

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
June 12, 2007 @ 7:00 PM
USDA BUILDING**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Treasurer Tim Holte. Present were: Tim Holte, Jon Bolstad, Kent Nathe, Rom Hedges, Todd Marsh, Manuel Vazquez and Jeff Wivholm, Supervisors; Mickey McCall, Judy Benson, SCCD; Monica Friedrich, NCRS; and Jon Reiten, MMBG.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2007 Meeting

After reviewing the minutes from the May 8th meeting, Tim Holte stated that a correction needed to be made. Rom Hedges had seconded the motion to accept the financial report instead of Tim Holte. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the amended minutes and Kent Nathe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial reports were reviewed. At this point, the meeting was taken over by Chairman Jeff Wivholm. The CD in the amount of \$17,080.58 at Rocky Mountain was renewed on May 29, 2007 for seven months at 5.1 %. The CD at Montana State Bank, which is a security deposit for the building being rented by Tommerup Machine was discussed. It was agreed to review the lease as to the interest on the CD. An itemized rental statement will be sent to Tommerup Machine to make sure that our records agree with his. The outstanding grant invoices were reviewed. Mickey and Jon Reiten had visited with Steve Schmidt while in Helena and he had indicated payments would be approved soon. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Todd Marsh and seconded by Tim Holte. The motion carried.

Bills to Pay

The bill payments totaling \$531.12 as listed on the Check Detail (today) were reviewed, as well as payroll, health insurance, payroll taxes, travel expenses for Mickey's trip to Helena, and grass drill repairs totaling \$5184.44 paid prior to the meeting. The total expenditures in the amount of \$5715.56 were listed on the Check Detail for the month. The Unpaid Bills Detail summary was reviewed. In addition, the board agreed to pay The Greeter in the amount of \$909.17 for newsletter printing. A motion for approval of all expenditures was made by Tim Holte and seconded by Todd Marsh. The motion carried. The checks were signed.

NRCS – Monica:

- Sign up ended for 2008 cost share programs on 6/1/07.
- Transition to Miles City Area Office will begin this month, as most Area staff from Glasgow will be gone after this week.
- We have continued to work with the City of Plentywood and the Golf Course on irrigation water pumped from Box Elder Dam.
- Tom spoke at a wetland meeting at the Medicine Lake Refuge last week about NRCS cost share programs.
- Montana Salinity Control was here and drilled monitoring wells on Severson's. Jane Holzer was here earlier in the month, but could not look at new projects due to wet field conditions. She may be back in July.
- One of our vehicles (Dodge pickup) will be transferred to Scobey Field Office. This was excess to our fleet.

Unfinished Business:

- Vehicle
As Monica Friedrich stated in her report, the Dodge pickup will be transferred to Scobey this week. Jeff had priced a 2004 Dodge Dakota, 4-door with 48,000 miles at a cost of about \$18,000.00. Mickey told the board that he averages about 15,000 miles per year. A portion of the vehicle expenses could possibly be charged to grant expense. Tim Holte had talked to Chad Peterson of Gem City Motors; he will be getting back to Tim. Mickey had visited with Larry of the Conservation District in Kalispell. He had told Mickey that his district owns a pickup, has county plates and is insured with Western States. Mickey will be talking with him again later this week. Mileage was discussed for Mickey furnishing a vehicle. Lease options were discussed and Tim Holte will further check on the lease options. Rom Hedges suggested contracting transportation on a per well basis as another possible option. The board members will try to get firm prices prior the July meeting. We will check with Western States as to a cost for insurance. In the interim, Mickey will drive his own vehicle and we will pay mileage until a decision can be made at the July meeting.
- Travel Donation – ARS
The \$500.00 travel donation for the Focus Group representing the ARS was briefly discussed. The board members would like more information before coming to a decision. Jeff Wivholm will discuss it with Buzz Mattelin prior to the July meeting. The donation was tabled until the July meeting.
- Trees for Walleye's Unlimited
Tim Richardson had contacted the District regarding trees for Box Elder Dam. The District was able to get 33 extra trees from Jim Clark. A refund check in the amount of \$24.64 was issued to Jim Clark and those trees were donated to Walleye's Unlimited to be planted at the dam.
- Rolling River Trailer – 4-H Demo
Monica Friedrich demonstrated the Rolling River Trailer to the Plentywood 4-H group the evening of May 15th at the school shop building. She reported that the

kids had a great time. The DNRC office from Glasgow delivered the trailer to Plentywood, Mickey helped with set-up and clean-up, and Ryan Young returned the trailer to Sidney.

- Research Farm Tour - June 28th

The Board Members were reminded that the Froid Research Farm Tour would be Thursday, June 28th with registration starting at 9:30 A.M. and the off-site tour beginning at 10 A.M. The news release had been sent to the Sheridan County News and posters will be distributed as soon as they are available to us.

Mickey’s Report

Aquifer

- Well measurements back on schedule
- Dave Thuesen application SC-032 – additional wells scheduled to be drilled by June 20th.
- Eric Nielsen application SC-031 – No new information
- Tom Enander application SC-022 - Received Notice of Completion of Water Development
- Pumped and tested 3 wells for USFWS on Refuge land to be grazed

Other Irrigation

- Exploration wells for Friedrich and Overgaard completed; Hilyard wells will be completed this week; and Thuesen wells still need to be drilled.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- No activity.

Oil Brine Grant

- Final/Final report was submitted on June 8th.

USGS

- Met with Rick Sodja in Helena. USGS personnel will be here to drill wells in the near future. Do not have firm schedule as of this date. District will assist USGS personnel.

223 Grants

- 223 grant request for \$10,000 for equipment replacement status.
 - Equipment still to be purchased by June 30:

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|--|---------------|
| • Have located manufacturer for steel measuring tape | \$ 780 |
| • 2 TruTrack in-well digital data loggers | <u>\$ 500</u> |
| Total | \$ 1,280 |

R C & D

- Next quarterly meeting is in Wibaux on July 18th.
- Carbon sequestration
 - NCOC signup meetings scheduled for Wolf Point on June 19th and Glasgow on June 20th

Misc.

- Attended Montana Wetland Council meeting in Helena with Jon Reiten. Met with Greg Mills, DNRC; Steve Schmitz, DNRC, Laurie Zeller, DNRC; Rick Sodja, USGS; Jerry Rodriguez, USFWS; Linda Saul Montana Wetland Council; and Sarah Carlson, MACD
- Met with Ron Anderson about Box Elder Dam
 - Still researching irrigation system.
- Planted Trees
- Updated web site.
- Maps for 4-H
- Rolling River Trailer for 4-H kids

New Business:

- ARS – Lease Renewal – Research Farm Metal Pole Building
A copy of the Renewal Notice for October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 for the metal pole building at the Research Farm was passed around for the supervisors to review. Tim Holte made a motion to approve the Lease Renewal. The motion was seconded by Rom Hedges. Motion carried.
- Grass Drill Repairs
The square tubing and bracket on the grass drill had to be replaced after D.A. Michels returned the drill. The Board determined that it had been caused by normal wear and tear and to bill D.A. Michels only for the acreage.
- Wetland Council Meeting Report - Helena, May 23
Mickey McCall gave a brief report on the Montana Wetland Council meeting that he had attended in Helena on May 23rd. Mickey reported that Jon Reiten had given a very informative presentation on the Oil and Gas Development and effects of production water on wetlands, riparian areas and associated uplands focusing on Eastern Montana wetlands. Tim Holte asked for an explanation as to the role of the Wetlands Council. Mickey explained that they are instrumental in promoting water quality as well as providing water education materials and awareness.
- Aquifer Report – Jon Reiten
Jon Reiten with the Montana Bureau of Mines reported that some of the well levels were down from last year, but the Dagmar area had a good recovery showing. He also stated that last year had been a big year in water usage. He mentioned that the aquifer testing was looking good. He also discussed options in funding. He suggested that a possible partnering with North Dakota on research near the border may be a future option. He is starting to put an annual report together. He also thought that we could possibly propose a need for adding funding for the next legislative session in 2 years.

- DEQ
It was suggested that we possibly get someone from DEQ to come to a board meeting to discuss their plan as to whether to proceed with the remaining balance of the grant.

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 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: July 10, 2007