

MINUTES TO THE AUGUST 13, 2018 MEETING

USDA Service Center
12 - 3rd Street NW
Great Falls, Montana
CORRECTED 9/21/2018

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, Pete Heryford, Scott Brown

Staff: Tenlee Atchison

Guests: Bailey Rapp, NRCS; Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner; Kathy Lahti, CD Associate Supervisor

310 permits: Ken McKamey, Joe Horner, Pat Pettapiece, Dave Bertelsen

Chase moved to excuse Supervisors Shane, Neuman & Merja due to outside field work. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve July 9, 2018 minutes as corrected. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Corrected minutes show corrections/additions in red.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chase moved to approve the unpaid bills and authorize payment for a total of \$19,816.07. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chase moved to approve the monthly Treasurer's report as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to approve the petty cash report as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW

Fiscal year 2019 - Transfers have been made into the termination account to satisfy payout amounts in case an employee leaves the district. The line item reflects that in the payroll line item. Laura Crawford's annual leave balance was paid out in total and her sick balance was paid out at 25% per state law.

Fiscal year 2018 yearend report is completed now that grant funds have been received.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Administrative Assistant position has been announced in several different places including indeed.com, mthelpwanted.com and the job service. The announcement and the job description are posted on the CCD website.

- The opening will close on August 24, 2018
- Interviews will take place sometime the first week of September 2018

- Start date is September 24, 2018

SUPERVISOR SUMMIT

This year's summit based mostly on the Legislature. It will be held August 29-30, 2018. There will be a tour of the Capitol.

MACD DISCUSSION

Letter received from MACD stating that CCD is not considered a member in good standing and therefore CCD will not be able to vote this year. Attached with that letter was a list of services provided by MACD and SWCDM.

AREA III MEETING

Hill county is the host for the Area III meeting this year. They have not had a steady District Administrator so other Area III administrators will be helping that district put the meeting together. This meeting will be August 20, 2018.

RIVER CAMPAIGN 2018

Landowner "Living on the Bank" letters reached landowners from the county line to Great Falls and part of the Sun River. Several people have contacted the district to ask about permitting and more.

At the Rivers Edge event had good media coverage.

The River Rendezvous highlighted the amount of development along the river in Cascade County.

Wrapping up the River Campaign with the 2018 River Cleanup. Floating the Missouri from Mountain Palace to the town of Cascade Depending on the reach of river you prefer. National American Rivers may supply garbage bags depending on their inventory.

RANGE ROUNDUP

Discussion have been started to put together a program for significant decision makers similar to Montana Youth Range Camp. No more than 12 industry leaders would be treated to the Montana Experience. The idea would be to dispel the "saving myth", why it is faulty and why Ag helps maintain that which we value, Ag benefits to Climate Change, the corporate farm myth, generational transitioning.

This would be a 3-day program that infuses a specific message in everything done at camp. It would be a working camp sprinkled with fun activities. This would give each participant an understanding of how working farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land for future generations and how they embody the values most Americans have in natural resource conservation.

DISTRICT REPORT

Administrator: Atchison reported to the CCD the following:

- Vaughn Greenhouse
 - Vaughn Public Schools – Thad Wollen is still working on getting donations for our match for this project. We told him we would match up to \$500.
- MACDEO
 - Bobbi Vannattan stepped down as EO president. Tenlee is currently acting until January when her full term will commence.
- Area III DA meeting – August 23, 2018 in Great Falls. This meeting will be to finalize the MACD Area meeting in Havre.

- MWCC Symposium is October 9 – 12 in Whitefish, MT. 4 Supervisors and 1 staff member is scheduled to attend.
- Phyto-enhanced Bioremediation grant was not funded. There was some concern that there was not enough data to show that the practice would really work.
- Thank you from SRWG for stakeholder contribution of \$2000 and \$50 for the weed whacker rodeo donation.
- Women stepping Forward for Ag Conference will be held October 2-4, 2018, Billings, MT
- Missouri River Basin Invasive Mussel Coordination Meeting will be held August 28, 2018, Ft Peck, MT.
- There has been discussion that a joint RCPP project with Lewis & Clark CD, Teton CD and Cascade CD for the Sun River. This may be an opportunity for some dedicated funding that can be leveraged to help landowners recover from drought/flooding and invest in healthy conservation practices.
- River's Edge Trail has some blank stands for more signage if CCD is interested.

Wortman moved to sponsor another sign for the River's Edge Trail to be placed on the Weissman Bridge. Brown seconded. QR codes should be added to the sign. Chase will come up with ideas for the sign for discussion at the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors:

Wortman reported:

- A letter was sent to the base commander in March with a deadline of June 1, 2018 regarding the federal funds that remain with CCD. Nothing was received. The next step will be to contact Senator Tester about how best to utilize the money. According to the Sikes Act, the money is supposed to be used for conservation.

Brown reported:

- He was approached about an ordinance to require oil companies to baseline water wells prior to any oil/gas exploration. The ordinance would be for Fergus, Judith Basin and Cascade. State legislation for something like this is better than local ordinances. The board felt a resolution through MACD would be a better approach.

Chase reported:

- Sun River Watershed Group is working to hire a new coordinator.
- Worked with Cascade County Weed and Mosquito District to get projects completed for Living on the Bank project.
- Black Eagle Reservoir North bank meeting was held in August. Calumet manager attended. The FEMA Pre Disaster Mitigation grant application will be submitted. The City of Great Falls was able to get the Madison/Missouri grant through Northwestern Energy as a match. There has been some irrigation taking place but limited. There has been some more sloughing on the bank.

Heryford reported:

- Will attend the Confinement workshop (CAFO) in Helena.

- Madison Food Park is linked to a company out of Canada that is strong in the meat packing plant. From experience, these plants are state of the art and not a drop of water is wasted. CCD needs to stay in the middle of the issue.

PARTNER REPORTS

NRCS

Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist, reported:

- Staff is currently working on Conservation Stewardship Program applications.
- There was a total of 6 Cost Share (EQIP) applications submitted for the county.
- There have been several Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) requests for the Sun River Area. NRCS does the technical work for Farm Service Area on those requests - 2 irrigation, the rest were range.
- The Golden Crown Stewardship program through DNRC may have grant funds for forestry projects.

Carie Ostberg, Associate State Conservationist, reported:

Tom Watson, the new State Conservationist was introduced. The hiring freeze has been lifted. There is a cap on hiring. In Montana, that cap is 257. Hiring is being done in phases. Many positions are now being filled. The new budget will also dictate hiring.

Cascade County

Commissioner Jim Larson reported:

- County has received some calls regarding the Living on the Bank landowner letter that went out to waters edge landowners in the county. They have referred them all to CCD.
- The county is starting work on the new grandstands this month.
- There is a swinging bridge that was destroyed in Belt across Belt Creek. It was verified that that replacement will need to be permitted.

310 – BUSINESS

CA-20-18 – KEN MCKAMEY

NEW APPLICATION

SMITH RIVER BRIDGE

Application is for a new bridge to be placed next to the old existing bridge. The bridge is on private property and is used for farming/ranching practices as well as emergency travel only. Large rip rap will be placed approximately 10' from the river's edge on both sides of the river to build approaches. A concrete footing will be placed on the top of the abutments to hold steel beams and planking. The river bank is sloped on both sides of the river and is approximately 4' – 6' higher than the stream during normal flows. 40' of linear bank will be impacted. Native material will be used to build the approaches. Bridge height will match current structure. Disturbed areas will be reseeded with native grasses. All work will take place during low flows following spanning.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

This application was tabled 7/9/2018 until schematics and material sizes and amounts could be obtained.

Brown moved to bring CA-20-18 from the table. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brown moved to approve as submitted, Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-21-18 – FRED WALTON
NEW APPLICATION**

**UNNAMED TRIBUTARY BELT CREEK
CULVERTS**

Application is to replace deteriorated culverts. Fuel mitigation is required for insurance purposes. Logging trucks cannot safely pass over the existing culverts on a city street without deteriorating them further. Applicant has permission from the town of Neihart to replace the culverts for safer and more reliable use. Three 20' sections of culvert will be replaced. Two will be 18" in diameter. One will be a 24" diameter. Native material will be used to secure the culverts. Any vegetated areas that are disturbed will be reseeded.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted waiving the 15-day waiting period. Applicant would like to begin work immediately in order to receive insurance approval.

This application was tabled 7/9/2018 until photos of the site could be obtained.

Heryford moved to bring CA-21-18 from the table. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to approve CA-21-18 as submitted with the 15-day waiting period waived. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-22-18AP – PETE SCHULTZ
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is for a boat dock. The dock was originally permitted in 1995. Applicant has annually installed and removed the dock on the Missouri River since then. The dock is anchored to the bank with temporary steel posts and extends approximately 22' into the stream. A temporary plank is used to access the dock. The bank is undisturbed and remains in its natural state.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation.

Wortman moved to approve CA-22-18AP as a 5-year an annual plan of operation. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-24-18AP – RICHARD WEBER
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is for a boat dock. Applicant did not realize a permit was required and has submitted in order to come into compliance. The dock is installed and removed each season. The dock is anchored to the streambed with temporary steel posts and is big enough for only 2 Jet Skis at this time. A temporary plank is used to access the dock from the toe of the bank. The bank is undisturbed and remains in its natural state.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation.

Brown moved to approve CA-24-18AP as a 5-year annual plan of operation. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-25-18AP – MICHAEL ORCUTT
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is for a boat dock. Applicant did not realize a permit was required and has submitted in order to come into compliance. The dock is installed and removed each season. The L-shaped dock is anchored to the streambed with temporary auger pipes penetrating approximately 18" into the bed. The dock is accessed by walking into the water and extends approximately 20' into the stream. The bank is undisturbed and remains in its natural state.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation.

Wortman moved to approve CA-25-18AP as a 5-year annual plan of operation. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-27-18AP – DAVE & VICKI BERTELSEN
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is to for a boat dock. The dock is installed and removed each season. The dock is anchored to a retaining wall. The dock extends approximately 48' into the stream. There are no anchor posts in the stream bed or bank.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation.

Chase moved to approve CA-27-18 as submitted as a 5-year annual plan of operation. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-28-18AP – MATTHEW WETZEL
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is for a boat dock. Applicant did not realize a permit was required and has submitted in order to come into compliance. The dock is installed and removed each season. The L-shaped dock is anchored to the streambed with temporary metal posts. The bank is undisturbed and remains in its natural state.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a 5-year annual plan of operation.

Heryford moved to approve CA-28-18AP as a 5-year annual plan of operation. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-29-18 – NORTHWESTERN ENERGY
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
SEDIMENT REMOVAL**

Application is to remove approximately 50-60 cubic yards of sediment that has settled around the Rainbow Dam boat launch. The draw down will allow access to dry sediment. The sediment will be loaded into dump trucks using an excavator that will be hauled off site and dumped away from the stream. The launch consists of a gravel parking lot and a concrete paver boat ramp gently sloping down to the river. the banks at the cove are steep and well vegetated with introduced grass species, miscellaneous forbs and shrubs. There are large rocks at the toe of the slopes along the banks within the cove. All work will be down when the reservoir has been drawn down. There will be no impact to the banks and no disturbance of vegetation.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

Brown approved CA-29-18 as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-30-18 – PATRICIA PETTAPIECE
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION**

Application is to stabilize approximately 300 linear ft of bank to prevent further erosion and protect the home. The bank will be sloped at a 2:1 ratio. Rip rap will be placed over geotextile fabric on the bottom 6' of the bank and keyed into the toe. Fencing material similar to chain link will be laid on the upper 6' of bank, covered with

soil and seeded with native grass. Current vegetation is mostly weeds transported in during high flows. An excavator and skid steer will be used to slope the bank and place rip rap.

INSPECTION TEAM RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted. Ensure rip rap is keyed into the bank on the upstream end and slope the bank in a manner that allows a smooth transition from untreated to treated bank. Take care to key rip rap into the toe of the bank with the geotextile fabric securely fastened below. Do not exceed 6 ft height of rip rap as described in the application. Include soil in rip rap and sprig dormant willow in rip rap and bank to promote natural vegetation. Ensure willows are dormant. Tie rip rap at downstream site to existing rip rap.

Heryford moved to approve CA-30-18 as submitted with attention to the inspection team recommendations. Chase seconded. Accumulative rip rap will exceed 300 ft. There is some concern that this may not be a long-term solution. More bank stabilization may be needed further downstream. As much vegetation as possible should be established as quickly as possible at the toe of the site. Motion carried unanimously.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.