

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2007 @ 12:00 PM
USDA BUILDING**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 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.

Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2007 Meeting

After a review of the minutes from the February 13th meeting, a 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 accept the financial report was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Kent Nathe. The motion carried.

Bills to Pay

The bill payments totaling \$594.41 as listed on the Check Detail (today) were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance and payroll taxes totaling \$4,098.93 paid prior to the meeting. The combined total of \$4,693.34 was listed on the Check Detail for the month. A motion for approval for all bill payments was made by Jon Bolstad and was seconded by Kent Nathe. The motion carried. The checks were signed by Jeff Wivholm and Tim Holte.

NRCS – Monica:

- We are finished with EQIP contracting, as the last AFO/CAFO applicant has cancelled for this year. We received notice that the EQIP program will suffer a 5% reduction, and the WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives) program will suffer a 20% reduction in funding. This is due to NRCS budget allocations. NRCS is tightening its belt this year, with a large reduction in training.
- The Wetland Reserve Program offer from Strands was appraised, but no word yet on the amount.
- We have had contact with the City of Plentywood regarding Box Elder Dam water appropriations. Monica provided a file to several of the city council members, and they have requested an informal meeting with NRCS and Mickey from the CD to talk it over. Monica also requested an NRCS engineer for this meeting. No date set yet.
- Larry Bain shared a copy of a letter he received from DNRC Trust Lands (State Lands) Department, regarding use of the District range renovator. DNRC personnel

do not view this equipment as providing improvements to club moss infested range land. A response from NRCS will be sent, and we encourage the District to send one also.

- Greg Snell, Area Soil Scientist, is transferring to another position in Wyoming. He will still make a field visit here on March 23 to review soils for two pivot applications (Thuesen and Nielsen) through the District Water Reservation.
- Monica requested that District Capacity Building funds be expended in hiring some office help for NRCS. A large amount of filing and farm records organization needs to be done since Buckie left last April.
- The District signed a conservation plan for Beaver Creek Cattle Co. and a CRP plan/contract for Spoklie.

It was agreed that the District also write a letter to DNRC – Trust Land Management regarding their comments on the range renovator.

Temporary office assistance for Monica was discussed as the District has about \$2,000.00 available in the Capacity Fund Grant to assist NRCS. Amber McCall had been a temporary office assistant during the summer and would be contacted during Spring Break to help with the filing.

Unfinished Business:

- Rut Filler
After discussion on the rut filler, it was decided that Jeff would try to contact someone and stop in Forsyth on his way through and look at the rut filler that the Rosebud County Conservation District has for rent.
- Vehicle
The vehicle options were again discussed. Tim will check on leasing plans.
- District Questionnaire
No responses were received.

Mickey's Report

Aquifer

- Well measurements sporadic due to snow cover
- Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on March 8, 2007
- Dave Thuesen application submitted Feb. 21, 2007

Other Irrigation

- Exploration wells for Friedrich, Enander, Hilyard, Overgaard and Thuesen scheduled for week of March 12, 2007.

310 Permits

- Have letter for Nemont to be signed stating proposals are non-projects.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- No activity

Oil Brine Grant

- Final recommendations for reclamation of future sites still to be submitted.

USGS

- Received Estimate from Kent Syme to drill 90 holes for approximately \$3,600. He will bill actual hours but estimates 2 hours per site. Each site has 3 holes.

223 Grants

- 223 grant request for \$10,000 for equipment replacement status
 - Equipment still to be purchased:
 - Steel well measuring tape \$ 750
 - 2 Tru-Track in-well digital data loggers \$ 530
- Total \$ 1,280

R C & D

- RC & D will be providing an informational program on carbon credits in the near future and Sheridan County will probably be the first area contacted.
- As of today 3 local producers have expressed interest in marketing carbon credits: Wayne Herman, Tom Jorgensen, and Corwin Kanning.
- Carbon credits are currently selling on the Chicago Climate Exchange for \$4 per ton.
- Informational web sites: www.ncoc.us and www.chicagoclimateexchange.com.

Misc.

- Assisted Judy

New Business:

- Annual Plan of Operations
The 2006 Annual Plan of Operations was reviewed and amended for the current year. Tim Holte made a motion to approve the amendments. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Grass Drill Repair Costs
The cost estimate from the Farm Equipment Sales for bearing replacement on the grass dill was \$2000.00. After discussion on the repairs, it was suggested that the

worst bearings be replaced up to \$1,000.00. The Board suggested that the replacement bearings be marked and the old bearings be saved. The rental rate per acre was discussed and decided to increase the rate to \$4.00 per acre. Tim Holte made a motion to approve the repair and the per acre increase. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion approved.

- 2006 Conservation Farmer
Discussion was held as to who would present the award to Jim and Elaine Clark at the Ag Expo banquet on Friday evening. Mickey will present the award if none of the board members are present.

- Insurance/Inventory
The equipment listing from Western States Insurance and the District Equipment Inventory List were reviewed. After discussion, it was decided to remove the moisture probe from the insurance listing and add the range renovator.

- Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations
The Technical Advisory Committee met March 8, 2007 at the Board Meeting Room at the USDA Building. The Board reviewed the minutes of that meeting. Based on the recommendation of the committee,
 - Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the work scheduled for Eric Nielsen's water reservation application SC-031. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Kent Nathe made a motion to approve the water reservation application SC-022 for Tom and Corrie Enander, where ownership has transferred from Marlowe Onstad. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion carried. Application SC-023 was not ready for approval until the water quality is determined. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the work schedule as recommended by the committee. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried
 - A new application SC-032 submitted by David Thuesen was reviewed by the committee; the availability of water is still questionable. Tim Holte made a motion to approve with the 4 stipulations that must be met as determined by the committee. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - The committee recommended that the two water reservation applications, SC-016 and SC-026 from Roger and Juanita Schmitz be revoked as data had not been reported on either project. Tim Holte made a motion to revoke both applications and refunded half of the application fee for each application.

- Research Farm Tour – June 28th
The Research Farm Tour is scheduled for June 28th. A meeting will be held prior to that date to finalize plans for the tour.

- Trees & Tree Planter Rates
The current tree and tree planter rates were reviewed. It was decided that we would check with other districts prior to the next meeting and decide whether our rates should be adjusted.
- NACD Membership for 2007
A motion was made by Jon Bolstad to pay \$500.00 for the NACD membership as in the past. The motion was seconded by Tim Holte. Motion carried.
- Work Study Contract Renewal/ U of M Signed
The renewal contract with the University of Montana for the Work Study Program was signed and return to the U of M for finalization.

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 2:20 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: April 10, 2007