

MINUTES TO THE FEBRUARY 10, 2020
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
USDA Service Center
CORRECTIONS IN RED

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Associate Supervisors: Kathi Lahti

Staff: Emma Link

Guests: Tracy Wendt (Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)), Emma Kelsick (SRWG), Bailey Rapp (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)), Mikayla Moss (Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)), Connor Mertz (BSWC), Autumn Christenson (Montana Conservation Corps), Dan Wilkins (“Pull Your Share” Program).

Shane moved to excuse Pete Heryford and Tenlee Atchison from the February 10th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Neuman moved to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes as corrected. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$12,935.89. Merja 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. Wortman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A FY19 Financial Review took place on February 7th. Supervisors Gayla Wortman, Marc Shane and Associate Supervisor Kathie Lathi completed the review. A recommendation was made to create a separate filing folder for our liability insurance.

Shane moved to approve the FY19 Financial Review. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WORK PLAN UPDATES/CALENDAR REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read from left to right for chronological order

February – Building Acquisition (ongoing)

March 2nd – Budget Review – 10AM

March 27th – Newsletter Articles due – Bailey, Marc, Gayla

March – City Commission Meetings (ongoing)

April 13th – Board Meeting – 12:30PM

April – Personnel Reviews

April 20th – 21st – Envirothon

May – Special Meeting for Personnel Policy & written maternity leave plan due

May 19th & 20th – Pull Your Share

June – Approve Budget

June 10th – 12th – MACD Spring Board Meeting – Helena

June – SRWG CMZ Completion

June – City Commission Meetings (ongoing)

July 13th – Board Meeting – 12:30PM

July – Resolutions

August – Elk Creek CMZ (SRWG)

September – Future of Ag Days?

December – Legislative Breakfast?

February 25th – Envirothon Meeting

February 27th – Area III DA Meeting

March 9th – Board Meeting – 12:30PM

March – Bylaws changes

April 1st – NRCS STAC Meeting – Missoula

April – Ag Days Planning

April – Budget Review

April – Public Meeting for SRWG CMZ

May 10th – Board Meeting

May 14th & 15th – Ag Days

May 2020 – River Campaign initiated

June 8th – Board Meeting – 12:30PM

June 24th – 25th – Supervisor/Education Summit

June – NRCS TIP Plans due for 2021

June – CMZ Public Meeting

July – Picture Retakes

August – Resolutions

August – Project Rain Barrel

September – Area Meeting

November – Legislative Breakfast?

DISTRICT REPORT

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- She shared the specifics of the “Pull Your Share (PYS)” Program. PYS is a noxious weed education program spearheaded by retired Great Falls High School teacher Dan Wilkens. High school students from Great Falls High are bused up to designated public land sites to hand pull knapweed, there is a classroom component as well. PYS 2020 will take place May 19th, 20th. PYS needs a sustainable funding source. SRWG is taking over PYS coordination and finding a sustainable funding source in the future. Dan is presenting to the board at 4pm today.
- The annual MACD Due’s invoice was received.

An informal discussion took place regarding MACD dues. Link will craft a letter to MACD explaining our payment.

Merja moved to pay \$2000 in dues to MACD. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- She attended the Soil Health Symposium in Billings on February 3rd – 5th. The focus of the symposium was incorporating regenerative agriculture into your operation as allowable. Presenters believe regenerative agriculture is the only way forward.
- Simms is hosting a Career and Technology and Education Gala (including FFA). CCD has been invited to attend and sponsor a table.

Merja moved to provide \$150 to Simms CTE in lieu of the CTE Gala. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Registration is open for the Montana Water Summit in Helena March 3 – 4, 2020.

Wortman moved to have Link attend the Montana Water Summit. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Link gave an update regarding the promotional video for CCD. She is meeting with Banik Communications on February 11th.

Supervisors:

Wortman reported

- Cascade CD as a board will look at MACD by-laws and recommend changes if and where needed.
- She attended the MWCC Annual Meeting on January 21st in Helena. It was an excellent meeting. She referenced the “third west”, which are rural communities throughout the U.S. that don’t have access to services provided by larger communities thus business endeavors and provided services must be done strategically and differently to meet the needs of these communities.
- She attended the MACD Supervisor Leadership training in Billings on January 22nd and 23rd. She shared with the board the different types of “learners” and what that can mean when you are **communicating** with people and in a leadership position.
- She held a Reorganization Conference Call on February 6th. She gave an update regarding the work of the MACD Reorganization Committee. Some districts believe it is a done deal, which is not the case. This committee is still in the exploratory stage and will not move forward until they have heard from a majority of CD’s throughout Montana.
- She will attend the Montana Water Summit March 3rd – 4th in Helena.
- March 6th is the next MACD Reorganization Conference Call
- March 9th is the next MACD Board Meeting Conference Call.
 - An MACD personnel committee has been formed
 - The MACD State Convention will take place in Bozeman in 2020, it will be two days long.

Brown reported:

- He attended the Soil Health Symposium February 3rd -5th, 2020.
- He gave a building update.

Wortman appointed Scott Brown, Elliot Merja, and Tenlee Atchison to the Building Acquisition Committee.

Chase reported:

- He attended the “Naked River Banks” meeting on February 6th, MRCD was in attendance. The group is discussing ideas on how to tackle the issue.
- MRCD Coordinator resumes are due February 20th, interviews are scheduled to take place February 26th.

Shane reported:

- Shane brought the following issue to the boards attention in March of 2019: The City of Great Falls is storing snow (March 2019) northeast of town off Highway 87. Due to the topography in that area and an already breached retention pond, when the snow melts and surface runoff ensues, adjacent local land could be adversely affected. It is important to note there are other parties at play in the surface runoff issue. That said, this issue has since been resolved. Once approval from DEQ is met the City of Great Falls will be placing pipe to combat the issue.
- MT DOT has a grant available that specifically focuses on trail restoration and maintenance and infrastructure.
- He attended the Stream Restoration Meeting in Helena on January 30th. The committee is working on finding evidence to support changing floodplain regulations at the state and national level.

Neuman reported:

- She held and attended the 310 Rule Change Meeting on January 22nd.

Merja reported:

- He gave a Planning Board update, there have been a lot of applications to develop areas along the Vaughn frontage road, as of late that has been the Planning Boards focus.

310 BUSINESS

The following resolution was read into record by Emma Link

WHEREAS, pursuant to 75-7-116, MCA, the Board of Supervisors of each conservation district may revise rules setting standards and guidelines for projects in natural perennial-flowing streams in the district; and

WHEREAS, the standards and guidelines must meet or exceed the Administrative Rules of Montana, 36.2.401 through 410, adopted by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the revision of proposed rules to reflect HB383, extended time period for appeals from 15 to 30 days was held as required by law on January 22, 2020, after due notice was given.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cascade Conservation District having considered all the comments received at said public hearing, hereby adopts the rules attached hereto as Appendix A.

DONE and dated this 10th day of February 2020.

Resolution carried unanimously.

NRCS MOU

The completed NRCS MOU has been presented for signage to all Conservation Districts in Montana , it discusses the working relationship between the NRCS and Conservation Districts, it also discusses parameters for tracking items and labor that CD's and NRCS utilize when sharing office space. CCD will review. The MOU is due in May 2020.

PARTNER'S REPORT

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bailey Rapp, Supervisory District Conservationist reported the following:

- He needs CCD signature on five CSP GCI Contracts
- He has been in touch with the forest service in Neihart regarding fire mitigation planning. The Forest Service Ranger in that area will host a Wildfire Community Prep Day on May 30th from 10am – 1pm to educate landowners about why it is important to have a Firewise property. He has requested that CCD sponsor this event.

Autumn Christianson introduced herself to the CCD Board. Autumn is the Missouri River Watershed Program Coordinator; her position was created through a partnership between MRDC and Montana Conservation Corps and funded by the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant. Her job is to travel along the Missouri River corridor and collect resource issues, concerns, and success stories and align programs and solutions for community members, producers, etc. She also has three BSWC members that are working with her.

- He will hear soon if his TIP addressing weeds in the Belt Park is funded.

Discussion took place on how to proceed with the Local Work Group. Moving forward NRCS and CCD will go out into the designated areas throughout Cascade County (there are 5) and hold landowner meetings, they should be informal. Caution should be taken in using the word “work” on the informational/promotional flyer. He will get back to CCD regarding specific dates so that they can be included in the newsletter.

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- The Water Management Group will meet March 25th @ 1PM in the Basement Conference Room at the USDA Service Center. A no-host happy hour will follow @ 4PM at MT Pints. Stream gauge funding and the players involved will be discussed as well as pinpoint knowledge gaps in what information people need when recreating on the Sun.
- A webpage will be created that will display stream gauge data in an understandable format. This page will also highlight how reservoir levels could affect your recreation plans.
- SRWG Board Meeting will take place on March 26th.
- The DEQ grant to fund a crossing replacement was funded for a landowner on Muddy Creek.

- The CMZ Mapping project is underway

MACD BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Wortman appointed Pete Heryford to the MACD Bylaws Committee.

PULL YOUR SHARE PROGRAM

Dan presented to CCD what the PYS program is, how it has grown and the need for a sustainable funding source and lastly, his vision for the future of the program.

Shane moved to donate \$2,000 to the PYS program. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm