

MINUTES TO THE JANUARY 14, 2019
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
Basement Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Merja called the meeting to order at 12:33PM. A quorum was present.

Supervisors: Elliot Merja, John Chase, Marc Shane, Pete Heryford

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Associate Supervisors: Kathie Lahti, Jim Freeman

Guests: Marie Johnson (Cascade County), Tracy Wendt (SRWG), Bailey Rapp (NRCS), Jason Mullen (Fish, Wildlife & Parks), Katie Vivian (Fish, Wildlife & Parks), Sandor Hopkins (Cascade Planning), Anna Ehnes (Cascade Planning)

310 permits: Harold Simms, Will Lucier

Shane moved to excuse Gayla Wortman, Scott Brown, and Stevie Neuman from the January 14th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Heryford moved to keep all officers in their current positions: Gayla Wortman (Chair), Elliot Merja (Vice Chair), Marc Shane (Treasurer). Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to appoint all current associate supervisors except for Josh Blystone for another year. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chase moved to appoint Emma Link as recording secretary. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes as amended. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve a cost share payment to John Smart for \$1,540. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chase moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$14,120.38. Heryford seconded. The following discussion took place:

It was noticed that the same bill was paid twice (an invoice was paid, and a corresponding statement), the bill was for \$1,500. Thus, the original unpaid bills amount of \$14,120.38 was inflated by \$1,500. The correct unpaid bills amount is \$12,620.38.

Shane moved to amend the unpaid bills payment from \$14,120.38 to \$12,620.38. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Shane moved to approve the monthly petty cash report as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AWARD COST SHARE & DISSUSSION

Ranking for 2018 Cost Share applications was received.

Heryford moved to fund the cost-share applications as recommended by the board. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The cost-share program is being re-evaluated. Several other conservation districts throughout Montana including our own are looking to potentially revamp their cost share programs. Specific aspects of the program were discussed such as, requirements for applicants, frequency of same landowner applications and the effectiveness of the current ranking sheet.

PARTNER'S REPORT

SRWG

Tracy Wendt, Sun River Watershed Group Coordinator

- Wendt discussed funding for stream gauges.
- Wendt also discussed upcoming events, including the 25th anniversary celebration for the Sun River Watershed Group throughout 2019.
- The SRWG annual weed pull is tentatively scheduled for Saturday July 13th, 2019

NRCS

Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist

- Regarding the partial government shutdown, the NRCS has remained open due to the use of Financial Assistance FY18 funds. The NRCS currently anticipates having enough funds to cover the first three pay periods of 2019.
- Per State Conservationist Tom Watson, all NRCS Field Offices must complete a long-range plan.

Cascade Conservation District

January 14, 2019

Page 2 of 6

- The focused conservation approach and RCPP were discussed in detail. The structure of the focused conservation approach could be either focused practice(s) or a focused area/issue. A proposal would be written up which would include the intended practice(s) (potentially addressing a certain issue), the number of acres where practice(s) would be implemented during a set amount of time, and the cost. If the assessment/proposal is accepted the money is guaranteed. Although any proposal that includes “all” of NRCS’s practices will be rejected.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 18, 2019 Ag Appreciation Banquet
 February 11, 2019 Cost Share Meeting
 February 2019 Ag Days Planning

DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisors:

Chase reported:

- Supervisor Chase attended the intergovernmental working group meeting focusing on the Forest Plan Revision process on Thursday December 13, 2018 at the Lewis & Clark National Forest Supervisor’s Office in Helena. Irrigation interests need to be addressed in the Forest Plan.
- Regarding Living on the Bank, a phone call meeting took place, major changes will be made.

Merja reported:

- Supervisor Merja discussed management issues along the Sun River as a result of the flooding in 2018. He discussed specific landowners that were affected and what these landowners and other stakeholders are doing to respond.
- The Cascade County planning board has a meeting on Tuesday January 15th.
- The Chamber Ag Banquet is Friday January 18th.

Shane reported:

- Regarding the Rolling River’s Trailer, Supervisor Shane will hold a formal training. In addition, he is recommending that those that get trained tag along to an actual RRT presentation so they can observe the presentation and get more hands-on experience.

Administrative Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- There is a new mileage reimbursement rate, \$0.58/mile
- A 223 Grant has been prepared for Ag Days for \$2,200. This 223 Grant is asking for funds specifically to cover venue accommodations and supplies, specifically funds for an outdoor canopy tent with walls.

Shane moved to approve the 223 Grant application for Ag Days for the requested amount of \$2,200. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Cover crop grant was discussed.
- Leave was requested.

Heryford moved to approve leave for Link for the dates of March 18th – 21st, 2019. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wortman’s mother passed away. Eulela May Ness Wortman’s obituary states, “In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the FFA Chapter at Big Sandy High School, or the charity of your choice”.

Shane moved to make a \$75 donation in memory of Eulela May Ness Wortman to Big Sandy FFA. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- Atchison calibrated the drone that CCD purchased and practiced flying it with success. A lesson/training will be scheduled for interested supervisors.
- Due to a government shutdown, if the NRCS ends up closing, CCD will operate out of Suite 100, which is in the basement of the First Interstate Bank building where the Cascade Conservation District currently resides.
- The Montana Invasive Species Council will have a Rotunda Event on March 1st, CCD is invited to attend.
- The MACD Meet and Greet is January 24th from 5-9pm at the Montana Club in Helena.

310 BUSSINESS

CA-45-18 – WILLIAM LUCIER NEW APPLICATION

HARDY CREEK IRRIGATION SUMP

Application is to create a reservoir or sump in the stream for irrigation purposes. A 2’ deep, 3’ in circumference hole will be dug in the stream where a 6” intake line will be placed. The sump will be covered with a self-cleaning mesh screen which pushes water up keeping sediment and other debris from settling on the screen. Another option is to put a mesh screen on the end of the intake line, but maintenance would be required throughout the season. Annual maintenance on the sump will be required regardless of screen type.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications.

- Make CA-45-18 a 5-year annual plan of operations
- All material including sediment and debris taken from the stream or cleaned from the screen must be placed above the ordinary highwater mark in an upland location away from the creek.
- Use a 3/32” screen.

FWP would like the applicant to consider an off-channel sump design. A small bucket load of material could be removed from river right side of channel to deepen creek. A pipe would be placed from the

streambank to well, with a screen on the intake at the bank. Intake would be placed in the well. OR Consider using a River screen like the one used on Simms Creek. Recommend using 3/32 of an inch screen for all scenarios per NOAA recommendations for salmonids. These practices would reduce disturbance to the streambed, likely reduce sediment and debris accumulations, and reduce disturbance/impingement potential for fish.

Shane moved to approve CA-45-18 with modifications waiving the 15-day waiting period per the inspection team recommendations. A vertical screen system will be used. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-46-18 – HAROLD SIMMS
NEW APPLICATION**

**SUN RIVER
IRRIGATION/PUMP SITE**

Application is for a new pump site location. Applicant wishes to move his current pump location due to excessive erosion on a bend of the river. The new site will be placed just downstream from a stabilized bank location. Approximately 4' of bank will be pulled back at a 2:1 slope from the stream. Chain link will be laid on the slope and covered with pit run. The grade is needed for optimum suction and pressure. This also makes access and placement of the intake line in the water easier. This site has deeper water where the intake line will extend into the stream anywhere from 4' – 8' positioned so the intake faces up stream. Side walls on the ramp will be feathered back 3:1 to match existing and undisturbed bank elevations and reseeded.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications waiving the 15-day waiting period.

- Make CA-46-18 a 5-year annual plan of operation.
- Leave the toe of the bank as undisturbed as possible so that established willows continue to help with stability.
- Reseed ramp with native vegetation as opposed to placing pit run/gravel.

Shane moved to approve CA-46-18 with modifications waiving the 15-day waiting period per the recommendations made by the inspection team. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CAV-35-18 – CAPITAL VENTURES 1, INC
ALLEGED VIOLATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
VEGETATION REMOVAL**

A site inspection team was on an adjoining property on September 5, 2018. The team noticed the lack of vegetation on the banks and upper terrace. An inspection was held on October 31, 2018. Vegetation was pulled from the bank and terrace. Grass seed has been spread but no sign of growth yet. Vegetation at the toe of the stream is primarily native grasses.

This was found to be a violation and required the following mitigation:

1. Place coconut erosion control matting immediately to the bank of the stream and 4 feet back from the top of the bank to eliminate the chance of sediment entering the stream.
2. Place straw bales at the toe of the bank to hold any debris and sediment due to runoff from entering the stream.

3. Willow sprigs and other woody vegetation such as native rose bushes need to be replaced as soon as possible.

A follow up inspection was held on December 14, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: Keep the violation order open until a follow up inspection can be completed in June to ensure vegetation is taking and added actions are not needed to prevent erosion.

Shane moved to keep CAV-35-18 order open following an inspection in June of 2019. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM