

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
January 9, 2007 @ 12 PM  
USDA BUILDING**

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. Present were: Tim Holte, Jon Bolstad, Kent Nathe, Supervisors; Steve Hove, Associate Supervisor; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; and Monica Friedrich (NCRS).

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Oath of Office:**

Supervisors Jon Bolstad, Tim Holte, and Rom Hedges were re-elected by acclamation. Jon Bolstad and Tim Holte signed the Oath of Office forms and were given the oath by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. Rom Hedges was unable to attend the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2006 Meeting**

After a review of the minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> 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. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Kent Nathe. The motion carried.

**Bills to Pay**

The bill payments totaling \$1,712.75 including Supervisor mileage for 2006 as listed on the Expenses by Vendor Summary were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance and miscellaneous bills totaling \$4,771.67 paid prior to the meeting. A motion for approval for all bill payments was made by Kent Nathe and was seconded by Tim Holte. The motion carried. The checks were signed by Jeff Wivholm and Tim Holte.

**NRCS – Monica:**

- Staff is primarily working on EQIP contracting for 2007 funds. It looks like all 10 no-till applications under the special initiative for the area will be funded.
- Dave White, State Conservationist, is being detailed to Washington, D.C. to work on the new Farm Bill for the remainder of the year. Chuck Gordon, State Soil Scientist, will be acting for the next 120 days.
- WRP appraisal will be made on Strand's application if they choose to continue. Eidsness, Friedrich, and Olson did not want to pursue another appraisal if the procedure has not changed.

- Received a report of ponding on Lowell Young property above Box Elder dam. Concern was this is the site of a dam improperly built by FWS several years ago, which had been breached. Field conditions did not allow close inspection of the area, but we are not aware of any further dirt work taking place in the area. We'll look again in the spring.
- Ron Anderson of the Plentywood City Council came in for assistance in measuring Box Elder Dam levels, as they are currently below the marker on the primary outlet structure. We will work with him and our engineers on this.
- Dave Cybulski came in for permission to drain an area in their crop field which is ponded from the outlet on Brock Hjelm's waterspreading system. Tim Solberg has made a wetland determination, and finds that they are free to complete the drainage.
- Tim Hendricks, Area Engineer stationed in Culbertson, has been up surveying the waterspreading system by the Blue Moon, belonging to Simonson Brothers. We have a contract to improve the drainage and efficiency of this system, potentially solving a growing salinity problem.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Rut Filler  
Mickey reported on 3 types of rut fillers on which he had received information and price quotes varying range from \$2988.00 to \$9300.00. The TrackMaster looked to be the one with the best options. Transporting would be an issue and it would have to either be put on wheels or trailer mounted. He had also talked with Conservation Districts in Miles City and Forsyth that have rut fillers available for rental. They are renting for \$100 per day and \$200 per week. Supervisors discussed the rock shank option as well as the possibility of having one made. If anyone is going through Miles City or Forsyth, it may be a good idea to stop and take a look at their rut fillers. It will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- Vehicle  
Monica again reported that the NRCS vehicle will be transferred elsewhere. District employees could previously be listed as volunteers and were able to use NRCS vehicles. The vehicle is not insured for anyone other than NRCS personnel nor do they want the liability or repair costs. The possibilities of the District purchasing a vehicle, leasing a vehicle or paying mileage were discussed. Jeff Wivholm was going to talk to Dave Cash with NRCS about insurance and maintenance repairs for an NRCS vehicle. It was also suggested to check the State Pool availability, check on a #223 Equipment Grant, and check with Jon Reiten for input. Steve Hove suggested checking with the refuge. The availability of a USGS vehicle was also discussed. It will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- Newsletter  
It was discussed at to whether to continue newsletter mailings every two months or mail quarterly and increase the circulation numbers. The last mailing was sent to approximately 470 producers for a cost of \$315.00. After further discussion,

Jon Bolstad made a motion to do the newsletter quarterly, increase circulation and keep the annual cost approximately the same as we would pay for 6 publications per year. Tim Holte seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- USGS Purchase Order

Mickey had visited with Rick Sodja regarding the purchase order and project and was told that there would be no additional funding available for drilling. The purchase order cannot be issued for more than 1 year at a time even though it is to be a 3 year project. Mickey had checked drilling costs with Montana Salinity would be about \$5,000.00. The first year could be about a \$2,400.00 loss, but could be recovered in the second and third year, providing the project continues. Steve Hove mentioned Erickson Services of Sidney may be worth checking for drilling prices. Mickey will contract them as well as further verifying costs prior to committing to USGS. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Mickey's Report**

#### Aquifer

- Well measurements on once per month schedule
- Dave Thuesen received approval for a \$5,000 grant from the DNRC Irrigation Development Department, administered by Pat Riley, to explore for irrigation water.
- Additional Funding? Discussion
- Because of the recent interest by four producers to develop irrigation wells outside the water reservation boundaries, Tim Holte recommended that we not go outside of our water reservation and let the state process the applications. After discussion with the State, DNRC and Jon Reiten, Tim made the following motion "rather than extend the current boundaries – stay within the boundaries of the original water reservation for water authorities". Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Technical Advisory meeting will be held March 8, 2007. Mickey will get information on the pivots of Eric Nielsen, Tom Enander, and Roger Schmitz prior to the meeting and report at the next board meeting.

#### Other Irrigation

- Four producers have received approval for \$5,000 grants from the DNRC Irrigation Development Department, administered by Pat Riley, to explore for irrigation water.
  - Dave Friedrich, Rick Hilyard, and Paul Overgaard
  - Well location and drilling will probably be monitored by Jon Reiten of MBMG as a representative of Pat Riley

#### Big Muddy 319 grant

- No change

#### USGS

- Project will be 30 sites with 3 wells on each site
- Received purchase order from USGS for project for first year
  - Purchase orders for 2 additional years cannot be issued until just prior to the year. PO depends on USGS receiving funding from NRCS
  - \$11,000 per year
  - Work required –well measurements and data reports  
-drilling & casing well
  - Discussed changing contractor name with Gail Walker, USGS Contracting Officer
    - Contractor name is the point of contact.
    - Must be an individual
    - She will issue a modification with another name if desired
- Searching for drilling equipment.
  - NRCS drill not available
  - No additional money available for drilling
  - May be able to reduce costs for drilling wells
- USGS may provide vehicle
  - 1995 Ford Ranger 4x4 w/topper
  - 6 cylinder w/ approximately 80,000 miles
  - Needs front hubs & bearings – approximately \$1,200
  - May be able to transfer ownership to District or make it available to District

223 Grants

- 223 grant request for \$10,000 for equipment replacement status
  - Equipment to be purchased:
 

• Steel well measuring tape	\$ 750
• 2 Tru-Track in-well digital data loggers	<u>\$ 530</u>
Total	\$ 1,280
  - Equipment Ordered:
 

• Electronic well measuring tape	\$ 771
• 4 Level Troll in-well digital data loggers	<u>\$ 7,947</u>
	\$ 8,718

Rut Filler

- Three types investigated
  - Level Master Track Filler
    - 3 pt. hitch
    - No Hydraulics
    - Rosebud Co. CD in Forsyth rents one for \$100/day, \$200/wk
    - Lead time 4 to 6 weeks
    - Cost = \$2,988 fob Thurston, NE
  - Bill Coffey Rut Hog
    - 100 hp tractor w/front weights
    - 3 pt. hitch
    - Need hydraulics
    - Needs a trailer

- Custer Co. CD in Miles City rents one for \$100 for the first day and \$25 for each day after
    - Cost = \$4,900 by end of month, then \$5,400 fob Billings
  - Oteco Rut Filler
    - Small tractor required
    - Single pin hitch
    - Need hydraulics
    - Uses filler
    - Lead time 4 to six weeks
    - Cost = \$9,300 fob Wheatland, WY

#### Storage Building

- Bob's Pickup & Delivery
  - Rentals only
  - 27' - \$135/mo.
  - 45' - \$175/mo.
- Gary Brekke
  - Containers in Bozeman for \$3,600
- Dale Nelson
  - Thinks he can find a 40' dry box for around \$1,000.

#### Misc.

- Assisted Judy & Updated web site
- RC&D Meeting January 31, 2007 in Sidney, MT

#### **New Business:**

- 273 Funding  
The 273 funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 per year for well monitoring projects may be transferred to Water Resources rather than a DNRC line item. Steve Schmitz will be contacted as it is important for our funding that we remain a DNRC line item.
- DNRC Irrigation Development  
The 4 producers, Rick Hilyard, Dave Thuesen, Dave Friedrich, and Paul Overgard, have received the grant funds. Jon Reiten will be assisting Pat Riley as a representative for the drilling.
- Nemont 310 Permit  
Nemont will be laying fiber optics in the county and will have 29 various creek crossings. According to their information only 2 crossings will need permitting as Sheridan County has only 4 perennial streams, Big Muddy, Beaver, Whitetail and Eagle. A definite time for the work to be done is has not yet been determined.

The pass-around files were reviewed by the members present. The Supervisors 2006 mileage checks were passed out and the January meeting expense sheets were signed.

**Adjournment:**

- Jon Bolstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Kent Nathe. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,  
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman  
Date: February 13, 2007