

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
USDA BUILDING**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. Present were: Tim Holte, Jon Bolstad, Kent Nathe, Todd Marsh, Rom Hedges, Manuel Vazquez, Supervisors;; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; and Monica Friedrich (NCRS).

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2007 Meeting

After a review of the minutes from the January 9th meeting, the motion to approve the minutes was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Jon Bolstad. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial reports were reviewed. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Kent Nathe and seconded by Tim Holte. The motion carried.

Bills to Pay

The bill payments totaling \$9,990.07 as listed on the Expenses by Vendor Summary were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance and payroll taxes totaling \$7,697.86 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:

- We are continuing EQIP contracting. The final tally looks like this:
 - 10 No-Till contracts (area funding)
 - 1 rangeland contract
 - 3 cropland contracts
 - 2 multiple land use contracts

In addition, we received funding for 2 AFO/CAFO (feedlot) applications from statewide funding. These will require engineering assistance, and are expected to be contracted by mid-March.

- The NRCS agency is looking at some restructuring and efficiency changes from a national perspective. Decisions made from recommendations will be announced around July 1.

- The Sheridan County News reported in City Council notes that they would be seeking assistance from NRCS to determine water levels in Box Elder Dam. We have requested assistance from an appropriate agency engineer to provide this assistance.
- One conservation plan for Nelson Farms Partnership was signed by the SCCD.

Unfinished Business:

- Rut Filler
After discussion on the rut filler, it was decided that Jeff would stop in Forsyth on his way through and look at the rut filler that the Conservation Service has for rent.
- Vehicle
Mickey reported that he had checked with Jerry at the Refuge and he will keep us in mind if a vehicle comes available for sale and also notify him of government auctions. He also checked with the commissioners as to the possibility of licensing or insurance with the county vehicles. At this time they did not feel that it was a possibility. Mickey will continue checking on buying or leasing options.
- Newsletter
The January – March edition of the newsletter was passed around for the Supervisors to preview prior to sending it to The Greeter for printing. The mailing list was also expanded.
- Computer Grant Approved
Our request for funds to offset the cost of a computer purchase was approved in a letter from Linda Strangland of the DNRC dated January 19, 2007. The \$550.00 for the computer purchase is an amendment to our administrative grant. The cost to the District will be approximately \$600.00 The computer has arrived and will be installed today if possible. The old computer will be used for a spare should any of the other computers develop problems

Mickey’s Report

Aquifer

- Well measurements on once per month schedule
- Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for March 8, 2007

Other Irrigation

- No progress reported at this time.
- Operators have been advised to arrange for drilling services as soon as possible.

310 Permits

- Investigated 2 Nemont Telephone sites on the Big Muddy Creek.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Invoice from the second quarter of 2005 for \$6,280.84 has been submitted.

Oil Brine Grant

- Project completed and grant closed.
- Did not use \$8,625.96
- Final recommendations for reclamation of future sites still to be submitted.

USGS

- No progress

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 \$ 530
 - Total \$ 1,280
 - Equipment Received:
 - Electronic well measuring tape \$ 813
 - 4 Level Troll in-well digital data loggers \$ 8,038
 - \$ 8,851

Rut Filler

- Three types investigated
 - Level Master Track Filler
 - Rosebud Co. CD in Forsyth rents one for \$100/day, \$200/wk
 - Cost = \$2,988 fob Thurston, NE
 - Bill Coffey Rut Hog
 - 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
 - Cost = \$9,300 fob Wheatland, Wy

Storage Building

- Gary Brekke
 - Containers in Bozeman for \$3,600
- Dale Nelson
 - Thinks he can find a 40' dry box for around \$1,000.

R C & D

- Glasgow group serious about ethanol plant
- MDU looking at ethanol plant near Sidney

- Missouri River Dredge may be used by US Army Corps of Engineers
- Carbon sequestration is picking up steam. Eastern Montana is now listed as a place to do the soils studies and CRP, grassland, no-till chemical fallow, and continuous cropping established since are now eligible for carbon credits.
- RC & D will be provided an informational program in the near future and Sheridan County will probably be the first area contacted.
- I am recommending that the District become the coordination point for this effort.
- Carbon credits are currently selling on the Chicago Climate Exchange for \$4 per ton. An acre of crop or grassland sequesters approximately 0.5 tons per acre.
- Informational web sites: www.ncoc.us and www.chicagoclimateexchange.com.
- Mickey McCall was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Executive Board for another 2-year term. He was also appointed to represent the Eastern Plains RC & D at the State RC & D Association.

Misc.

- Assisted Judy & Updated web site
- Newsletter ready for publisher

New Business:

- District Questionnaire
The MACD board is requesting input from the Conservation District administrators and district board members. The questionnaire was passed out; the supervisors will review them and return the comments to the office.
- 273 Funding
Tim Holte discussed the 273 funding with Steve Schmitz of the DNRC in Helena regarding the possibility of the funding being transferred from DNRC-CARDD to Water Resources rather than a DNRC line item. Steve feels that the funding is okay and will be watching as the legislative session proceeds. He contact us if anything looks like changes will be made/
- Nemont 310 Permit
Nemont will be laying fiber optics in the county and will have 2 Big Muddy crossings. Mickey and representatives from Nemont and the engineering firm went out to review the 2 crossing sites. One was located near Reserve and the other on Singletree Road. It was determined that it would not have to be considered a project as long as Nemont stays with the original plan of action and notifies us when they begin work on the project.
- 2006 Conservation Farmer
Jon Bolstad made a motion to nominate Jim & Elaine Clark as the 2006 Conversation Farmer. Todd Marsh seconded. Motion passed.

- RC &D Appointment & Dues
Jon Bolstad made a motion to retain Mickey McCall as the District's representative to RC &D and to pay the \$125.00 dues for the forthcoming year. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Montana Salinity – Board Member Election
Tim Holte made a motion to cast a re-election ballot for Walt Borntrager to the Montana Salinity Executive Board. The motion was seconded by Todd Marsh. Motion carried. The ballot will be mailed.
- Judy – 6 Month Review
Kent Nathe made a motion to give Judy a \$2.00 per hour raise after review of her 6 month probationary period. The motion was seconded by Manuel Vazquez. The motion carried. They also discussed that a policy should be put into effect as to payroll increases and company paid insurance fees. Mickey will visit with Todd Marsh and possibly get a policy written up for review at the next meeting.

The pass-around files were reviewed by the members present. .

Adjournment:

- Jon Bolstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Tim Holte. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: February 13, 2007