

**SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
November 6, 2007 @ 11:00 AM
USDA Building – Conference Room
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana**

SCCD Supervisors Present:

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm
Supervisor: Jon Bolstad
Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Todd Marsh
Supervisor: Kent Nathe
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez
Associate: Steve Hove

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Rom Hedges

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Jeff Wivholm called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2007 Meeting

After reviewing the October 9, 2007 minutes, Kent Nathe made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Tim Holte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

Financial Report:

After review of the Financial Reports, Todd Marsh made a motion to accept the Financial Statements. Kent Nathe seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$11,753.49 as listed on the Check Detail dated October 9 through November 6 (today) were reviewed. In the figure are the regular

monthly bills for October, as well as payroll, health insurance, Workman's Compensation, and quarterly payroll taxes. The Unpaid Bills Detail summary was reviewed. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. Kent Nathe seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The checks were signed by Jeff Wivholm and Tim Holte.

NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich

- Finished Capacity Building Grant by hiring Buckie McCoy to continue work on updating producer files. She did not get finished, but reduced the volume of filing to do.
- Results of residue spot checks showed all producers checked in compliance with Highly Erodible Land conservation plans.
- Have made 25+ payments on EQIP contracts since October 11, when program was enabled again.
- Completed contracts for Jim Hovet Continuous CRP. Obtained CD signature.
- We are in the midst of EQIP ranking, which must be completed by Nov. 15. All cropland applications have been ranked, and are working on rangeland applications. Shanna Huckins, NRCS soil con. from Glasgow, is here to rank David Friedrich's application, which is a conflict of interest for Monica or Plentywood Field Office staff to work on. Tim Solberg assisted Glasgow with one of their applications under the same restriction.
- Area Office staff was here doing 3 years worth of Quality Assurance Reviews (spot checks) on vegetative practices planned in this county. The Area Soils Scientist was also here and assisted Mickey with the wetland drilling project.
- A request to cancel Charles Frasier's WHIP grass seeding contract was submitted, and will likely be approved. WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) may not be funded under the new Farm Bill. This has also affected some older contracts for Eggen's, as there is not enough money left in the contracts to finish all practices, and no additional funding to be obtained.
- Assisted FSA with cost-share calculations for Overgaard Continuous CRP tree planting.
- Investigated a potential wetland violation. Producer was contesting wetland identification on FSA maps. Field inspection revealed wetlands as identified, and that the producer has destroyed an artificial wetland (dugout). This is not a violation, but would have been, had the destroyed wetland been natural.
- Sheridan County will be part of an area wide EQIP Special Initiative for no-till. Deadline for sign-up is Nov. 16. A Special Initiative for Precision Agriculture (variable rate fertilizer application) will be proposed during the next funding cycle, beginning Nov. 15. Most contracts will be written before the end of the calendar year.

SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Well measurements on schedule
- Completed Semi-annual measurements on October 16th.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Work continues on data compilation.

USGS

- USGS project continuing with installation of wells in wetlands.
- Robert Mitchell, soil scientist from the NRCS office in Miles City was here during the week of Oct. 22nd to drill 11 wells.
- 27 sites now have 2 wells and 13 sites have 3 wells.
- The North Dakota contingent was here during the week of October 15th to run additional soils gas tests.

R C & D

- Attended the quarterly meeting on October 17th in Glendive.
 - Ft. Peck Tribes initiating a new 1900 acre pivot irrigation development for potatoes. RC & D is assisting with design and other issues.
 - RC & D also assisted tribes in developing a health program for their 180 head buffalo herd, including vaccinations for BVD, Brucellosis, and Vibrio and Lepto.
 - Still working on alternative energy and fuels programs
- Set up meeting in Plentywood about solar and wind energy for Sage Mountain Center. Sponsored by MDU and Montana DEQ.

Misc.

- Attended Wetlands meeting at the Medicine Lake Refuge. Gave presentation on the Conservation District activities and the Oil Brine Reclamation Project.
- Met with Jerry Rodriguez of the Medicine Lake Wildlife Refuge several times regarding joint project planning, wetland strategy, and donations.
- Updated Web Site.
- Worked on Newsletter.

Coming Up

- DNRC Water Reservation Seminar in Billings November 2nd.
- MACD Annual Convention in Bozeman the week of November 12th.
- Vacation the week of November 19th.

Unfinished Business:

- MACD Convention – November 13-15
MACD Convention to be held November 13-15 at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman was discussed. Jeff Wivholm, Jon Bolstad, Mickey McCall and Judy Benson are planning to attend. Tim Holte may attend and will let us know closer to the date of Convention. We have 6 rooms reserved and will keep them until arrival on November 13.
- Research Farm donation to ARS Travel Donation
The board members attending Convention are planning to visit with Buzz Mattelin to obtain further information regarding the ARS Travel Donation from the Research Farm.
- Water Reservation Training Seminar – November 2 - Billings
Mickey McCall and Judy Benson attended the Water Reservation Training Seminar sponsored by DNRC held in Billings on November 2. Mickey McCall gave a brief report to the board on the seminar. Both Mickey and Judy felt that it had been very worthwhile to attend.

New Business:

- CD Renewal – November 13
CD #7007172 at Rocky Mountain Bank in the amount of \$10,414.30 will be due for renewal on November 13, 2007. The current interest rate is 3.05 %. The renewal rate is 7 months at 4.5 % at Rocky Mountain Bank, 7 months at 4.54 % or 5 years at 4.75 % at Montana State Bank, and 9 months at 4.65 % at Stockman Bank. Jon Bolstad made a motion to transfer the funds to Stockman Bank for 9 months at 4.65 %. Manuel Vazquez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Transfer will be made after the November 13 due date.
- Board Members Workshop – November 8 - Courthouse
Great Northern Development Center is sponsoring a Role of Board Members, Board Etiquette, Policy & Procedures Workshop on Thursday, November 8, at the Jubilee Room – Courthouse, Plentywood. Tim Holte and Mickey McCall are planning to attend.
- MACD 2007 Member Districts Survey
Sarah Carlson, MACD had sent a request for Conservation Districts to complete a 2007 Member Districts Survey at their November meetings. The survey was reviewed; the questions answered and will be forwarded to Sarah Carlson at the MACD office in Helena.
- NACD Membership Dues
The Conservation District received the annual 2008 Membership Invoice. It was noted that \$500.00 had been sent in March of 2007 for the 2007

membership. Tim Holte made a motion to make a \$500.00 payment for the 2008 membership after January 1, 2008. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

- Cooperator of the Year

It was brought to the attention of the board that the Cooperator of the Year would have to be selected within the next couple of months. The award will be given at the KATQ Farm Expo banquet that is usually held in March.

Adjournment:

- Jon Bolstad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Manuel Vazquez seconded. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.
- Next Meeting:
Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: Dec. 11, 2007