

MINUTES TO THE OCTOBER 15, 2019
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order at 12:31pm. A quorum was present.

Supervisors: Scott Brown, John Chase, Marc Shane, Stevie Neuman

Associate Supervisors: Jim Freeman, Jim Larson

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Guests: David Milkovich (Ameriprise Financial), Casey Gallagher (Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC)), Rick Higgens, Herman Hamilton

310: Ronda Wiggers

Shane moved to excuse Gayla Wortman, Elliot Merja and Pete Heryford from the October 15th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes as presented. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chase moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$14,297.66. Shane 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. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AMERIPRISE PRESENTATION

David Milkovich (Financial Advisor – Ameriprise Financial) presented to CCD regarding his suggested money market investments for surplus CCD funds that have been deposited into an Ameriprise account. David created a portfolio for CCD that explains how funds will be invested. Conservation Districts of Montana per law must abide by the requirement that any surplus money invested cannot decrease in value, thus the investment strategy must be conservative.

Shane moved to proceed with the investment strategy as suggested by David Milkovich. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARE

Per the CCD Cost Share application process applicants must present their application & proposal to the CCD Board of Supervisors.

CA-02-19 HIGGINS

This proposal is for weed control. The applicant is requesting some help in the purchase of chemical to spray and spot check several drainages. Applicant has sprayed over the last two seasons. This would be the third season.

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1200.00

Rick Higgins has developed an area of land he purchased into subdivisions. Ninety-eight percent of this land area is buildable. The remaining two percent include low lying drainage areas, these areas are infested with Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and a small percentage of toadflax and knapweed. He has sprayed over the last two seasons and estimates he will need to continue to spray over the next three to five seasons to get the weeds under control. He is requesting funds to purchase chemical.

CA-01-19 HAMILTON

This project is proposed to install a water well with a solar or wind powered pump. A stock tank will be installed for storage and overflow piped into the riparian area for habitat enhancement. The slough is currently fed by ground water. When the water table rises the slough has water, when belt creek goes dry in the summer, the slough dries up. By maintaining the riparian area around the slough, the applicant can control erosion and help maintain wildlife in the area. This will water a future shelterbelt and provide water for a garden and fire suppression as well as livestock use.

TOTAL REQUESTED: \$3500.00

Herman Hamilton highlighted the importance of a riparian area. The proposed well will keep the riparian area alive and will water a future shelterbelt. He stressed the importance of keeping this slough watered year-round to provide habitat and other ecosystem services.

An in-depth conversation took place reviewing and evaluating the above applications. Discussion also took place regarding the efficacy of the cost share program.

Chase moved to fund both CA-01-19 and CA-02-19 for the total amount requested. Amounting in a payment of \$1,200 to CA-02-19, \$3500 to CA-01-19 once verification of completion is made. Chase also moved to suspend the Cost Share Program indefinitely. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 BUSINESS

**CA-20-19 KURT & RONDA WIGGERS
NEW APPLICATION**

**SUN RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION**

This project was constructed in 2018 using a soft armoring stabilization design. The stabilized area failed during the runoff of 2019 and must be repaired. A combination of rip rap, vegetative armoring and bank slope reduction will be utilized to prevent further erosion. Class III rip rap will be placed starting at the toe and continuing at a 3:1 slope to an elevation of 3 above the ordinary high-water mark. Native fill will be placed behind the rip rap and sloped up to catch the existing bank. Voids in the rip rap will be filled with native soil and vegetated with will cuttings. A nonwoven geotextile fabric will be used under the rip rap to ensure treatments do not migrate into the existing soil. Rip rap will be keyed into the upstream and downstream bank.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-20-19 as submitted. Upper bank has well established vegetation that should be preserved if possible.

Shane moved to approve CA-20-19 as submitted with the recommendations made by the inspection team. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-09-19 – CALE BJORNSTAD
NEW APPLICATION**

**SUN RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION**

Application is to place rip rap along a berm on the bank extending 50 – 100 ft back toward the house. Approximately 500 linear ft of riverbank will be affected. Approximately 270 cubic yards of assorted waste rock will be buried with willows planted. An excavator will be used for this project. Very little sediment should enter the stream.

A site inspection was completed with Murray Strong of Pioneer Technical on August 20, 2019. The berm that the proposed rip rap will be placed is approximately 75' from the bank of the stream. It is well above the ordinary high-water mark and will not disturb the natural flow of or drainage to the river. The project does not appear to be in the floodplain.

Applicant has been informed that this is not a project that will require a 310 permit.

**CA-16-19 ERIC ANDERSON
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION**

This project will spot treat some sections of bank that have failed to maintain vegetation. Rip rap reinforcement will be placed at the toe of the bank in small 10 – 20' sections of bank stabilizing areas of erosion to preserve remaining will bushes and allow additional planting of native grasses and willows. The bank will be sloped at a 3:1 ratio where the bank is currently vertical. Applicant will place rock on a rock ledge extending up the bank only as needed. In many areas rock will be placed at the toe in order to fortify sandy soils in order to save willow bushes already on site. No vegetation will be removed. All work will be completed during low flows.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-16-19 as submitted incorporating native willow clumps sourced on site with soil behind the placement of rock in order to help establish woody vegetation.

Shane moved to approve with recommendations. Stevie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to approve CA-16-19 as submitted with the recommendations made by the inspection team. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-17-19AP HILLTOP COLONY – DAVID WIPF
NEW APPLICATION**

**SAND COULEE CREEK
FORD REINFORCEMENT**

Application is for a 5-year annual plan of operation to reinforce and maintain approximately 20 fords across Sand Coulee Creek so that heavy equipment can easily access cropland and livestock. Steep grades will be slightly sloped for easier access. Native onsite material of varied sizes will be placed on the stream bottom and approaches to reduce turbidity and erosion.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-17-19 as a 5-year annual plan of operation waiving the 15-day waiting period.

Shane moved to approve CA-17-19AP as submitted with the recommendations made by the inspection team. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-18-19 DENNIS & PAM PRINZING
NEW APPLICATION**

**BELT CREEK
BANK STABILIZATION**

Proposal is to remove the top two rail ties, slope the bank back and revegetate. Native rip rap of varied size will be placed in front of the bottom rail ties matching the upstream and downstream bank. The bottom ties will remain in place for stability. All work will be done during low flows. The upper bank will be revegetated with native grasses, shrubs and trees. The inspection team has requested a silt fence be installed on the downstream end of the project to minimize transport of sediment during spawning season and that incorporating soil and willow cuttings behind the rock would help to establish woody vegetation.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-18-19 as submitted, waiving the 15-day waiting period incorporating willow cuttings behind the rock to help establish woody vegetation.

Shane moved to approve CA-18-19 as submitted with the recommendations made by the inspection team. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-19-19 MISSOURI RIVER FORESTRY, LLP
NEW APPLICATION**

**CARPENTER CREEK
TEMP CULVERT**

The project is to install two culverts 18 inches in diameter 24 feet long. The culverts will be covered with native fill material, rock armor inlets and outlets, remove fill material & culverts following completion of use. This is a small E channel very high on the mountain. This will provide vehicular access to facilitate the removal of forest resources.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-19-19 as submitted.

Neuman moved to approve CA-19-19 as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisors:

Chase reported:

- He attended the SRWG Board Meeting on September 11th
- He attended the MACD Area III Meeting on September 19th
- He attended the Eastern Heath Snail Meeting on September 24th
 - The Eastern Heath Snail has been present in the Belt area for many years. They can survive in the soil for many years and when the conditions are right, they will proliferate. The Eastern Heath Snail feeds on a wide range of plants. They cannot currently be eradicated, current management includes crushing and burning. Impacts include contamination of grain, fruits, vegetables, and a vector of animal diseases.
- Both recent Living on the Bank meetings (September 26th & October 9th) were cancelled due to weather.
- He participated in the MRCDC conference call on October 15th
- He will attend the Living on the Land Workshop on October 19th.
- He will attend the SRWG Water Management Group Meeting on October 24th.
- Federally controlled reservoirs along the Missouri are high, they will start systematically draining them as they can to make room for reserves in the spring. There will be discussion regarding this at the upcoming SRWG Water Management Working Group Meeting on October 24th.

Shane reported:

- He attended the Bank/River Restoration Committee in Helena on October 10th with Atchison, this meeting was focused on discussion of current floodplain regulations.

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- The Chamber Ag Committee is hosting its 8th Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet, it will take place on Friday January 17th, we have received an invitation and sponsorship request.

Brown moved to purchase a grand sponsorship and additional table for the 8th Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- The Feral Swine Coordination Summit will take place Friday November 15th in Billings to foster coordinated efforts for management.
- She shared the new CCD brochure.
- She shared a new design for the Conservation Chronicle.
- MACD State Convention Registration is open, early bird registration (discounted rate) expires on October 31st.

- The Reclamation & Development Planning Grant in collaboration with DEQ Abandoned Mine Lands Program was submitted.
- Living on the Land Small Acreage Workshop is taking place on Saturday October 19th, it has sold out.
- Link and Atchison will present to a Homeowners Association regarding bank stabilization practices, this came about from John Chase's *Naked River Banks* article in the July issue of the Conservation Chronicle.
- Montana Farmer's Union and Montana Farm Bureau are implementing an "Ag in the Classroom" curriculum throughout the state, the curriculum is adaptable to K – 12 classrooms. This curriculum is approved by the office of public instruction. Montana Farmer's Union reached out to Link to potentially collaborate in Cascade County.
- Attended:
 - Chamber Ag Committee – September 12th & October 11th
 - Farmer's Union education collaboration meeting – September 13th
 - Area III – September 19th
 - Resource Professionals Meeting (Weeds) – September 26th
 - Riverwood Villa's HOA Meeting to discuss bank stabilization – October 7th
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Living on the Land – October 19th
 - Living on the Land discussion phone call – October 24th
 - Review & Strategic LRP – October 28th
 - Staff Work Session – October 30th
 - Ag Days Planning – November 4th
 - Riverwood HOA – November 6th
 - Youth Education Meeting – Farmer's Union – November 8th
 - Chamber Ag Committee – November 14th

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- The 223 Sun River CMZ Grant has been initiated.
- DNRC has put forth a Social Media Policy for Conservation Districts.
- She discussed the possibility of hosting an event to focus on plant and soil resiliency, focusing on the implementation process. Discussion took place regarding what soil health means; it means different things to different people.
- She updated CCD on the building search.
- She attended the Montana Watershed Coordination Council Missouri Headwaters Tour September 11th – 13th. The tour focused on visits to the Ruby, Madison, and Gallatin Watersheds. Atchison shared the highlights of the tour.
- She attended the MACD Area III Meeting on September 18th.
- Gayla was voted in as MACD Director for Area III
- She attended the Eastern Heath Snail Meeting in Belt on September 24th.
- She facilitated and attended the Resource Professional's meeting regarding weeds on September 26th, it was well attended with a successful outcome.

- She attended the Bank/River Restoration Committee in Helena on October 10th with Shane, this meeting was focused on discussion of current floodplain regulations.
- Shirt options for MACD Convention were discussed in depth
- Upcoming meetings/other
 - Living on the Land – October 19
 - CEMIST – Lewistown – October 23
 - SRWG Water Management – October 24
 - Strategic Plan Review – October 28
 - Sun River Follow up mtg – November 5
 - Eden Follow up mtg – November 7
 - Belt Follow up mtg – November 14
 - Montana AIS Summit – Helena - December 4-5

Neuman moved to change the date of the November Board Meeting to November 12th. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER'S REPORT

MISSOURI RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

Casey Gallagher, MRCDC Coordinator reported the following:

- She gave an update on the Living on the Bank project. Living on the Bank is an interactive website for landowners. Informative videos will be uploaded over the winter.
- The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee has submitted a plan to alter the flow of the Missouri River between Fort Peck and Garrison Dam to help the endangered pallid sturgeon spawn, this could have impacts on irrigation, specifically, intake water supply.
- A Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant was awarded to MRCDC, a full-time employee will be hired to manage the priorities as well as six big sky watershed corps members. The watershed corps members will be rolled out in 2020 and/or 2021.
- She will attend the Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) meeting on October 23rd.
- She made CCD aware of the Feral Swine meeting on November 15th.
- She shared a copy of her annual plan with CCD.

CASCADE COUNTY

Jim Larson, Cascade County Commissioner reported the following:

- He gave a permitting update on Madison Food Park, the permit was allowed with 17 conditions, nine have been appealed by the permitting agency, two of which are water related.

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- SRWG was allocated a Big Sky Watershed Corps member for 2020. The selection process will be underway this month and the Member will begin their term in January.
- She has started work on the Channel Migration Zone Map project [CCD/SRWG 223 grant]. She hopes to get someone under contract and working by the end of Nov.
- The SRWG board ok'd her to pursue funding to replace a crossing at Wayne Tonne's place on Muddy Creek. She is applying for DEQ 319 funds and Future Fisheries funds and would greatly appreciate a letter of support from CCD.

Neuman moved to craft a letter in support of SRWG pursuing a DEQ 319 & Future Fisheries Grant. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Retired teacher Dan Wilkins has been in touch with her about his Pull Your Share program. It sounds like the program is anticipated to grow again this year! He will most likely be applying for conservation district education funds again this year.
- SRWG will be participating in Giving Tuesday on December 3. On this date, PayPal and Facebook match a portion of the contributions made to participating nonprofits.
- The following upcoming SRWG meetings are open to the public:
 - Water Management Working Group: October 24 at 1 pm at the First Interstate Bank basement conference room, 12 NW 3rd in Great Falls
 - Water Quality Working Group: October 30 at 1 pm at the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce basement conference room, 100 1st Avenue N in Great Falls
 - SRWG Board Meeting: December 5th at GID at 1pm.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CCD November Board Meeting – November 12th

Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm