

MINUTES TO THE APRIL 13, 2020
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
Due to COVID-19 this meeting took place via conference call.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:36pm. A quorum was present.

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

Associate Supervisors: Kathi Lahti, Jim Freeman

Staff: Emma Link, Tenlee Atchison

Guests: Tracy Wendt (Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)), Bailey Rapp (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)), Mikayla Moss (Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)), Connor Mertz (BSWC), Autumn Christenson (Montana Conservation Corps).

Shane moved to excuse Pete Heryford from the April 13th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Brown moved to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes as corrected. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$21,699.92. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

DISTRICT REPORT

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- She shared with the board possible virtual meeting software. Options include WebEx or Zoom.

Wortman moved to utilize the video meeting software WebEx until the CCD Board can safely hold in person meetings. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- She updated the board and gave details regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FRCRA). Specifically, she discussed how the mandates would apply to CCD and what benefits CCD staff have according to this Act.
- Envirothon 2020 was cancelled. CCD will be taking over Envirothon most likely in 2022. That said, Ag Days and Envirothon happen within a couple weeks of each other making it difficult for staff to accomplish both tasks. The board discussed the possibility for rescheduling Ag Days to a different time of year and/or collaborating more closely with a more involved partner who could take some of the workload off CCD staff.
- Ag Days 2020 is scheduled for Thursday May 14th and Friday May 15th. Discussion took place on whether to cancel Ag Days 2020 due to public health concerns.

Wortman moved to cancel Ag Days 2020. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Tenlee Atchison, Emma Link, John Chase, and Stevie Neuman have been appointed to the Ag Days Restructuring Committee. Link will chair the committee.
- She gave an update on the CCD video project. The project will be discussed again in May.
- The Education & Outreach Water Quality Mini grant was submitted to SWCDM for the Project Rain Barrel Event. SRWG will hear by the end of April if the grant was awarded.

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- Rai Hahn approached CCD about sponsoring a science fair award. CCD and Hahn will co-host a field day where winners will be bused to Belt Creek to utilize the water quality equipment that is currently housed at Central Catholic High School.
- She assisted with the Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) meeting in Neihart on March 10th.
- She led a statewide MACD EO meeting regarding COVID-19 protocols.
- The last Naked River Banks meeting took place on March 17th. The group has a solid plan to address “Naked River Banks”. They will move forward with the demonstration project at the HOA owned property, specifically; tracking the process and progress via photos, video, and media; gathering the media into a database; and obtaining a grant that would fund instructional and/or marketing video(s) to educate Montanans on this important issue. The group is also looking for a site adjacent to ag land where ranching for rivers could get involved.
- She attended the last CEMIST Conference Call.
- She attended the Rolling Rivers Trailer Conference Call. Storage of the trailers was discussed in depth; most trailers are stored outside. The possibility of including a pre-borrow checklist or damage deposit was discussed as well as possibly creating a curriculum or instructional video for use.

Supervisors:

Wortman reported

- She suggested the possibility of hosting the 2021 MACD State Convention here in Great Falls. The board will discuss in detail later.

Shane reported:

- He attended the January 30th Stream Restoration Meeting in Helena and has the minutes available.
- He will check the air in the tires of the CCD tree planter.

BUILDING DISCUSSION

Atchison gave an update on the CCD building process and progress. An informal discussion took place regarding the current progress made.

Shane moved to withdraw the buy-sell agreement with Catalyst on the Skyline Property due to uncertain financial times. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 BUSINESS

**CA-05-20 – Phillips 66 Pipeline
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
PIPELINE REPLACEMENT**

This application is for a pipeline replacement across the Missouri River. Phillips 66 owns and operates two parallel Glacier Pipelines which transport crude oil from Canada to the Phillips 66 and ExxonMobilie Refineries in Billings. The applicant is proposing to construct a new 12-inch diameter pipeline crossing of the Missouri River adjacent to the existing pipelines using Horizontal Direction Drill technology.

Entry point: Approximately 550’ northwest of the riverbank

Exit point: Approximately 730’ southeast of the riverbank

Depth: 60’ below the thalweg elevation of the channel in hard bedrock and well below the scour depth in the valley fill

After the new pipeline is in place and operational, the existing segment of 12-inch pipeline will be removed from within the river channel involving the following:

1. During low water conditions, the material over the pipe will be excavated and stockpiled adjacent to the trench while the pipe is being exposed.
2. Pits will be excavated to expose the segments of the pipe in the riverbank areas on both banks where it will be cut and capped.
3. Work would begin in the middle of the channel with two excavators working in opposite directions towards the bank. If excavation must occur within the wetted channel, the excavated streambed material will be placed adjacent to the trench on the downstream side as near to the bank and outside the streamflow as practicable. A hard plug will be left in place between the overbank pits and the trench to ensure flow from the channel does not enter the pit.
4. When the excavators are in reach of the bank, the excavated material will be placed on the overbank area outside of the wetted channel. The hard plugs would then be removed, and the pipe would be lifted, and slings attached to move the pipe laterally out of the channel and onto the adjacent over bank area where it would be cut into smaller segments and prepared for proper disposal.

After the new pipeline is tied in and the existing pipeline removed, the construction areas will be reclaimed. The disturbed areas will be re-contoured to pre-construction conditions and reseeded using an approved upland seed mix and monitored for vegetation regrowth and noxious weeds.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-05-20 as submitted.

Wortman moved to approve CA-05-20 as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-06-20 – NORTHWESTERN ENERGY
NEW APPLICATION**

**MUDDY CREEK
PIPELINE REPLACEMENT**

This is a new application to reroute 800 feet of natural gas pipeline using a combination of horizontal directional drilling and open trench construction. The horizontal drilling portion of the project will be approximately 650 feet and will be under Muddy Creek. The open trench will be approximately 75' on each end of the bore to tie into the existing line. The depth of pipe under Muddy Creek will be approximately 2 times the calculated scour depth. The average calculated scour depth is 3.4 feet in that area. So a burial depth of approximately 7 feet under the creek should be reached. The consultant is recommending at least 5 feet burial. Muddy Creek at this location is incised with nearly 10' vertical banks. The natural gas pipeline is the only nearby structure.

After the reroute pipe is tested and in use the exposed/abandoned pipe will be cut, capped and removed from the creek. There will be minimal impacts to the banks. The only work near the banks will be a person cutting off the exposed pipe at the edge of the banks and removal from the stream. All disturbed areas will be reseeded in consultation with the landowners.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-06-20 as submitted.

Chase moved to approve CA-06-20 with as submitted. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER'S REPORT

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bailey Rapp, Supervisory District Conservationist reported the following:

- The NRCS MOA has been attached to BoardPaq and is ready to be signed. He has not yet prepared the cooperative working agreement with CCD.
- He held an outreach meeting for his funded TIP focused on weeds in the Belt Valley area on Tuesday March 10th. The aim of this meeting was to gather interested participants to apply. He currently has 10 participants, with a total acreage of 446 to be treated. He will be requesting a modification to this TIP, specifically, a second year sign up as there is increased interest.
- He will work with Link on the Coke Oven Flats test plot project for the DEQ. The target seeding date is May of this year.
- He met with Autumn Christenson to discuss project collaboration. Autumn will be assisting the NRCS Field Office and CCD with program outreach as well as Local Work Group Meetings.

- He is working with Craig Biggart and others to prepare two additional TIPS to submit for the 2021 funding year. They include a Livestock Water Development TIP in the Sand Coulee area and an Irrigation Project (irrigation efficiency) based TIP in the Sun River area.

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- All SRWG staff are currently working from their homes. Since COVID-19 surfaced it has been difficult to start on funded projects.
- She is assisting Bailey with the Irrigation TIP for the Sun River area.
- SRWG was awarded a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management grant. This grant will provide nearly \$100,000 over two years to SRWG for the Muddy Creek Resource Restoration Design Project.
- The “Pull Your Share” Program has not formally been cancelled but it is a likely possibility due to COVID-19. She will let us know when a decision is made regarding that event.

MT CONSERVATION CORPS

Autumn Christenson, Missouri River Watershed Program Coordinator reported the following:

- Most of her time as well as her BSWC members (Connor Mertz & Mikayla Moss) has been spent organizing a riparian watershed management workshop. The current date for this workshop is July 21st, 2020. It will take place at the Augusta Youth Center as well as a designated field location.
- She will be creating a report that will be shared with all partners quarterly.
- She will create a flow chart depicting the structure of MRRIC, MRCDC, MT Conservation Corps so that CCD can understand what each group does and how they work together.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm