

MINUTES TO THE APRIL 8, 2019
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:29PM. A quorum was present.

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

Associate Supervisors: Kathie Lahti, Jim Larson

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Guests: Tracy Wendt (SRWG), Bailey Rapp (NRCs), Rose Malisani (MSU Cascade County Extension), Katie Vivian (Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

310 permits: Joe Aline, Pete Peterson

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the March 11, 2019 minutes as corrected. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$13,156.67. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Shane moved to ratify the decision made in the executive session regarding employee raises. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARE

Cascade Conservation District (CCD) is revamping the cost share application process. Changes have been made to both the application and ranking sheet per board recommendations and suggestions. District staff will promote the new cost share application process.

Heryford moved to approve the new cost share application sheet as edited. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to approve the new cost share ranking sheet as edited. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- The Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) Rotunda Event is scheduled for Tuesday April 23rd, 2019. Atchison and Wortman will present and attend via vendor booth.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program Working Group (RCPP) is a multi-county, inter-governmental agency, multi-disciplinary group working on developing a RCPP application. Representatives from each county are setting up community meetings to further identify resource concerns. CCD has scheduled a town hall meeting on April 25th at 7pm in Fort Shaw, MT at the Sun River Valley Community Center. Marni Thompson (NRCS Resource Conservationist) will facilitate. This meeting will also help the NRCS Great Falls Field Office in the development of its long-range plan.
 - The next RCPP working group meeting will be held on April 30th, 1-3pm at the USDA Service Center.
- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Cascade County regarding the 310 Law has been edited per the recommendations and comments from the board and other stakeholders. Changes are still being made.
- A usage policy will be created for use of the CCD drone for 310 permits and other usage. In addition, a drone training for interested supervisors and staff will be arranged.
- A 310-inspection monthly sign-up sheet for supervisors will be created. Each supervisor will choose a month(s) to attend the scheduled inspection with the administrator.
- Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) created an ad hoc committee to explore the option of offering health insurance for state conservation district employees and supervisors. A roll out presentation was made regarding the plan that will be offered to the districts. CCD will decide regarding participation as the deadline for inclusion is in June of 2019.
- CCD staff will set up a tour of Black Butte Mine for Saturday June 1st, 2019 for interested supervisors and staff.
- CCD staff will rent a vehicle for Link to take to Envirothon in Lewistown April 29th & 30th.

Administrative Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- CCD has scheduled a radio interview with Cherry Creek Media to solicit volunteers for AG DAYS on Wednesday April 24th.
- CCD will present at Cub Scout Day Camp – June 13th, 14th, & 15th
- She will attend the Rolling River's Trailer Training on April 10th
- Shelter belt trees are being delivered on April 30th from 3:30PM to 5PM @ Montana ExpoPark, MSU Cascade County Extension would like help unloading

Supervisors:

Shane reported:

- The board had moved in March to notify potentially impacted landowners and relevant stakeholders regarding the following:
 - The City of Great Falls is storing snow northeast of town off Highway 87. Due to the topography in that area and an already breached retention pond, when the snow melts and surface runoff ensues, adjacent local land could be adversely affected.
 - Shane has found that a majority of runoff was contained by the culverts in place, thus notification will not be necessary at this point.
- He will be leading the Rolling Rivers Trailer training on Wednesday April 10.

Wortman reported:

- She met with Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG) Coordinator Tracy Wendt where they had a productive conversation regarding SRWG's long-range plan.
- She participated in the Budget Meeting and Ag Days pre-planning meeting on April 1st.

Heryford reported:

- Due to the changes in his operation the cover crop project with CCD is on hold.

Brown reported:

- The Crooked Falls signs need to be replaced. CCD has purchased new signs and they will be replaced. Brown touched upon the accessibility of Crooked Falls and thus the efficacy.
- He attended two Local Working Group Meetings.
- He is still working with Northern Plains Resource Council on getting legislation for baseline water quality sampling

Merja reported:

- The Cascade County Planning Division had a public hearing regarding potential changes to zoning regulations on March 26th. It was well attended.

Chase reported:

- Rachel Frost, Missouri River Conservation District Council Coordinator is resigning.
- The Forest Plan for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest will consider downstream irrigation use when developing the plan.
- He brought some edible cricket products to share with group.

RIVER CAMPAIGN

The 2018 *River Campaign* was focused on such things as aquatic invasive species (AIS), and 310 permitting outreach. The 2019 *River Campaign* will have the same goals as 2018, which include: (1) Integrate into an achievable campaign that incorporates CCD Strategic Plan guiding principles and focus'.

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(2) Start small and grow big (ridge to ridge). (3) Event driven. The focus this year will be development of Stream Teams specifically, Water's Edge Ambassadors (landowners), Eyes on the Water (individuals, local conservation groups, fraternal organizations), and Fleet Keepers (local businesses). Event plans include a speaker series, scavenger hunt, and river clean up. CCD hopes to incorporate a Ranching for Rivers component.

MACD CONVENTION SURVEY

The board completed an online survey regarding what Conservation Districts would like to see showcased and presented at the Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) Convention in Kalispell this fall.

PARTNER'S REPORT

MSU Cascade County Extension

Rose Malisani (Agriculture and Natural Resources)

- Shelter Belt and Tree Delivery will take place on Tuesday April 30th from 3pm – 5pm at the Family Learning Center – Montana ExpoPark. Pick up for producers will be May 1st. The tree planter will be available for rental.
- The Green Thumb Gardening Class series will take place on the following dates:
 - Spring into Gardening – April 18th, 2019
 - Gardening 101 – May 30th, 2019
 - Greenhouse 101 – June 20th, 2019
 - Harvesting 101 – August 22nd, 2019
- The Green Tie Affair – 4H fundraiser took place on Friday April 5th and was a tremendous success.

NRCS

Bailey Rapp, NRCS District Conservationist reported the following:

- He should finish the second section of his long-range plan shortly, after which he would like comments or edits from CCD.
- He reminded each board member to submit their conservation district resource priority worksheet.
- He will be meeting with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on Thursday April 11th, Administrator Tenlee Atchison will accompany him.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications until May 10th, 2019.
- He will meet with the Fort Shaw Irrigation District on April 11th during their monthly meeting to discuss Montana Focused Conservation.

SRWG

Tracy Wendt, Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG) Coordinator reported the following:

- She plans to have a final draft of the SRWG Strategic Plan ready for review at the May SRWG Board Meeting. It is set to be adopted in June.
- She has been busy applying for grants.
- Upcoming SRWG Events:
 - Fundraiser – Pint Night @ Mighty Mo – April 29th
 - Fundraiser – Cocktail Hour @ Enbar – May 7th
 - 25th Anniversary Event – August 24th – Sun Canyon Lodge
- The Water Quality Working Group will meet May 1st.
- The Water Management Working Group will meet April 18th
- The next SRWG Board Meeting will be May 17th.
- Karin Boyd will come and talk about channel migration zones at the next RCPP Meeting on April 30th.

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Jim Larson (County Commissioner)

- Administrator Tenlee Atchison and Chair Gayla Wortman will meeting with Cascade County Commissioners to discuss the 310 Law MOA.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 10 th	Rolling River’s Trailer Training
April 15 th	Budget Meeting
April 25 th	AG DAYS – Chouteau County
April 25 th	Sun River Community Meeting
April 29 th & 30 th	Envirothon
April 29 th	Sun River Watershed Group Mighty Mo Fundraiser
April 30 th	Tree Delivery
April 30 th	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Working Group Meeting
May 9 th & 10 th	AG DAYS – Cascade County

310 BUSINESS

CA-01-19 – UPPER MISSOURI WATERSHED ALLIANCE

NEW APPLICATION

Application is to remove, chip and dispose of 30-40 Russian Olive trees currently situated on the river bank. Native shrubs will be planted to replace what is removed. Approximately 60 containerized native shrubs including Wild Rose, Chokecherry, Currant, Snowberry, Buffaloberry, Three Leaf Sumac, Elderberry and Serviceberry will be planted in ten 5x10’ enclosures. The enclosures will be made of 4-inch wire mesh, 6 feet high, to protect from wildlife and rodents. A local tree service contractor will be hired to chip and dispose of debris. The bank is approximately 15 feet high and stable in the project

MISSOURI RIVER

VEGETATION REMOVAL

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location. The wire enclosures will occur on approximately 700' of river bank. Russian Olive removal will occur along approximately 300 ft of Missouri river bank.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications.

- Treat the stumps with Triclopyr Amine (Garlon 3A) per NRCS recommendations to prevent spread and regrowth.
- Mechanically remove saplings until seed bank/lateral growth is depleted.

Brown moved to approve CA-01-19 with modifications per the inspection team recommendations. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-02-19 – SHUMAKER TRUCKING AND EXCAVATING CONTRACTORS, INC
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION**

Application is to slope the bank and place rip rap along the bank at a 1.5:1 ratio to protect the home which is approximately 45" from the stream. The bank is about 10 -15' high. The project will impact 280 – 300 lineal feet of bank. Rip rap will start at the top of the bank and extend approximately 20 feet to the stream. it will be sloped and keyed in along the toe of the upstream and downstream edges. The site inspection revealed an expansive flood plain just opposite the proposed project site. Some bank has been lost due to souring and some sloughing resulting in loss of bank.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications.

- Rip rap keyed into the toe of the bank should only extend up 6 – 8 feet.
- Maintain the willows and other native vegetation on the upper/top of bank.

Shane moved to approve CA-02-19 with modifications waiving the 15-day waiting period per the inspection team recommendations. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STATE LANDS

Al Rollo (representing a group of Great Falls residents) approached CCD to consider holding 80 acres of state lands off Fox Farm Road in a permanent easement in perpetuity. Holding this easement would prevent any commercial development of the acreage and would allow the area to remain open space. CCD discussed the possibility of holding the easement in detail.

Chase moved to decline the opportunity to hold in a permanent easement, the 80 acres of stand lands off Fox Farm Road. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 5:04PM