

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

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. Present were: Jeff Wivholm, Tim Holte, Rom Hedges, Kent Nathe, Todd Marsh, Manuel Vazquez, Supervisors; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, District; Monica Friedrich (NCRS) and Jon Reiten (Bureau of Mines).

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Approval of Minutes – July 10, 2006 Meeting**

Manual Vasquez made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Holte, the motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

The financial report and bill payments were reviewed. Tim Holte made a motion to approve the report and the bill payments; the motion was seconded by Rom Hedges, the motion carried.

**NRCS – Monica:**

- EQIP Projects  
The costs of pipeline and fencing materials have gone up. Energy Initiative of 15% was offered on 2004 and earlier contracts. The majority of the projects were completed. The deadline of 8/25/06 has been extended to 12/29/06.
- CRP Program  
The contracts will be renewed for 10 years. The farmers are obligated to do maintenance halfway through the contract. Amber McCall, summer temp, had returned to college after helping with CRP contracting. She had done a great job. The contracts had to be revised and resigned. At this time the contracts are almost completed.
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)  
They have offered approximately \$70 to \$100 per acre for 30 years. The landowners, Eidsness, Friedrich's, and Olson's felt that the appraisal was too low. Strand's was being looked at today.
- Debbie Clairmont  
The summer trainee, returned to college Sept. 8, 2006.

- 2006 EQIP Applications  
Tim and Monica are reviewing the EQIP applications. They are due 11/15/06 and will be funded after January 2007. Special Initiatives for Piping Plover and No-Till will be offered again. Jane Holzer with MSCA and Greg Snell, soil scientist were here to look at 6 saline seep applications. Area Engineers came to look at 2 AFO/CAFO (feedlot) applications.
- FSA Drought/Disaster Status  
Monica has been working with FSA on the drought/disaster status within Sheridan County.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Equipment Inventory  
Mickey passed out Equipment Inventory Lists with estimated values. He will get actual values, list purchase dates and replacement values. Tim suggested checking with the insurance company as to whether the insurance covers actual cost or replacement values. Jon Reiten suggested that the equipment use be rented to the grants. It was further discussed that an equipment rental fund could be established for replacement and repairs.
- Probe Truck from NRCS  
Mickey asked if the Board would be interested in purchasing a probe truck from the NRCS via a surplus sale. The Board declined.
- Salt-Be-Gone  
Todd Marsh was concerned about the ingredients in Salt-Be-Gone and the EPA regulations regarding the product and the storage containers. Jon and Mickey will check into the ingredients and regulations.
- Grant Status Reports & Grant Information Summaries  
Mickey reported on the active grants and the status of each.
  - **Oil Brine Grant-**
  - **Ground Water Management -273 Aquifer**
  - **Big Muddy – 319 –DEQ**
  - **Capacity Bldg Grant**
  - **Admin Grant**

The Board complimented Mickey and felt that his reports were well presented. They also suggested that they would like to have quarterly summaries presented at future meetings.

### **New Business:**

- New Pivot Inquiries  
Rick Hilyard, Paul Overgaard, Dave Thuesen and Dave Friedrich have inquired about new pivots. Pat Reilly with the DNRC is providing funding for exploratory

drilling and would like a written commitment prior to assistance. Since some well drilling would be outside the Clear Lake aquifer, we would have to know the quality of the water and the affect on the city wells. Mickey stated concern as to how much assistance the Board would want him to give outside the aquifer and if the project would be a district permit or a state permit. Tim Holte will discuss this issue with the DNRC.

- USGS  
The USGS Prairie Pothole Project was discussed. At this time the project is to be extended for two years. The contract is being prepared by USGS. The contract will be for \$22,000 for the drilling and monitoring of approximately 90 wells.
- MOU Agreement  
The Board reviewed the MOU agreement between the Bureau of Mines and the SCCD for the Clear Lake aquifer. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Kent Nathe; motion passed.
- DEQ-319 Restart & DEQ – Information / Education Grants  
There are grants available for projects involving children. Monica suggested that Casey Oksa may have ideas. There are also mini-grants available for education purposes. If anyone has any ideas, let Mickey know as the next round will be coming up.
- BSPPA Symposium  
The BSSPA Symposium will be held in Whitefish Oct. 25-27. The board approved to send Judy, as Rob Rung will meet with Judy to discuss the 319 grant.
- Montana Watershed Coordination Council Symposium  
The meeting is to be held Dec. 5 – 7 in Great Falls. It was decided to discuss this meeting at the next board meeting.
- Election of Supervisors by Acclamation  
It was decided that the 3 supervisors running for re-election, Jon Bolstad, Tim Holte, and Rom Hedges; would like to have their names on the November ballot if time allowed. Judy would call Mary Lynch at the Clerk & Recorder's office Wednesday morning to check to see if the names could be put on the ballot.
- QuickBooks Accounting System  
Discussion was held regarding the accounting system. Judy proposed that we order QuickBooks Pro 2006 from Gaffaney's, subscribe to the payroll up-dates, and order computer check blanks and window envelopes from Deluxe Forms. The motion for approval was made by Tim Holte, seconded by Rom Hedges, motion carried.

- Jon Reiten Report  
Jon discussed the fact that more drilling and more understanding of the aquifer is necessary. He suggested that there may be possible potential for future drilling as the North Dakota Water Commission has crossed the border into Minnesota with testing to follow the aquifer, and feels that they could eventually come into Montana. He reported that the Bureau of Mines website has detailed aquifer data available. He also reported that his Dept. is updating the mapping of the aquifer.
- Newsletter  
The publishing of the newsletter for the Conservation District was discussed. It was decided that we would try to publish an issue for Nov-Dec.
- Outstanding Checks  
There have been 3 outstanding checks that have been on the books for sometime, Chet Walsh -7/07/95 in the amount of \$114.25, Bruce Jacobsen – 3/10/03 in the amount of \$102.16, and Clint Cartwright – 2/06/06 in the amount of \$50.00. It was decided to void the checks to Chet Walsh and Bruce Jacobsen because of the dates and wait on the check for Clint Cartwright as it is 2006.

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson  
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman

Date: