

MINUTES TO THE DECEMBER 10, 2018
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:30PM. A full quorum was present.

Supervisors: Gayla Wortman, Marc Shane, Elliot Merja, Stevie Neuman, John Chase, Scott Brown, Pete Heryford.

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Associate Supervisors: Kathie Lahti, Jim Freeman

Guests: Mark Suta (MACD), Tracy Wendt (SRWG), Bailey Rapp (NRCS), Jason Muller (Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

310 permits: Laura Vukasin

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the November 5, 2018 minutes as presented. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$15784.76. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Shane move to approve the monthly petty cash report as submitted. Wortman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to approve the financial review report as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARE DISSUSSION

The board discussed the efficacy of the cost share program.

Shane moved to suspend the cost share program to the end of June 2019. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RCPP DISCUSSION

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a partnership program between the NRCS, conservation partners, and agricultural producers. When the program is reinstated with the next Farm Bill and/or when applications are called for a comprehensive plan for the Sun River Watershed may be submitted.

SUPERVISOR SUMMIT

The Supervisor Summit is a collaboration among districts that attend, Bitterroot will likely host the supervisor summit in the year 2020. A conference call will take place to discuss whether a Supervisor Summit will take place in the year 2019.

PARTNER'S REPORT

MACD

Mark Suta, MACD Board President, reported:

- What is most important to MACD is to support the work that is being completed by each conservation district.
- New administration has led to positive change
- Mark congratulated the district on a job well done.

NRCS

Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist

- One CSP contract was funding for 2018.
- A new NRCS Chief has been appointed, Matt Lohr.
- The local work group for focused conservation was briefly discussed.

SRWG

Tracy Wendt, Sun River Watershed Group Coordinator

- The Sun River Watershed Group is having both a board meeting and a general meeting on December 17, 2018 at the Celtic Cowboy. The board meeting will take place from 12pm to 1:15pm followed by a general meeting from 1:30 – 3:30pm.

DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisors:

Brown reported:

- Supervisor Brown attended the MACD Convention in Billings November 13 – 15, 2018

Heryford reported:

- Supervisor Heryford has been unable to reach anyone regarding Madison Food Park.

Shane reported:

- Supervisor Shane and Chair Wortman met with Representative Ed Buttery (District 21) to discuss conservation projects in Cascade County.

Chase reported:

- Supervisor Chase, Rachel Frost and Alan Rollo have been preparing for a potential phone call or meeting with the Forest Service through Senator Steve Daine's office.
- Supervisor Chase will attend the intergovernmental working group meeting focused on the Forest Plan Revision process Thursday December 13, 2018 at the Lewis & Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office in Helena.

Merja reported:

- Supervisor Merja discussed subdivisions that have been proposed to the County Planning Division.
- County, City, Public and Private Transportation entities now have a working agreement with the County Planning Division as required by the state.
- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet is January 18th, 2019.
- Supervisor Merja proposed the board look at moving bed loads as an option for 310 projects.

Wortman reported:

- Chair Wortman attended the RCPP meeting December 3, 2018, the next meeting will take place in January 2019.
- Chair Wortman participated in a funding focus group in late November jointly led by DNRC and MACD. Conservation Districts need to explore innovative ways to increase revenue, such as the RGL program and watershed management grants. Conservation Districts need to leverage their authority and responsibility. An interim committee has been loosely formed to explore other funding sources that are sustainable.
- There is a board leadership training Tuesday February 5, 2018 in the Family Living Center at the Montana Expo Park. Wortman encouraged all supervisors to attend.

Administrator:

- Regarding North Bank – a meeting will be set up with those stakeholders.
- Atchison has been in contact with a gentleman regarding the purchase of a drone, this gentleman is willing to assist Cascade CD with any training or questions the board may have as well.
- Atchison discussed the work she is doing with the state association to offer healthcare to conservation district administrators, supervisors and other staff.

Administrative Assistant:

- Link approached the board about purchasing another table for the Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee 7th Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet January 18, 2019 at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn.

Shane moved to purchase a second table for the Ag Appreciation Banquet. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Link approached the board about Cascade CD renewing their membership with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Merja moved to renew the Cascade Conservation District's membership with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 BUSSINESS

CA-42-18 – JEFF IVERS NEW APPLICATION

MISSOURI RIVER BANK STABILIZATION

Application is to stabilize approximately 195' of linear bank. Applicant proposes to place rip rap over mirafi fabric from the toe of the stream to the top of the bank – approximately 6-10'. Rip rap will extend approximately 6' into the current channel.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications waiving the 15-day waiting period. Mirafi fabric must be replaced with a biodegradable erosion control fabric such as a coconut weave. Key rip rap in at upstream and downstream ends and along toe of the bank. Ensure toe is to a depth that will prevent undercutting and slumping of rip rap.

Wortman moved to table CA-42-18 until a technical review can be completed. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CA-40-18 – HERMAN HAMILTON NEW APPLICATION

BELT CREEK BANK STABILIZATION

The purpose of this project is to stabilize a portion of the west bank of Belt Creek to stop erosion and loss of farm land, wildlife habitat and fencing. The bank has experienced significant erosion due to debris in the creek that diverts heavy flows directly against the west bank of the channel. This creates undercutting of the bank at that location. Bank height is approximately 6' at that location with no slope. Significant bed load has been deposited over the last couple years which catches debris and adds to the issue. Vegetation is made up of natural grasses, some woody shrubs and some large trees.

The bank is to be sloped at 3:1. Remove all fallen trees and debris. Large trees with root wads will be installed with cables attached to a dead man or to other standing trees nearby. Native material will be used to back fill behind the logs and reseed with native vegetation. Typically, there is no water in the stream this time of year, so the cabled trees will be placed at the stream bed below base flow. Some of the deposited bed load and debris will be removed from the middle and placed behind the trees. This will help return flows to the middle of the channel. Very little vegetation will be disturbed.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted waiving the 15-day waiting period ensuring logs are anchored sufficiently to not mobilize during high flow events maintaining low flow channel and natural channel geometry as currently exists.

Merja moved to approve CA-40-18 as recommended, waiving the 15-day. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-41-18 – CODY YUREK
NEW APPLICATION**

**BELT CREEK
BANK STABILIZATION**

This is a new application to stabilize the creek bank in order to prevent loss of the county road farmland and cut down on large amounts of sediment entering the stream. Applicant would like to divert the main channel into an overflow channel. If this is not possible, the proposed project would be to anchor large trees with root wads to the bank with cables and back fill with native material including gravel and large cobble and reseed. The bank has badly eroded and is threatening a county road. This has created a steep and unstable embankment. There is approximately 550' of highly eroded bank on an outside bend of the channel. Large deposited bed loads on the inside curve are making the problem worse. Approximately 300' would have to be extended out 20'+ in order to create a workable slope. Debris will be removed that is causing water to eddy and erode bank. Where possible the bank will be sloped and reseeded.

INSPECTION TEAM RECOMMENDATION: Recommend removing minimal amounts of debris from inlets of overflow channels to allow access to floodplain. Recommend moving fill and plants from the left side of the channel to the right side of the channel to reconstruct bank and realign channel off bank, as discussed onsite. County should be made aware of the issue and danger to the road. May require a technical review.

Shane moved to approve CA-41-18 as recommended by the inspection team. Chase seconded. This project may need a technical review. Motion denied.

Shane moved to deny CA-41-18 because the design is not optimal for this stretch of the stream. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CROOKED FALLS DISCUSSION

The board discussed Crooked Falls and its usefulness.

OTHER BUSSINESS

Wortman moved to appoint Pete Heryford for a 4-year term January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022. Brown seconded. Heryford was appointed to fill the supervisor position vacated by Alan Rollo in August 2018. March 2018 was the deadline for all elected officials to register. Since the deadline period has passed, Heryford agreed to serve the full 4-year term. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to accept the reappointment of Scott Brown to the Cascade Conservation District board of supervisors representing the Town of Cascade. Neuman seconded. His term will run from January 1, 2019 – December 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.