

MINUTES TO THE MAY 13, 2019
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:31PM. A quorum was present.

Supervisors: Gayla Wortman, Pete Heryford, Scott Brown, John Chase, Elliot Merja

Associate Supervisors: Kathie Lahti, Jim Larson, Jim Freeman

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Guests: Tracy Wendt (SRWG), Bailey Rapp (NRCS), Murray Strong (Pioneer Technical Services)

310 permits: Misha Tracy, Wayne Wike

Merja moved to excuse Marc Shane & Stevie Neuman from the May 13th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Chase seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the April 8, 2019 minutes as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chase moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$13,712.25. 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 monthly petty cash report as submitted. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisors:

Brown reported:

- He passed his drone certificate from Cascade Conservation District (CCD), which was administered by Administrator Atchison.
- He will be looking at a saline seep in Cascade County out on Ashuelot Bench this upcoming Wednesday 5/15/2019, Bailey Rapp (NRCS District Conservationist) may attend.

Chase reported:

- The Sun River Watershed Group held two working groups meetings in the last month, the Water Quality Work Group as well as the Water Management Work Group.
- The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) held interviews to hire a new coordinator since current coordinator Rachel Frost will be resigning.
- He will attend a “Living on the Bank” meeting at the end of the month in Helena, this will be the last “Living on the Bank” meeting before current MRCDC Coordinator Rachel Frost resigns.

Merja reported:

- The Cascade County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing in Room 105 of the Courthouse Annex, 325 2nd Ave. N., Great Falls at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 21 to consider whether revisions to the Cascade County Growth Policy are necessary.

Wortman reported:

- She attended the brainstorming session for the Sun River Valley community meeting.
- She attended the RCPP Working Group Meeting on April 30th.
- She helped with AG DAYS – May 8th – May 10th.

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- The Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) had a meeting at Fish, Wildlife & Parks to discuss how the state of Montana is proceeding on addressing invasive species issues.
 - CEMIST has put together a “trunk” with an array of educational and outreach props
 - Two Conservation Districts in the state are running check stations.
 - Flowing wells which is administered by Garfield CD.
 - McCone Conservation District will also run a check station.
 - Canyon Ferry Lake will no longer be monitored
 - Tiber on Lake Elwell will be monitored for the next 5 years.
 - Cascade CD is doing a lot of good things to aid in combating aquatic invasive species in the state.
- The Sun River Valley Community Meeting took place on April 25th, it went well. Elliot Merja gave the welcome. The outcome of the meeting was the top five resource priorities/concerns for the area which was narrowed down by the attendees.
- The Cascade/Eden Community Meeting will take place on May 23rd. Stacy Eneboe will facilitate.
- The RCPP Working Group took place on April 30th, Karin Boyd presented on channel migration zone mapping.
- Judith Basin Conservation District will be hosting Range School May 29th – 30th at Bos Terra in Hobson, MT.
- The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) Spring Board meeting will take place June 10th -12th in Helena, she (Atchison) will attend on the 10th for the insurance presentation and possibly on the 11th for the strategic plan update.

Merja moved to move the CCD Board Meeting from Monday June 10th to Wednesday June 12th. Chase seconded. Motion carried.

- Statewide Administrator Training (SWAT) will take place June 3rd – 6th at Arrowpeak Camp in the Highwood Mountains.
- She gave an Ag Days recap.
- She discussed the possibility of recruiting a Big Sky Watershed Corps

Administrative Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- She gave an Ag Days recap
- She sent out the proposed FY 2020 budget to everyone, it will be approved at the June board meeting.
- Any interested supervisors and staff are welcome to attend the Black Butte Mine Tour on June 1st.
- Leave was requested.

Heryford moved to approved leave for Link, June 28th – July 7th. Chase seconded. Motion carried.

CCD BUILDING DISCUSSION

Chased moved to proceed with the buy-sell agreement. Heryford seconded. Motion carried.

310 BUSINESS

CA-04-19 – MISHA TRACHY NEW APPLICATION

SUN RIVER BOAT DOCK

Application is to build a U-shaped dock 24 ft – 30 ft long by 6 ft wide anchored with permanently installed anchor posts on the riverbank beginning approximately 20 feet from our west property edge. The anchors on the bank will be steel posts (possibly set in concrete) 6 feet apart. The dock will be anchored in the river with removable auger posts. The dock will be fabricated using barrels or high-density foam for buoyancy. A plank will be used to access the dock from the bank.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted

Wortman moved to take jurisdiction on this application until the MOA with Cascade County regarding 310 permits is completed. Merja seconded. Motion carried.

Brown moved to approve CA-04-19 as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried.

CA-03-19 – WAYNE WIKE NEW APPLICATION

MISSOURI RIVER BANK STABILIZATION

Application is to continue rip rap to the property line to provide bank stabilization to prevent further erosion of the top of the bank. Some erosion and what appear to be a sink hole has developed at the end of some existing rip rap. Applicant is proposing to add 25 linear bank feet of 2'-4' rip rap to the end of the original project, extending approximately 15 – 20 feet up the bank and encroaching 3 feet into the stream. All disturbed areas will be revegetated with native grasses. Work will take place during low

flows or possibly when the ground is frozen in order to minimize erosion and turbidity. MRTE (Joe Horner) is the contractor. They did the original project at that site.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with modifications. Blend additional rip rap in with existing rock to fill the sink hole. Add rock from existing toe upslope to match the height of existing rip rap. Do not add additional rock out into the channel or down the bank at the toe to limit the potential for a downstream eddy and scour. Limit irrigation in that area to defend against bank saturation and piping. Revegetate the upper bank with native riparian grasses, bushes and trees.

Merja moved to approve CA-03-19 with modifications per the inspection team recommendations. Chase seconded. Four votes to approve. One dissent. Motion carried.

**CA-09-17 – LEE WILSON
MODIFICATION/EXTENSION**

**SPRING CREEK OF THE SUN RIVER
VEGETATION REMOVAL**

Applicant is requesting a modification and extension to the original permit. The original permit was 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. As part of the restoration, a section of spring creek relocation through an upland is proposed. A relocation procedure would be more efficient and result in less in-stream turbidity during construction. Maintenance as an open-water wetland would maintain flood flow capacity during extreme flood event, increase waterfowl habitat and maintenance as a sediment sink. The intent was to maintain and expand wetland area, aquatic habitat and wildlife value of the ranch and adjacent land. The upper section (reach D) has been completed according to specifications however the lower section (reach E/state lands portion) has not been started. Due to funding, the applicant would like to dredge the original channel/slough to remove heavy sediment. A long arm excavator will sit on the upper farm field and reach into clean material out of the slough and back up on the fields. A 1-year extension is requested.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve requested modifications and extend for 1-year.

Wortman moved to deny this application. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

**CA-06-19 – MARVIN CROFF
NEW APPLICATION**

**BELT CREEK
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Application is to replace a bridge over belt creek above Neihart. The bridge will be narrowed from 60' to 40' by installing concrete abutments with wing walls. Rip rap will be placed around the abutments. Nothing will encroach into the stream. Material will be filled in behind the abutments. Equipment will ford the stream to build abutments and place steel beams. The deck of the bridge will be made out of 3" treated timbers.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

Wortman moved to table CA-06-19 until a project design is submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried.

PARTNER'S REPORT

NRCS

Bailey Rapp, NRCS District Conservationist reported the following:

- The NRCS Field Office has received an EQIP application, it is for a hoop house. NRCS needs CCD to sign the conservation plan.
- He is still working on section two of his Long-Rang Plan.
- He attended the Community Work Group for the Sun River Valley on April 25th. He plans to hold/attend two other Community Work Groups for other regions throughout Cascade County.

The dates are as follows:

- May 23rd – Cascade/Eden Community Meeting
- June 18th – Carter Community Meeting
- June 20th – Belt Community Meeting
- Upcoming NRCS Deadlines
 - May 10th – CSP application deadline
 - May 31st – Ranking and cost estimates must be in for EQIP.
 - June 3rd – CSP eligibility applications due.
 - June 7th – Preapproval confirmations need to be made.
 - July 12th – CSP ranking complete
 - September 6th or 7th – CSP applications must be obligated.

SRWG

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

- She has met with several landowners in the Sun River Watershed regarding such issues as bank stabilization, reducing sediment, and continued annual maintenance of a stream/river crossing. She applied for and will continue to apply for grant funds to assist with the costs of remediating such issues.
- She coordinated bringing in Karin Boyd to speak about channel migration zone mapping at the last RCPP Working Group Meeting.
- SRWG received a grant from Montana Watershed Coordination Council which will be used for various capacity building items.
- USGS stream gauges on the Sun River were discussed.
- Upcoming SRWG Events & Meetings
 - Board Meeting Friday – May 17th
 - Night at the Ball park – June 26th
 - Annual Weed Pull – July 13th
 - 25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting – August 24th

CROOKED FALLS – EFFICACY

- Federal law requires NorthWestern Energy to change the entry gate code to access Crooked Falls Natural Area every two weeks. This makes accessibility difficult. In addition, you cannot drive in to access the site, you must hike approximately 2.5 miles. Lastly, if we were to promote the area it would need some additional maintenance, the trails are in rough shape, snakes are present, there are weed issues, the new signs need to be placed, etc.
- CCD will visit Crooked Falls in June and decide on how to move forward after that visit.

OTHER BUSSINESS

CCD has the option to write a letter of support for or against the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Compact. A decision on how the board will proceed has been postponed until the June board meeting to give the board time to read the relevant documents provided by DNRC.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06PM