

MINUTES TO THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Associate Supervisors: Rose Malisani, Jim Larson

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Guests: Tracy Wendt (Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG))

310: Sandor Hopkins (Cascade County Planning)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Shane moved to approve the August 12, 2019 minutes as corrected. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$111,221.30. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

NRCS MOU

A new MOU with the NRCS has been presented to conservation districts throughout the state. The MOU in its present condition should be considered a draft. The state NRCS office is currently working out the logistics of the agreement. Once it is satisfactory the NRCS will send it out to conservation districts for recommendation and feedback.

BUILDING DISUCSSION

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of CCD purchasing its own facility. No formal decision was made.

MACD DUES PROPOSAL

MACD has created an ad hoc committee to potentially re-structure MACD due's in hopes to make them fair and equitable to all. The committee has created a new MACD due's proposal and is asking for district feedback. This proposal will be discussed at the upcoming Area Meetings, the committee will consider all comments and present the final due's proposal at State Convention to be voted in by the MACD Board of Directors.

An informal discussion took place regarding the MACD due's structure.

310 BUSINESS

CA-32-18 – L JOHNSON, INC EXTENSION

ANTELOPE CREEK CHANNEL CLEANOUT

Application is to dredge a portion of Antelope Creek to promote proper drainage. Antelope Creek is designated an intermittent stream however, it has flowed almost year-round in recent years. Due to erosion, the stream channel has filled in with sediment where Antelope Creek meets Sand Coulee Creek (which was dry during the site visit). This creates several plots of crop land to flood each spring. Applicant would like to dredge that portion of Antelope Creek to allow natural flow into Sand Coulee Creek. ***This application was originally permitted in September 2018. Applicant is requesting an extension due to floodplain permitting timing.***

RECOMMENDATION: Approve a one-year extension

CA-40-18 – HERMAN HAMILTON EXTENSION

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 farmland, 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 on 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. ***This application was originally permitted in December 2018. Applicant is requesting an extension due to floodplain permitting timing.***

RECOMMENDATION: Approve a one-year extension

Wortman moved to approve a 1-year extension for both CA-32-18 and CA-40-18. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to craft a letter to Congressman Gianforte to support a letter sent by Fischer & Associates to bring attention to FEMA regional discrepancies. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wortman moved to appoint Marc Shane as the CCD representative to represent CCD and coordinate with Lewis & Clark CD on an Ad Hoc Floodplain Committee. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisors:

Brown reported:

- He and Bailey Rapp (NRCS DC) visited a producer regarding a possible seepage issue
- He has been practicing flying the CCD drone

Heryford reported:

- He was able to plant the cover crop for the CCD cover crop project in late August.

Chase reported:

- He attended the Chamber of Commerce Non-profit Alliance Meeting for SRWG on August 14th
- He attended the Living on the Bank meeting in Helena on August 15th
- He attended the Bashin' Trash River Cleanup on August 17th.
- He attended the SRWG 25th Anniversary Events on August 24th
- He will attend the SRWG Board Meeting on September 11th.

Neuman reported:

- She gave a Water Pollution Advisory Council Update. The council discussed funding opportunities available for non-profits in depth. The last meeting was Friday September 6th.

Merja reported:

- He will be attending the Planning Board Meeting September 10th.

Wortman reported:

- She recently had a Resource Conservation Advisory Council committee meeting, all but one 223 grant application submitted for the first quarter of 2020 were funded.
- She is serving on the hiring committee for the MACD Executive Director

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- The MACD Convention agenda is available for viewing and registration is open. The convention will take place November 18th – 22nd.

- Newsletter articles are due September 20th.
- She gave an update on the CCD Cover Crop project.
- She gave a Stewardship for Small Acreages Workshop update. Nine people are currently registered, there are 30 spots available in total. She will be promoting this workshop heavily in the next month.
- She attended and help facilitate Bashin' Trash on August 17th
- She attended the Area III District Administrator Meeting on August 19th
- She facilitated the final Living on the Bank Speaker series on August 20th
- She attended the SRWG 25th Anniversary Bus Tour on August 24th
- She will attend the Chamber Ag Committee Meeting on September 6th
- She will attend the Area III Meeting on September 19th
- She will attend the Resource Professionals Meeting on September 26th

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- She shared the interactive *Living on the Bank* website with the board which was created to aid stream and riverfront landowners with management decisions. The website can be accessed here: <http://livingonthebank.org/2019/06/27/floodplains-2/>
- The 223-grant submitted in coordination with SRWG for CMZ Mapping on a reach of the Sun River was approved.
- Two cost share applications were received.
- She gave a recap of the 2019 River Campaign, highlighting successes, failures and areas where CCD can improve for next year's campaign.
- She facilitated Bashin' Trash River Cleanup on August 17th
- She attended the final Living on the Bank Speaker Series on August 20th.
- She facilitated the Area III District Administrator Meeting on August 19th
- She attended the SRWG 25th Anniversary Tour and Celebration
- She will attend the Montana Watershed Coordinator Council (MWCC) Watershed Tour – September 11th – 13th
- She will attend the USGS stream gauge meeting on September 18th
- She will attend the Area III Meeting at Bos Terra on September 19th
- She will attend the Eastern Heath Snail on September 24th
- She will attend and help facilitate the Resource Professionals Meeting on September 26th

PARTNER'S REPORT

CASCADE COUNTY EXTENSION

Rose Malisani, Ag & Natural Resources Extension Agent reported the following:

- She has had a busy summer with 4-H and other educational events.
- She will be presenting at the Stewardship for Small Acreages: Living on the Land Workshop on Saturday October 19th.

Cascade Conservation District

September 9, 2019

Page 4 of 6

- The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery will start taking tree orders in October.

CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner reported the following:

- He attended the Belt Community Work Meeting on June 20th.
- Cascade County approved its 2020 budget last week.
- He will be serving on a census committee for the 2020 census.

NRCS

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

- He obligated 2 EQIP Contracts, both are range projects that will increase water development for livestock and cross fencing.
- He is working to obligate one CSP contract.
- He had 12 CSP-GCI applications and 9 were obligated.
- He had 2 CRP sign-ups.
- He is starting to get CSP documentation in for payments. All documentation is required to be turned in by the end of September.
- He and Tenlee are moving forward with the Resource Professionals Meeting on September 26th.

SRWG

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

- She gave a recap of the SRWB 25th Anniversary Tour and Celebration
- SRWG has applied for a Big Sky Watershed Corp member and will find out this fall if SRWG is selected.
- The 223-grant for CMZ mapping was awarded.
- She is applying for the Cross Foundation Grant.

Merja moved to craft a letter in support of SRWG pursuing a Cross Foundation Grant. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Greenfields Irrigation District will shut irrigation water off soon. When that happens the SRWG Fish Rescue Team in coordination with FWP will go out and rescue any trapped fish.
- The next SRWG board meeting will be on September 11th in Fairfield.
- She will be attending the stream gauge meeting in Helena on September 18th.
- The Water Management Working Group will meet on October 24th.
- The Water Quality Working Group will meet on October 30th.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Emma Review – October 28th – 5pm

Cascade Conservation District

September 9, 2019

Page 5 of 6

- Strategic Long-Range Plan – October 28th – 6 – 9pm
- Ag Days Pre-Planning – November 4th – 5pm
- MACD State Convention – November 18 -21st

Meeting adjourned at 4:35PM