, Glasgow
- March 12 ~ CCD Board Meeting
- April 9 ~ CCD Board Meeting
- April 23-24 ~ Montana Envirothon, Lewistown

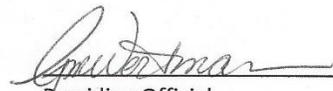
OTHER BUSINESS

The CCD Board meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Shane moved to adjourn the February 12, 2018 regular meeting. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

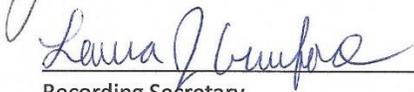
SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE
FEBRUARY 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES
USDA SERVICE CENTER
12 3RD Street NW
Great Falls, MT

The regular February 12, 2018 minutes have been corrected and approved by the Cascade Conservation District Board on March 12, 2018.



Presiding Official

3/12/18
Date



Recording Secretary

3/12/2018
Date

Cascade Conservation District
March 12, 2018
Signature Page