

MINUTES TO THE JUNE 8, 2020
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
Due to COVID-19 this meeting took place via WebEx Video Conferencing

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wortman called the meeting to order at 12:38pm. A quorum was present.

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

Associate Supervisors: Jim Freeman

Staff: Emma Link, Tenlee Atchison

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

310: Sherry Meador

Merja moved to excuse Pete Heryford and Scott Brown from the June 8th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the May 11, 2020 minutes as presented. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$16,146.72. Wortman 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. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shane moved to accept the proposed budget for FY 2021. Wortman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 BUSINESS

**CA-09-20 – SHERRY MEADOR
NEW APPLICATION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT RAMP**

This is a new application for a boat ramp on the Missouri River. The site for the ramp is well vegetated and currently sits at a 3:1 slope at that location. The bank will be sloped back at a 45-degree angled with the flow of the water and 8"x 8"x 10" wide concrete logs cabled together will be built and placed on site. Streambed is shallow and gravelly in this reach of the river.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-09-20 with modifications. Boat ramp will consist of 2" washed gravel base instead of concrete logs as recommended by the contractor. Side walls will be sloped at a 3:1. Disturbed areas will be revegetated with a native seed mix or using existing sod mats if weed free. The upstream and downstream ends of the ramp will be sprigged with dormant willow at the interface with the river in the spring and/or fall to stabilize the upstream and downstream ends of the ramp.

Shane moved to approve CA-09-20 with the modifications recommended. Merja seconded. Motion carried.

**CA-04-19 – MISHA TRACY
EXTENSION/MODIFICATION**

**SUN RIVER
BOAT DOCK**

This is a request for extension. The permit was to build a U-shaped dock 24 ft – 30 ft long by 6 ft wide anchored with permanently installed anchor posts on the riverbank beginning approximately 20 feet from our west property edge. The anchors on the bank will be steel posts (possibly set in concrete) 6 feet apart. The dock will be anchored in the river with removable auger posts. The dock will be fabricated using barrels or high-density foam for buoyancy. A plank will be used to access the dock from the bank. Applicant has decided to purchase a prefabricated dock similar in size. This permit should be an annual plan of operation.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-04-19AP for a modification to a prefabricated EZ dock and modify this to a five-year annual plan of operation.

Shane moved to approve the recommended modification for CA-04-19AP as well as modify the permit to a five-year annual plan of operation. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CA-05-19 – DAVID BLESKIN
EXTENSION**

**MISSOURI RIVER
BOAT RAMP**

Permit was approved June last year for a boat ramp on the Missouri River. There is approximately a 2" high bank in this area. Bank will be sloped, and some native material will be added to create an even 2:1 slope to the water. A concrete deadman will be buried to secure concrete logs on the lower deck of the ramp. The logs will sit on a crushed gravel base. The logs will extend into the stream approximately 4 – 6 feet. Rip rap will be placed on the up and downstream side of the ramp to prevent erosion.

RECOMMENDATION: Extend CA-05-19 for one year.

Merja moved to approve a one-year extension for CA-05-19. Neuman seconded. motion carried.

**CA-06-19 – MARVIN CROFF
EXTENSION**

**BELT CREEK
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

This permit is to replace a bridge over Belt Creek above Neihart. The bridge will be narrowed from 60' to 40' by installing concrete abutments with wing walls. Rip rap will be placed around the abutments.

Nothing will encroach into the stream. Material will be filled in behind the abutments. Equipment will ford the stream to build abutments and place steel beams. The deck of the bridge will be made from 3" treated timbers.

RECOMMENDATION: Extend CA-06-19 for one year.

Wortman moved to extend CA-06-19 for one year. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT REPORT

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- The Sun River Mitigation Tour was held on 6/2/2020. This tour was held to make landowners aware of what resources are available to them regarding bank stabilization and loss of land due to flooding of the Sun River. Agencies in attendance included: Montana Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, SRWG, and Cascade County Planning.
- The SRWG Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) Outreach Meeting will take place June 23, 2020.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistance Grant has been submitted. We were ranked number three out of six in Montana. We are still waiting to hear if we are funded.
- Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) is working on their strategic plan. There is a meeting in Lewistown on June 17th that she will attend.
- The Ranching for Rivers Cooperative Partner Meeting will take place June 18th in Stanford.
- Leave was request.

Wortman moved to approve Atchison's leave request for July 14th – 24th, 2020. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- She sent out an Ag Days survey to all teachers that were signed up to attend in 2020 (Ag Days 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19) to gauge their interest in holding Ag days at a different time in the year. Just over half of the teachers sent the survey responded.
- She is working on the CCD website.
- The July Newsletter has been completed.

Supervisors:

Wortman reported

- She will attend the MACD/SWCDM Spring Board Meeting June 9 & 10, 2020. The following issues are on the agenda as well as much more
 - The MACD board will interview three people for the Executive Director position
 - They will look at bylaw revisions
 - Lastly, they will discuss the reorganization committee's study response.

Shane reported:

- He will attend the next Stream Bank Restoration Meeting on July 7th

Merja reported:

- A landowner along the Sun River has had his pump site fall into the river. It is an emergency situation.

Chase reported:

- There is a Living on the Bank conference call scheduled for next week. Phase one of the project has been completed.
- The Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan has been published. There is still an opportunity to object to it.

PARTNER'S REPORT

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- She was heavily involved in the Sun River Mitigation Tour on 6/2/2020.
- The Weed Whacker Rodeo will take place July 11th, 2020
- She gave a SRWG CMZ Mapping update – the CMZ map river reaches will be extended as more funded has become available.

Emma Kelsick, SRWG BSWC Member reported the following:

- SRWG is hosting the Project Rain Barrel Fundraiser & Workshop on July 25th at the Beacon Icehouse from 10am – 3pm. Registrants will learn about runoff issues and water conservation, they will also receive a rain barrel to assemble and decorate and take home for personal use. A \$40 donation is suggested to attend. Virtual options are being explored.
- She has been working with Shane and Chase, as well as other conservation district employees and supervisors from other counties to create a Rolling Rivers Trailer Guide.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bailey Rapp, Supervisory District Conservationist reported the following:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding through the Belt Creek Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) has been pre-approved, ten landowners applied, and all will be funded. Contracts are currently being prepared.
- One Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application for salinity control will be obligated
- The Great Falls Area currently has 77 application that have been pre-approved.
- Craig Biggart (Soil Conservationist) is working on submitting a TIP for livestock water in the Stockett area. He will submit at the end of June in hopes for 2021 funding. The irrigation proposal for the Sun River will also be submitted for 2021.
- He is working with Autumn Christenson to set up an outreach event for phase two of the Belt Creek/Park TIP.
- He has been promoted to the Assistant State Conservationist in NE Colorado, he will be leaving by the end of the summer.

MT CONSERVATION CORPS

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

- The Riparian Management Workshop has been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19. The committee plans to hold it in 2021.
- She is keeping CCD in the loop regarding the resource concerns in Augusta. She reminded the board that she can help facilitate education and outreach meetings.
- The Ranching for Rivers Cooperative Partner Meeting will take place June 18th in Stanford.
- She has been helping with TIP outreach for the funded Belt Creek Watershed TIP here in Cascade County. She has put together with Atchison and Rapp a six-step outreach plan.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24pm