

MINUTES TO THE MAY 11, 2020
CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING
Due to COVID-19 this meeting took place via WebEx Video Conferencing

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order at 12:42pm. A quorum was present.

Supervisors: Gayla Wortman, John Chase, Stevie Neuman, Elliot Merja, Scott Brown, 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)), Mikayla Moss (Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)), Connor Mertz (BSWC), Autumn Christenson (Montana Conservation Corps), Carey Ann Haight (Cascade County Attorney's Office), Amber Hobbs (Cascade County Planning Department).

310: Star Darko, Melissa Hoenisch, Sue Effertz

Wortman moved to excuse Pete Heryford from the May 11th regular meeting of the Cascade Conservation District. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Chase moved to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes as presented. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shane moved to approve unpaid bills and authorize payment for the total of \$16,963.37. 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. Neuman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BYLAWS DISCUSSION

Supervisor Heryford sits on the MACD bylaws committee but was not available to give an update of the committee's progress thus far. Chair Wortman gave an update. A vast majority of the suggestions given to the committee regarding bylaw changes and amendments were taken. These bylaws are at the point

where they can be voted on, this will most likely happen at state convention in the fall of 2020, possibly at area meetings.

310 BUSINESS

CA-07-20 – Spectrum Pacific West, LLC NEW APPLICATION

LITTLE MUDDY CREEK UTILITIES

Application is to place a fiber optic telecommunications cable from Great Falls, MT to Cascade, MT. A horizontal directional drill will be used with pipe extending beyond the banks to bore one crossing under Little Muddy Creek. A minimum depth of 42" will be maintained under the bed of the stream. No vegetation will be disturbed within the ordinary high-water mark of the stream. Any disturbance outside of the site boundaries will be reseeded with a native grass mixture. Receiving pits will be dug for the HDD to reenter existing cable access point and set vaults.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-07-20 for Little Muddy Creek as submitted.

Aerial placement using existing communication poles over the Missouri River do not require a 310 permit currently.

Merja moved to approve CA-07-20 as submitted. Chase seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CA-08-20 – RIVERWOOD HOA NEW APPLICATION

MISSOURI RIVER BANK STABILIZATION

This is a new application for bank stabilization on the Missouri River. This project will be used as a demonstration site for the River Campaign and Naked River Banks. A combination of bio engineered practices will be employed. Fascines or brush revetments will be placed at the toe of the bank anchored with stakes into the stream bed. Trenches will be dug into the upstream and downstream end of the project. The Bank will be sloped back at a 3:1. Willow will be placed behind the fascines in willow stake, a coir lift, bundle wall or root ball clump to promote growth and stabilization. Fill will be used as necessary to secure the lifts and promote growth. Coir matting will be used to wrap the lift sections and secure any exposed bank so vegetation can take hold.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve CA-08-20 as submitted.

Chase moved to approve CA-08-20 with as submitted. Merja seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Atchison shared a 310 inspection sign up calendar for FY 2020, Supervisors are encouraged to sign up for monthly inspections, there is room for two supervisors per inspection. Once completed this schedule will be sent to the Cascade County Planning department.

DISTRICT REPORT

Assistant: Link reported the following to CCD:

- Budget meeting will take place Wednesday May 13, 200 at 9AM via WebEx.
- The USDA is limiting the number of staff from each office to one employee per day. CCD staff will alternate days.
- She discussed her maternity leave plans. She will take 2 to 3 weeks off right away then work 20 hours a week to total 12 weeks of maternity leave.

Wortman moved to approve Link's maternity leave plan. Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- She contacted Shonny about hosting Envirothon in Great Falls in 2021, the Envirothon committee will discuss it and report back.
- The Project Rain Barrel grant was funded through the SWCDM Education & Outreach Water Quality Mini Grants.
- She has been working on developing a marketing video/campaign to showcase what CCD does for Cascade County and the community. Things have not progressed very quickly due to COVID-19. This project will continue to progress in the coming months.

Administrator: Atchison reported the following to CCD:

- She gave an update on this year's River Campaign. This year's theme is Naked River Banks (defined as encouraging proper river bank vegetation, soft bank stabilization practices, and the importance of a riparian buffer in bank stabilization). The Riverwood HOA has a stretch of riverbank next to White Bear Fishing Access that needs stabilization and they have agreed to allow us to use project as a demonstration project.
- She has been working with Chris Evans (Lewis & Clark CD), Emma Kelsick (SRWG), and Marc Shane to develop a Rolling Rivers Trailer user manual for the entire state.
- Pull Your Share has been cancelled due to COVID-19.
- She will be meeting with Autumn Christenson (MT Conservation Corps), and Bailey Rapp (NRCS) to discuss CCD's role in Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) Outreach.
- She gave an update regarding the withdrawal of our buy-sell agreement on the building.

Supervisors:

Wortman reported

- As chair of the MACD Reorganization Committee she is preparing a report regarding the reorg for the MACD Spring Board Meeting in June.

Shane reported:

- The City of Great Falls is working on a project NE of town by the Malteurop plant. He has spoken with the city engineer about this project, it is a three phased project. He specifically asked about the restoration of the ag ground that will be affected by this project. He hopes the city engineer will be able to attend a future meeting to discuss this.
- He is still involved in the Stream Restoration Committee.
- He is working with Chris Evans (Lewis & Clark CD), Emma Kelsick (SRWG), and Tenlee Atchison to develop a Rolling Rivers Trailer user manual for the entire state.

Merja reported:

- Landowners adjacent to the Sun River and its tributaries continue to struggle with flooding and loss of land. Atchison suggested setting up a tour or outreach event for landowners in this area to discuss potential funders and partners that may be able to cost share on projects and the

permitting agencies that are involved in that. This would be a great resource for these landowners.

Chase reported:

- He is will be taking pictures for the Rolling Rivers Trailer user manual creation project.

Neuman reported:

- The May WIPAC meeting has been cancelled.

STREAM GAUGES

- Currently three USGS stream gauges (Augusta, Simms, Muddy Creek at Vaughn) along the Sun River are billed through CCD, SRWG then raises the funds to cover that cost. SRWG then pays CCD, who pays USGS. The reason it is set up through CCD is so that USGS can cost share for the gauges. Per USGS policy this cost share is only available for government entities, SRWG would not qualify for this cost share. The price for these gauges has doubled making it difficult for SRWG to pay.
- SRWG is attempting to find other entities who have stake in and use the stream gauge data to assist in paying for them. The goal is to take the billing responsibility off CCD.
- Anyone who uses any of the USGS stream gauges across the state should fill out the stream gauge survey that is currently circulating across email and social media.

PARTNER'S REPORT

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Tracy Wendt, SRWG Coordinator reported the following:

- The CMZ project has been slightly delayed.
- She has been able to get started on past and current Muddy Creek projects.
- She assisted in writing the Irrigation Project TIP for the Sun River.
- The Weed Whacker Rodeo will take place July 11th.
- There is a SRWG board member retreat the evening of July 10th.

Emma Kelsick, SRWG BSWC Member reported the following:

- She is helping create a Rolling Rivers Trailer user guide.
- She gave details regarding the Project Rain Barrel Workshop event taking place Saturday August 22nd. This event will tie together water conservation, water quality, and how to be a good steward of our waters. It is aimed to engage the urban community, regarding the impacts of urban living on water quality such as, stormwater run-off, and water supply shortages. The attendees will learn how to assemble and maintain their rain barrels.
- This project was awarded a SWCDM Education & Outreach Water Quality Mini Grant.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bailey Rapp, Supervisory District Conservationist reported the following:

Cascade Conservation District

May 11, 2020

Page 4 of 5

- His office has finished ranking all the EQIP applications and CSP renewal applications, he is waiting to hear on preapproval, when that is granted contracts can be written.
- There is a new interface tool that the NRCS is using for mapping and project planning, technical difficulties abound.
- The Fort Benton Field Office is going to fill two Soil Conservationist positions.
- The USDA Service Center is still closed for public appointment until further notice.
- The Great Falls Field Office will prepare two additional TIPS for the 2021 FY, an irrigation project in the Sun River area and a stock watering project in the Eden area.

MT CONSERVATION CORPS

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

- She shared her quarterly report
- The Riparian Workshop in collaboration with Lewis & Clark CD will take place July 21st in Augusta at the Augusta Youth Center.
- She will be meeting with Bailey Rapp (NRCS) and Tenlee Atchison (CCD) to discuss her role in Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) Outreach.

Meeting adjourned at 3:11pm