

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2006 @ 12 PM
USDA BUILDING**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 PM. by Acting Chairman Tim Holte. Present were: Jon Bolstad, Kent Nathe, Manuel Vazquez, Supervisors; Steve Hove, Associate Supervisor; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; and Monica Friedrich (NCRS).

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2006 Meeting

After a review of the minutes from the November 14th meeting, the motion to approve the minutes was made by Jon Bolstad and seconded by Kent Nathe. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial reports were reviewed. Judy reported that CD #7003517 in the amount of \$2761.78 due for renewal November 13, 2006 had been transferred along with an additional \$7238.03 from the Rocky Mountain Bank Money Market account to a new CD# 7007172 totaling \$10,000.00 as discussed at the November meeting. Current interest rate on that CD is 5.25% with a maturity date of May 15, 2007. Judy also reported that the \$215.21 Research Farm deposit that had been questioned at the November meeting was a reimbursement for expenses from the June Research Farm Tour. The supervisor's health insurance was transferred from and expense item on the Profit and Loss Statement to a liability account on the Balance Sheet as suggested by Todd Marsh at the November meeting. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jon Bolstad and seconded by Kent Nathe. The motion carried. The bill payments totaling \$3347.61 as listed on the Expenses by Vendor Summary was reviewed. A motion for approval was made by Jon Bolstad and was seconded by Manuel Vazquez. The motion carried. The checks were signed.

NRCS – Monica:

- Finished the last of the CRP contract extensions for FSA. Obtained CD signature on Russell Rice contract, set to begin in 2010.
- Working on Continuous CRP applications/contracts. Practices include saline seep, farmable wetlands, filter strips, trees.
- Bringing EQIP contracts up to date for practices which were not completed in 2006. A large amount of practice installation occurred in 2006, thanks in part to the 15% Energy Initiative bonus, but there were still a fair number that were not able to be completed.
- Received EQIP funding for 2007 at the same level's as last year:

Cropland.....	\$115,017
Range.....	38,339
Multiple Land Use.....	<u>38,339</u>
Total.....	\$191,695

This may amount to as few as 4-5 contracts being funded with this allocation.

- EQIP No-Till Special Initiative signup continues through Dec. 15. Contracts should be awarded around mid-January.
- Staff has attended a number of training sessions in the past month: GPS, Precision Ag, and Livestock Pipeline. Travel may soon be curtailed due to budget constraints.
- Monica gave the presentation on EQIP for Livestock Producers at the annual Sheridan County Stockgrowers meeting. It was well attended.
- Air quality testing was completed in the USDA building, and toxic mold was found in the ceiling insulation in the storage area in the back of the building. Those areas are currently sealed off, and the building owner is repairing the problem.
- FSA received Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds of \$100,000+. They will spend this money first on producers who hauled water, then on any practices already installed. FSA did not feel there would be enough to fund any new practices.
- The NRCS vehicle which is extra since Buckie resigned will be transferred to another location. Mickey has been using this vehicle for his field work. Alternate vehicle arrangements will need to be made for District work.

Unfinished Business:

- Christmas Party
The date change to Friday, December 15 was discussed and at meeting there were 24 confirmed guests.
- Rut Filler
Mickey is continuing further price checking, as well as checking with other counties that currently have a rut filler. Transporting and storage were also discussed.

Mickey's Report

Aquifer

- Well measurements on once per month schedule
- Additional Funding?

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Working on the data, maps, and the sampling and analysis plan.

USGS

- Project changed from 30 sites with 4 wells on each site to 3 wells on each site
- Received purchase order from USGS for project
 - One year with 2 additional year options

- \$11,000 per year
- Work required –well measurements and data reports
- Searching for drilling equipment.
 - NRCS drill not available
 - No additional money available for drilling
 - Drilling cost comparison

223 Grants

- 223 grant request for \$8,000 for a storage building was denied
- 223 grant request for \$12,196 for equipment replacement was approved for \$10,000
 - Equipment to be purchased:

● Electronic well measuring tape	\$ 720
● Steel well measuring tape	\$ 750
● 4 Level Troll in-well digital data loggers	\$ 8,000
● 2 Tru Track in-well digital data loggers	<u>\$ 530</u>
Total	\$10,000

USFWS

- Attended Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge meeting regarding their 15-year plan.

Misc.

- Assisted Judy
- Worked on newsletter
- Updated web site
- Attended MACD State Convention

New Business:

- 223 Grant Approval
The Board reviewed the 223 Grant approval in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Equipment Replacement/Improvement. It was also discussed that we reapply for the storage building at a later date. Types of storage were discussed. Costs would have to be researched.
- Dry Prairie Board Member Appointment
Kent Nathe made a motion to reappoint Gordy Kampen. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. The motion carried on Gordy’s reappointment providing his approval.
- USGS Purchase Order-Received – Well Monitoring Reports
The Purchase Order from USGS was received for 1 year at \$11,000.00 with an additional 2 year option. The Board stated that more assurance was necessary that the second and third year would be guaranteed. Tim Holte requested that the Contractor Name be changed on the USGS Purchase Order.

- 2007 State Winter Grazing Seminar – Harlowton, January 17th – 18th
The Grazing Seminar dates were discussed. At this time no one was planning to attend.
- Computer Grant
DNRC has funding available for Conservation Districts to upgrade aging computers. Mickey had checked on prices for replacing Judy’s computer and reported that it could be replaced for approximately \$490.00 through a USDA purchase and pending DNRC grant approval of up to \$550.00. Jon Bolstad made a motion for approval if the grant is approved, Manuel Vazquez seconded and the motion carried. The request will be sent to Laurie Zeller, DNRC.
- Water Use Invoices Mailed
The water use invoices were mailed November 22, 2006.
- Newsletter
The newsletter mailing was discussed. It was discussed as to whether to continue to do the newsletter every two months or do the newsletter quarterly. The costs were discussed, revising the mailing list and adding the Chamber members to the list was suggested. Tim suggested that an article about the election by acclamation process be put in the next issue. Further discussion on the newsletter will be brought up at the January meeting.
- Budget
Mickey presented a proposed budget plan for the forthcoming year.
- NRCS Vehicle
Monica and Mickey both brought to the attention of the Board that the NRCS vehicle that Mickey has been using to monitor wells would be transferred to another NRCS office at any time. After some discussion, it was decided to be further discussed at a future meeting.
- Mileage Increase
The District was notified of new mileage rates of \$0.485 effective Jan. 1, 2007.
- Research Farm Oil Lease
The 5 year oil lease proposal for the 19.65 mineral acres at the Research Farm was reviewed. The Board felt that the 13% royalty offered was too low. The motion was made to negotiate a 15% royalty by Jon Bolstad. Manuel Vazquez seconded the motion. Motioned carried

The pass around files were reviewed by the members present.

Adjournment:

- Jon Bolstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Kent Nathe. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: Jan. 9, 2007