

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
May 8, 2007 @ 7:00 PM  
USDA BUILDING**

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. Present were: Rom Hedges, Todd Marsh, Supervisors; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; and Monica Friedrich, NCRS.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2007 Meeting**

After reviewing the minutes from the April 10th meeting, Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes and Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

The financial reports were reviewed. The CD at Montana State Bank was renewed on April 18, 2007 for seven months at 5.15 %. The tree sales totaled \$4,984.10 at meeting time. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Todd Marsh and seconded by Rom Hedges. The motion carried.

**Bills to Pay**

The bill payments totaling \$1101.04 as listed on the Check Detail (today) were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance, quarterly payroll taxes, and grass drill repairs totaling \$7487.60 paid prior to the meeting. The total expenditures in the amount of \$8,588.63 were listed on the Check Detail for the month. A motion for approval of all expenditures was made by Todd Marsh and seconded by Rom Hedges. The motion carried. The checks were signed.

**NRCS – Monica:**

- Glasgow Area Office will likely be closed by end of June. Randy Phelan remains in place until he finds another position. Other staff has moved or will be moving in the next month. This field office will report to the Miles City Area Office following the transition.
- Received one additional EQIP contract with leftover funding. Plan was signed by supervisor.
- Received funding for two WHIP contracts which were on hold. Plans were signed by supervisors.
- Spring installation of practices has begun, with lots of grass seeding, legumes, no-till, soil testing, tree planting, etc. We continue to survey pipeline projects for summer installation.

- Monica and Mickey met with City of Plentywood Council members Ron Anderson and John Kemp regarding Box Elder Dam issues. We exchanged information concerning history of irrigation out of the dam, and each took an issue to gather information on for a future meeting.
- Continue to develop Continuous CRP contracts. These are primarily filter strips, trees, and farmable wetlands.
- Application deadline for the 2008 cost-share programs is June 1, 2007. We currently have about 35 applications.
- We have been asked to include Max Aasheim range renovation sites in the Froid Farm Tour June 28. Tim and Monica are evaluating those sites to determine if they will be worth touring.
- Tim has investigated a couple of possible wetland violations. Producers continue to need to be informed about what is allowable in wetland basins. Tim will provide an article for the District newsletter on this subject.
- Strand and Petersen did not accept the Wetland Reserve Program offer from NRCS.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Research Farm Tour - June 28th  
The Farm Tour was discussed. Judy mentioned that Marcia Rice had been contacted for food preparation. The tour will be starting in the morning this year with a noon meal rather than an evening meal.
- Administrative Grant Application  
The completed copy of the Admin Grant that was mailed April 25<sup>th</sup> was passed around for review. The supervisors present briefly discussed the funds in savings and also the upcoming purchase of a vehicle.
- Travel Donation – ARS  
The \$500.00 travel donation for the Focus Group representing the ARS was discussed. Mickey reported that the RC&D had agreed to handle the funds for the group. Jeff Wivholm will be visiting with Buzz Mattelin at the MACD Spring Board meeting regarding the donation. The donation was tabled until the June meeting.

#### **Mickey's Report**

##### Aquifer

- Well measurements a little behind due to Oil Brine Final Report
- Had to have one new data logger replaced (warranty).
- Dave Thuesen application – additional wells still need to 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. Need to issue “Reserved Water Use Authorization”.

##### Other Irrigation

- Exploration wells for Friedrich completed, Hilyard, Overgaard and Thuesen wells still need to be drilled. No information on any schedule.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- No activity.

Oil Brine Grant

- Final report was submitted on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Now rewriting as per Greg Mills instructions.

USGS

- Talked with Rick Sodja. He has obtained a drill and is sending drill and graduate student to help with drilling. Do not have firm schedule as of this date.

223 Grants

- 223 grant request for \$10,000 for equipment replacement status.
    - Equipment still to be purchased:
      - Cannot located steel well measuring tape. Have been authorized to purchase compressor for blowing out wells instead. \$ 500
      - 3 Tru-Track in-well digital data loggers \$ 780
- Total \$ 1,280

R C & D

- Quarterly meeting in Miles City held on April 18.
- Carbon sequestration
  - Still slow going as signup procedure not in place
- NPARRL focus group – transportation donations for lobbying efforts for ARS.
- Next Quarterly meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> in Wibaux.

Misc.

- Met with Ron Anderson / John Kemp / Monica about Box Elder Dam
  - Researching irrigation system.
- Planted Trees
- Updated web site and completed newsletter.
- Maps for 4-H

**New Business:**

- Trees at the Dam  
Tim Richardson had contacted Mickey to ask if we had extra trees available for Walleyes Unlimited to plant at the Bolster Dam. Rom Hedges made a motion to donate any extra trees that we would have to Walleyes Unlimited for planting at Bolster Dam. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 223 Grant Amendment Signature  
The 223 Grant Amendment granting the District an extension until July 15, 2007 was discussed. To date \$8,850.23 had been spent on new data loggers, but Mickey has been unable to find the steel measuring tapes that he had requested for the remaining \$1,149.77 balance. After visiting with Laurie Zeller, we were granted the extra time and also she agreed that the remaining funds could be used for a compressor and additional data loggers. Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the extension and the purchase of the compressor and data loggers. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried and Jeff Wivholm signed the amendment.
- USGS  
Mickey has talked with Rick Sodja. He is planning to send drilling equipment and graduate student to help with the drilling project. He will get in touch with Mickey to confirm a date.
- Admin Academy – Bozeman 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
The Admin Academy will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> followed by the MACDEO Meeting on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board thought it would be beneficial for Judy to go.
- NACD Northern Plains Region Leaders Mtg & MACD Spring Board Mtg  
The NACD Northern Plains Region Leaders Meeting to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Bozeman, June 10 – 12 was discussed as well as the MACD Spring Board Meeting to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman, June 8 – 9. Jeff Wivholm is planning to attend the MACD Spring Board Meeting.

Montana Wetland Council – Helena- May 23

Mickey gave a brief agenda report on the Montana Wetland Council to be held in Helena on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mickey would like to go to represent our district as the focus is on Eastern Montana wetlands and Jon Reiten is giving a presentation on the Oil and Gas Development and effects of production water on wetlands, riparian areas and associated uplands. Todd Marsh stated that he would also like to go if possible. Rom Hedges made a motion to authorize travel for the meeting and Todd Marsh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Newsletter Ad Rates  
After increasing our newsletter circulation, we have had 3 recent inquiries on advertising in our newsletter. Our current advertising rates are \$15 for “Conservation Friends” and \$40 for the sponsor ads. After discussion, it was decided that we bill the current advertisers on an annual basis beginning July 1, 2007, leaving the “Conservation Friends” rate at \$15.00 and increasing the

sponsor ad rate to \$50.00 for a single block and \$75.00 for a double block. We will send out statements prior to the July newsletter.

- New Flag Prices

New staked flags had been ordered from Blackburn Manufacturing Co. After discussing our cost of \$6.22 per bundle of 100 flags, it was decided that we should charge \$10.00 per bundle.

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

**Adjournment:**

- Rom Hedges made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Todd Marsh. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,  
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman  
Date: June 12, 2007