

SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2004 @ 9:00 A.M.
USDA BUILDING

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Wivholm, chairman. Those present were Tim Holte, Kent Nathe, Rom Hedges, Jonathon Bolstad, Steve Hove supervisors; Monica Friedrich from NRCS, Mickey McCall from the CD.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JULY

Fergie's Pizza (June)	34.00	<u>DEPOSIT IN CHECKING</u>
MBMG	8,324.95	6/24/04 10,000.00
S.C. Fair	25.00	6/08/04 3,000.00
Valley Tele	38.39	
M. McCall	1,520.66	<u>DEP in M. Fund</u>
		Chris Ator (planting) 99.00
		SC Treas 1,862.36
		J. Stevens (trees) 54.00
		K. McCoy (trees) 25.00
		State of MT 9,970.18

Jonathon made the motion to approve the July treasurer's report. Tim seconded. Motion carried

MINUTES OF JUNE, 2004:

Kent made the motion to approve the June minutes. Jonathon seconded. Motion carried.

NRCS – MONICA:

21 EQIP contracts have been sent to the area office for approval. Some have been approved and some have been sent back for format changes.

One contract for saline seep funding was denied – the producer seeded the area on his own.

Randy Phelan will be in Plentywood tomorrow and may discuss funding additional contracts.

Area engineering hurdles remain unresolved. No evidence of 3rd party engineering assistance or additional training as suggested at the May Board meeting.

Greg Snell, NRCS Area Soil Scientist sample properties for Marlowe Onstad, Gordon Abar, and Dave Skillingberg. No report as of yet, but preliminary findings indicate that irrigation on Onstad's soil would be beneficial, but irrigation on Abar's and Skillingberg's land would not. Jeff suggested that we request Dave Skillingberg write the District a letter defining his intentions regarding his Water Use Application.

The Froid Farm Tour was successful again this year. Several office personnel were in attendance.

Susan Ibsen, of the Plentywood FSA office will be leaving for Colorado next week. She has accepted a Supervisory position there. We will miss her. Karen Budd will assume her duties.

We are working on new projects, designs, etc. Discussions will be held with the local work group regarding EQIP timing. The consensus is that the entire EQIP process should begin earlier. It is no longer necessary for Board Members to sign EQIP contracts, only conservation plans.

A meeting will be held tomorrow at the Plentywood office regarding the funding of Piping Plover habitat.

A Bird Management Class will be held in Wibaux on July 20. Ryan, Tim, and Mickey will attend.

A Riparian Assessment Class will be held in Winnet on August 3 and 4. Ryan and Mickey will attend.

The supervisors signed Sod buster plans for James Bakken, Eldon Krogstad, Gary Brensdal, Ken Simonson, Jody Lagerquist, Eric Simonson, Marlowe Onstad, Norman Lossing, the Nathe Ranch, Ron Ueland and Loren Pulvermacher.

MICKEY McCALL

Summer well monitoring schedule. Measuring wells twice a month.

Soil samples taken at Onstad's, Abar's and Skillingberg's.

We are now monitoring 15 sites on the Big Muddy on a weekly basis for pH, salinity, conductivity, temperature, water level, dissolved oxygen, and total dissolved solids. Up to 5 other sites are monitored for flow rates and we will be completing biological sampling as soon as we receive training from the Fort Peck Tribes.

We have yet to receive the final contract from MACD for the LEP grant. We had to adjust the budget and scope of work to meet the reduced amount of the grant.

Jon Reiten will be in Sheridan County next week to work with Karen Miller of FWS.

They will be doing ground surveys on abandoned oil well sites in an attempt to locate excessive salt in the soil. Jon plans to stay 2 to 3 weeks doing these ground surveys and aquifer related tasks.

Mickey will attend the bird management workshop in Wibaux on July 20, the Eastern Plains RC & D quarterly meeting in Jordon on July 21, and Riparian Assessment training in Winnet on August 3 & 4.

Mickey requested the Board consider acquiring a district credit card. The card would be used primarily for Internet purchases and employee travel. Mickey will talk to Thelma about getting a card. Thelma and Mickey will have signature authorization.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOU with MBMG – one year agreement. Jeff read the agreement and Tim made a motion to approve the agreement and sign it. Kent seconded and the motion passed. Mickey will mail the appropriate copies.

The board reviewed a letter from Greg Mills (DNRC) regarding the District's pending RDGP grant for Reclaiming Oil Field Brine-Contaminated Soils – Phase II. The District contact person for this grant has been changed from Thelma to Mickey.

WATER RESERVATION:

The Board reviewed a letter from Bud Clinch, Director of DNRC, stating the water hearing will be March 16 and 17, 2005. The meeting can be held in Plentywood. We will be applying for more water authorization for the water reservation. Board members

discussed the need to clarify the provisional permits with the State regarding irrigation projects outside the Clear Lake Aquifer. There are a couple of projects pending for the Big Muddy Aquifer.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tim reported on the grass drill repair progress. So far he has replaced discs, packer wheels, and seed cups. The drill also needs a new tire. Tim estimates the repairs at approximately \$1,000 so far. Tim will prepare a checklist for use with the new rental policy. We will also need access to Tommerup's equipment yard outside of regular business hours. Mickey will check with Thelma regarding the agreement we have with Tommerup.

The District history book was reviewed. The suggestion was made to update the book this winter.

The question of insurance on the Froid Research Farm buildings was discussed. Thelma and Lyn Guenther, (RCCD) will need to coordinate.

CORRESPONDENCE @ PASS AROUND:

The supervisors looked through these files.

ADJOURNMENT:

Kent made a motion for adjournment. Tim seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Thelma Williams
Office Manager

Jeff Wivholm, Chairman
DATE