

MINUTES TO THE AUGUST 12, 2019  
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING  
USDA Service Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. A quorum was present.

**Supervisors:** Gayla Wortman, Scott Brown, Pete Heryford, John Chase

**Associate Supervisors:** Kathie Lahti

**Staff:** Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

**Guests:** Tracy Wendt (Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)), Bailey Rapp (Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)), Anna Ehnes (Cascade County), Carey Ann Haight (Chief Civil Deputy, Cascade County Attorney's Office), Scott Graham (MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ))

***Heryford moved to excuse Elliot Merja, Marc Shane and Stevie Neuman from the August 12th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**MINUTES**

***Brown moved to approve the July 9, 2019 minutes as corrected. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

***Chase moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$15,056.45. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Wortman 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:

- The Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) is attempting to require baseline water sampling ahead of oil and gas drilling. NPRC will be talking directly to the MT Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to address this, NPRC is seeking a letter of support from CCD in this endeavor.

***Wortman moved to write a letter in support of NPRC in its attempt to require baseline water sampling ahead of oil and gas drilling. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

- He has been utilizing the CCD Drone for 310 imaging along with CCD Administrator Atchison.

Heryford reported:

- He is working with CCD staff on a cover crop project.

Chase reported:

- He attended the River Campaign Speaker Series on bank stabilization and riparian buffers on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the SRWG Weed Pull on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the Montana Aquatic Resource Services Channel Migration Zones (MARS CMZ) meeting in Helena on July 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - CMZ mapping will be a helpful tool for landowners.
- He attended the River Rendezvous in Fort Peck, MT on July 26<sup>th</sup> and gave a summary of the tour, specifically the Keystone XL Pipeline and the issues surrounding that project were presented at the River Rendezvous tour in great depth.
- He will be attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bashin' Trash River Cleanup on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- He will be attending the SRWG 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Wortman reported:

- She is serving on the Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) hiring committee for their Executive Director.
- She is working with the DNRC Conservation District Bureau in developing leadership based critical thinking questions to be asked at the upcoming MACD Area Meetings.

**Administrative Assistant:** Link reported the following to CCD:

- She attended the Future of Ag Tour on July 11<sup>th</sup> and gave the board a full recap of the tour, highlights include:
  - A producer who is growing industrial hemp gave a presentation about the management involved in producing it for grain as well as for oil.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Future of Ag Tour is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Future of Ag Tour Committee is looking for tour stop recommendations.
- Living on the Land Small Acreage Workshop will take place October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 3:30pm.
- Ag Days 2020 will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Administrator:** Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- The CCD CMZ Channel Migration Zone Mapping 223 Grant in conjunction with the SRWG has been submitted.
- Atchison prepared an informative document comparing CCD facility prospects.

- Conservation District's throughout the state have been presented with a new NRCS MOU. This new MOU will be discussed in depth at a future board meeting to give supervisors time to inspect the MOU in depth.
- *A Montana Experience* has been cancelled.
- She facilitated the Living on the Bank River Campaign Speaker Series on Riparian Buffers and Bank Stabilization on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Floodplain issues were discussed in depth at this meeting
- She attended the MARS CMZ meeting in Helena on July 16<sup>th</sup>
- She attended the Belt Town Council Meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>
- The Bashin' Trash River Cleanup will take place Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Area III District Administrator Meeting is scheduled for Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The final Living on the Bank Speaker Series will take place at the Mighty Mo Brewery on August 20<sup>th</sup>, Josh Schreengost of Goshawk Ecotours will be discussing the history of wildlife along the Missouri River.
- She will be attending the SRWG Tour and Celebration on August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- She will be attending the Montana Watershed Coalition Council tour September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The USGS Stream Gauges meeting is in Helena on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Area III Meeting is on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bos Terra facility outside of Hobson. Judith Basin CD is this year's host.
- The Eastern Health Snail Meeting with the Montana Invasive Species Council is in Belt on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- A resource professionals meeting will take place on September 26<sup>th</sup> regarding management of weeds throughout Cascade County but specifically in the Belt area.
- No cost share applications have been received yet.

### **310 BUSINESS**

**CA-13-19 – HAROLD EVERSON  
NEW APPLICATION**

**BELT CREEK  
BRIDGE REPAIR**

Application is to repair a bridge abutment on Belt Creek. The bridge deck and most of the abutment are in good shape. The current abutment is made from logs and treated rail ties. The rail ties are anchored into the embankment. Only the top one or two logs at the top of the abutment will be replaced. Straw waddles will be placed at the toe while work is taking place to catch any material that may dislodge during the repairs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve CA-13-19 as submitted.

***Wortman moved to approve CA-13-19 as submitted. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CA-14-19E – WILLIAM LUCIER  
EMERGENCY**

**HARDY CREEK  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Per the landowner: "There was a 30+ year wooden bridge at the south east edge of our property going

over hardy creek. It had 5 wooden logs as the base and had become rotten to the point where the center beam had cracked and sagged in the center, and one beam had sagged at one of the ends to the point it would be a hazard to cross in any vehicle. The bridge leads to two other properties that require propane deliveries." Vehicles were fording the stream in that area.

**INSPECTION TEAM FINDINGS:** Landowner removed the bridge structure and replaced it with a rail car bed. The structure spans the stream further than the logs did and is adequately secured on the banks. The bridge seems to sit high enough to accommodate debris and bed load to pass without issue during highwater events. Road mix was placed over the abutments and may enter the stream during runoff. Staff did advise landowner that he had the right to protect structures without a permit in emergency situations. Landowner stated that due to stream conditions and the state of the bridge, propane trucks could not reach homeowners, therefore, he felt this was an emergency.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the project as completed. Request road mix material be pulled up from the banks and sides of abutments and placed on the approaches.

*Wortman moved to approve CA-14-19E with the modifications per the inspection team recommendations in addition to an annotation indicating what constitutes an emergency per the 310 Guidelines. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CA-15-19 – YURI & LANA KADOSHNIKOV  
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER  
BOAT RAMP**

Application is for a small boat ramp. A small hump will be pulled back from the stream and sloped 2:1. 15 linear feet of bank will be affected. Applicant will use his own tractor.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve with modifications.

- Angle ramp downstream
- Revegetate the ramp with native grasses or cover with gravel to avoid the establishment of weeds and help with erosion
- Place extra material above the ordinary high-water mark and out of the floodplain

*Wortman moved to approve CA-15-19 with the modifications per the inspection team recommendations. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **MACD DISCUSSION**

*Heryford moved to approve and submit the MACD resolution changing the articles of incorporation from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **DEQ GRANT PRESENTATION**

Scott Graham (MT DEQ and Abandoned Mine Lands Program) is asking CCD to sponsor a DNRC

Reclamation and Development Planning Grant they are submitting; the grant will address water capture with deep rooted vegetation.

***Wortman moved to sponsor the DNRC Reclamation and Development Planning Grant. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **PARTNER'S REPORT**

### **NRCS**

Bailey Rapp, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist reported the following:

- Two EQIP contracts are currently being written, deadline for obligation is September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- One CSP application has been preapproved and is currently being written, deadline for obligation is September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Two site visits will be made on Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> for CRP.
- He will be attending facilitator training in Bozeman August 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- There will be a resource professionals meeting to address the management of weeds throughout Cascade County but specifically in the Belt area on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Organizations and entities that will be in attendance include, CCD, US Forest Service, Fish Wildlife & Parks, Cascade County Weed & Mosquito Management.
- CSP Grassland Conservation Initiative has had 15 applications, 9 have been funded, deadline for obligation is September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- He has been working with the CCD Marketing & Outreach Coordinator on cover crop seeding.
- He has been out with MSCA on some RCPP projects.

### **SRWG**

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

- The Annual SRWG *Pull Your Share* weed pull took place on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 20 people were in attendance and collectively pulled 240 lbs. of weeds.
- The new SRWG website is live.
- Two SRWG strategic plans have been prepared, one that is very detailed and a guiding document for the board and staff, another that is meant to be shared with the public.
- She attended the MARS CMZ meeting in Helena on July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The SRWG 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events are scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a tour of the watershed starting at 9AM in Fairfield. The Anniversary party will include a BBQ, live band, silent auction and much more, the festivities start at 4PM at Sun Canyon Lodge in Augusta.

**WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- MWCC Tour – September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Newsletter Articles – Due September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Living on the Land – October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Officer Elections – January 2019
- Budget Review – January or February 2019

Meeting adjourned at 4:07PM.