

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

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order at 12:35pm. A quorum was present.

Supervisors: Scott Brown, John Chase, Marc Shane, Pete Heryford

Associate Supervisors: Jim Freeman, Kathi Lahti

Staff: Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link

Guests: Tracy Wendt (Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)), Bailey Rapp (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)).

Shane moved to excuse Gayla Wortman, Stevie Neuman, and Elliot Merja from the December 9th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the November 12, 2019 minutes as presented. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$14,829.88. Heryford 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.

BUILDING DISCUSSION

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

310 BUSINESS

**CA-22-19AP – RONALD BRINKMAN
NEW APPLICATION**

**SUN RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

Application is for a boat dock on the Sun River. The dock is an L shaped dock extending 15' into the stream. The dock is anchored with 2" steel posts. There is a ramp that extends from the bank to the

dock. The bank is undisturbed and remains in its natural state. The bank gradually slopes up 4'. This application must be approved by the County Commission.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Cascade County Board of Commissioners approve CA-22-19AP as a 5-year annual plan of operation for the use of a boat dock on the Sun River.

Shane moved to recommend that the Cascade County Board of Commissioners approve CA-22-19AP as a 5-year annual plan of operation for the use of the boat dock on the Sun River. Heryford seconded. Motion carried.

PARTNER'S REPORT

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- CMZ Mapping
 - Karin Boyd's team was selected, SRWG is currently working on the contract, work will hopefully start in January
 - She will get in touch with CCD staff to craft a press release regarding this project.
- The Muddy Creek Task Force has been reinvigorated, Muddy Creek residents are now attending SRWG board meetings and are staying engaged, in hopes to in the future have representation on the SRWG board.
- Several landowners along a specific stretch of the Sun River are working with SRWG and CCD to address flow and channel maintenance. A long-term solution needs to be found to address the issues taking place.
- Upcoming Events
 - February 22 – Missouri River Flyfishers Annual Banquet will again feature SRWG which will hopefully help with funding for gages
 - February 27 – Volunteer Water Quality monitoring program training – procedures
 - Late May – Pull Your Share student weed pull
 - July 11 – Weed Whacker Rodeo

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bailey Rapp, Supervisory District Conservationist reported the following:

- He has finished his Long-Range Plan
- He has submitted his Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) proposal to address weeds in the Belt Area. He shared in detail the important aspects of this proposal and his plan should the TIP be funded.
- He approached CCD about the possibility of applying for a NACD Technical Assistance Grant.

DISTRICT REPORT

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

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- She attended the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Summit. The Summit was discussed in depth, from the quality of the presentations, content, food, and takeaways. Moving forward it will be important for Conservation District's to have a seat at the table as the state continues to manage and monitor aquatic invasive species. NRCS doesn't have dedicated programmatic funding to address aquatic invasive species, or invasive species in general.
- Chair Wortman has been appointed to the MACD Reorganization Committee.
- The Soil Health Symposium will take place in Billings, February 4th – 5th, 2020.
- The 2nd Biennial Water Summit will take place in Helena, March 3rd – 4th, 2020.
- The Big Sky Country National Heritage Area was discussed in depth.
- Carey Ann Haight investigated PILT funding in Cascade County and provided CCD with a written response. This was in response to a resolution that passed at MACD State Convention regarding Conservation District's having access to PILT funding. She shared how difficult allocation would be.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - RCPP Meeting – January 8th
 - 310 Public Hearing for Rule Change – January 15th
 - Ag Appreciation Banquet – January 17th

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- Attended:
 - Chamber Ag Committee November 14th
 - MACD Convention – November 18th – 22nd
 - AIS Summit – December 4th – 5th
 - This Summit was very well organized and informative.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Chamber Ag Committee December 12th

Shane moved to pay \$1,000 in dues to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to pay \$375 in dues to the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to write a letter of recommendation to reappoint John Chase as Urban Supervisor to the Cascade Conservation District (CCD) Board of Directors to Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly. Heryford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors:

Brown reported:

- He attended MACD State Convention November 18th – 22nd.

Chase reported:

- He discussed the Naked Riverbanks issue with Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) at the MRCDC Meeting at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) Annual Meeting in late November, he has suggested MRCDC incorporate the issue of Naked River Banks into their work plan. Fish, Wildlife and Parks is interested in cooperating on this issue specifically with maintaining riparian forests.
 - Ag producers contribute to sedimentation and erosion and exacerbate this issue more so than private landowners.

Shane reported:

- He attended the Joint Stream Restoration Committee Meeting on Friday September 6th in Helena.
 - Discussion took place regarding a select group of contractors attending and/or achieving a Certified Floodplain Management Certificate (4-day class). Shane posed the questions, could this class be simplified so that contractors could easily attend and complete it?

Heryford reported:

- He attended Montana Cattlemen's Association in Lewistown. The American Prairie Reserve (APR) was discussed in depth.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm