

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
April 10, 2007 @ 2:30 PM
USDA BUILDING**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. The meeting time was changed due to the weather. Present were: Tim Holte, Jon Bolstad, Supervisors; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; and Monica Friedrich, NCRS.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2007 Meeting

After reviewing the minutes from the March 13th meeting, Tim Holte requested that “Trust Land Management” be added following “It was agreed that the district write a letter to DNRC” on Page 2. A motion to approve the minutes with the addition was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Jon Bolstad. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial reports were reviewed. The CD at Montana State Bank will mature on April 16, 2007. Judy will check the interests on Monday. The Board suggested renewing at the best rate for no longer than 12 months. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Jon Bolstad and seconded by Tim Holte. The motion carried.

Bills to Pay

The bill payments totaling \$1338.45 as listed on the Check Detail (today) were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance, payroll taxes, refund to Roger Schmitz, NACD dues totaling \$5588.34 paid prior to the meeting. The combined total of \$6926.79 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.

NCRS – Monica:

- Used Capacity Building Funds to hire Amber McCall for 3 days of office filing catch-up.
- In the process of reviewing EQIP contracts from prior years to maintain funding.
- Our second AFO/CAFO applicant cancelled his application today. It is becoming more of a financial problem with current economy, and producers are hesitant about taking on a big commitment that some of these contract entail.
- Greg Snell (Area Soil Scientist) was here and reviewed soils for David Thuesen’s proposed pivot location. He had concerns about the steep slopes on a portion of the site, and discussed the need for maintaining permanent vegetation with Dave. He

also looked at Eric Nielsen's pivot site, but was unable to evaluate the wetland area fully, as the ground was still frozen. Our office will need to follow up on that issue at a later date.

- We are continuing development of Continuous CRP contracts for filter strips, trees, etc. Supervisors signed 3 plans/contracts for Donald Hagan (filter strips on Eagle Creek.)
- A new Continuous CRP practice will be available in 2008 if our county chooses to write a proposal for funding. This will be for Wildlife Habitat, and specifically for sharp tailed grouse in our area.
- We did not write a letter to DNRC-Trust Lands Mgmt from our office regarding the value of chiseling range sites with the District owned aerator. We would like to have Mickey do some clipping of the aeration sites, both before and after, to have actual production figures. This data is needed for our program, and lends support to the discussion about the benefit of using the aerator.

Unfinished Business:

- Annual Plan of Operations
A copy of the signed 2007 Annual Plan of Operations was given to each of the supervisors.
- Grass Drill Repair Costs
The bill from the Farm Equipment Sales, Inc. totaled \$1025.00 for the bearing replacements on the grass drill. The estimate of the repair for the range renovator is \$230.00. When the actual bill arrives it will be charged to Carl Tange. Tim Holte suggested that a horse power limit restriction be implemented on the use of the range renovator. Regarding the range renovator, the letter to DNRC-Trust Land Management was also discussed. The Board definitely would like a letter written to Hoyt Richards and Randy Dirkson requesting documentation on the reasoning that the range renovator was not acceptable as stated in the letter from Randy Dirkson.
- Insurance/Inventory
Judy reported that she had contacted the Western States Insurance to add the Range Renovator and remove the moisture probe as discussed at the March meeting. The additional cost per year will be about \$10.00.
- Research Farm Tour
Jon Bolstad, Judy Benson with the District and Monica Friedrich with NRCS attended the Research Farm Tour planning meeting in Culbertson on Tuesday, April 3rd to discuss the June 28th tour plans. They reported that it was suggested that the tour include something in Sheridan County. Todd Marsh's feedlot was suggested. They also discussed Precision Ag, wind energy and carbon credits as topics for the tour. Our board suggested that we contact the Culbertson office if they would be interested in Jon Reiten's presentation on the Fault Line or Ed

Smith's pivots as well as Todd Marsh's feedlot. Monica also mentioned that the spillway on the dam at the Research Farm will have to be redone as the water is going too closely to the door of the building. Buzz Matelin also asked that our District consider a \$500.00 donation payable to RC&D for a travel fund for the ARS Focus Group. After some discussion, it was tabled for a future meeting. Mickey will be attending the RC&D meeting in Miles City on April 18th and will report back at the next meeting as to their discussion on the ARS Focus Group.

- Tom Enanders' SC-022 Approval

The deadline for public objections for Tom Enanders SC-022 Water Reservation application was April 6, 2007. As of the meeting date, nothing had been received. It was decided to do a phone poll to each of the supervisors for final approval of the application after April 16th. A telephone poll to the supervisors was conducted on April 25th as there had been no comments or objections to the Sheridan County News publication regarding Enander's application. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the Water Reservation Application SC-022 for Tom Enander. The motion was seconded by Tim Holte. In addition to Jon and Tim, Jeff Wivholm, Todd Marsh, and Rom Hedges all approved. Motion carried.

- Trees & Tree Planter Rates

After discussing the current tree prices and tree planter rates, Tim Holte proposed a charge of \$0.10 per tree above cost in addition to the \$10.00 shipping per order; raise the rate of the tree planter to \$50.00 and an additional \$.05 per planted tree. Planted trees would be \$0.25/tree (1-250 trees), \$0.20/tree (251-500 trees) and \$0.15/tree (501+ trees). Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mickey's Report

Aquifer

- Completed all well measurements – a few shallow wells still frozen.
- Installed 4 new data loggers in Medicine lake South area. Now have 11.
- Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on March 8, 2007.
 1. Minutes and letters to applicants completed and mailed.
- Dave Thuesen application progressing – additional wells will be drilled.
- Tom Enander application SC-022 public notice was published and mailed. Deadline for comments or objections was April 6, 2007. None were received.

Other Irrigation

- Exploration wells for Friedrich, Enander, Hilyard, Overgaard and Thuesen have been drilled except for a few sites that were inaccessible. Wells were inspected and cataloged.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- No activity.

Oil Brine Grant

- Final report will be submitted by April 27th.

USGS

- No activity.

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

- Quarterly meeting in Miles City on April 18.
- Carbon sequestration
 - As of April 5, 2007, Montana range and cropland landowners can now market their carbon offsets
 - Carbon credit rates are 0.32 metric tons per acre per year during the non fallow years for 2006 through 2010. Today's price is \$3.60/mton.

Misc.

- Pictures of Big Muddy flood and high flow.
- Completed news letter.
- Updated web site.
- Installed Judy's new computer.

New Business:

- Old Records – How Long to Keep
We will use the Conservation District Records Retention Schedule to determine the length of time that it is necessary to keep the district records. If there are items that have historical value the Board can then make the determination as to whether or not to keep.
- Administrative Grant Application
The Administrative Grant application was reviewed by those present. A final approval will be made by a phone poll to the Supervisors after April 16th. A telephone poll to the supervisors was conducted on April 25th. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the Administrative Grant Funds Application for the fiscal year 2008 requesting \$24,187.00. The motion was seconded by Tim Holte. In addition to Jon and Tim, Jeff Wivholm, Todd Marsh, and Rom Hedges all approved. Motion carried.
- Rolling River Training

The Rolling River Training will be held in Sidney on Thursday, April 26th from 10 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Mickey McCall is planning to attend.

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

Adjournment:

- Tim Holte made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jon Bolstad. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: May 8, 2007