



SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

119 N. Jackson Street –
Plentywood, Montana 59254
Phone 406-765-1801 ~ Fax 406-765-2356

Sheridan County Conservation District
Minutes of Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2007 @ 11:00 AM
USDA Building – Conference Room
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana

MINUTES

SCCD Supervisors Present:

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm
Supervisor: Jon Bolstad
Supervisor: Rom Hedges
Supervisor: Todd Marsh
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez
Associate: Steve Hove

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Kent Nathe

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Tim Solberg

Call Meeting to Order

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

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2007 Meeting

After reviewing the November 6, 2007 minutes, Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Todd Marsh 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. Rom Hedges seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$8,758.45 as listed on the Check Detail dated November 6 through December 11(today) were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for November as well as payroll, health insurance, Workman's Compensation, and monthly payroll taxes. The Unpaid Bills Detail summary was reviewed. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. Rom Hedges seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The checks were signed by Jeff Wivholm.

NRCS Report – Tim Solberg

- Contracted 15 new EQIP's for 2008 funding. Of these,
 - 7 Cropland for \$99,088
(Saline seep, legumes, no-till, grass seeding, soil testing)
 - 3 Multiple Land use for \$73,143
(Livestock water, grass seeding, grazing management)
 - 1 Grazing land for \$7975
(Chiseling, livestock water, grazing management)
 - 4 No-Till for \$66,166Total dollars obligated: \$246,372
- Approved for Precision Agriculture (Variable Rate Fertilizer Application) through EQIP. Signup is Dec. 17 through Jan. 4. Announcement will be made in the local paper. Plan to hold a meeting for interested producers in January so they know how it will work. We pay for:
 - Satellite photography to set up management zones
 - Soil testing (1 test per 25 acres on 500 acres of cropland)
 - Fertilizer application (\$5/acre on 500 acres)
 - Yield mapping, and monitoring for 3 yearsAlready have 9 interested producers.
- Continued practice installation on existing EQIP through freeze-up. Total installation in 2007 is at 175 practices. An additional 105 items were planned for 2007, and will have to be modified forward. We will be meeting with contract holders in the next month who are out of schedule to discuss modifications, and in some cases, cancellations.
- Charles Frasier WHIP contract was cancelled. WHIP has no requirement for penalty to be paid by participant, but EQIP does, and this will become more of

an issue in the future. We are emphasizing this point with all new EQIP participants.

- The USDA office party will be the afternoon of December 18 (usually start at 3:00)—we all bring potluck goodies. Stop in if you're inclined!

SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Well measurements on schedule
- New Contract being written by Steve Schmitz
 1. Has updated budget, management plan, and fact sheet

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Work continues on data compilation.

USGS

- Compiling data

R C & D

- Attended RC & D personnel meeting in Culbertson
 - CRDC employee travel & reporting issues
- Attended joint meeting of RC & D Executive Board and EP EDD Board.
 - MOU, Job Description, EDA grant & matching funds, budget, scope of work, position advertising, administrative requirements, office location.

Misc.

- Attended DNRC Water Reservation Seminar in Billings
- Attended Board Member seminar
- Attended MACD Annual Convention in Bozeman
- Attended NPARL focus Group meeting in Sidney
- Attended RC & D meeting Culbertson
- Provided training on In-Situ Data Loggers to Jon Reiten and Jay Hanson of the MBMG
- Updated Web Site.
- Worked on Newsletter.

Coming Up

- Irrigation workshop in Williston December 19th
- RC & D Annual meeting in Sidney January 16th

Unfinished Business:

- CD Renewals

Judy Benson reported that the Rocky Mountain Bank CD #7007172 in the amount of \$10,414.30 that was due for renewal November 13, 2007 was transferred to Stockman Bank on November 20, 2007 for 9 months at a rate of 4.55%. Rocky Mountain CD #7007894 in the amount of \$17,514.55 will be due for renewal December 29, 2007 and CD#7006159 in the amount of \$4898.12 will be due for renewal January 6, 2008. As of today Rocky Mountain Bank has a 7 month special at 4.4%. We will check the rates closer to the renewal date and renew at that time.

- MACD Convention Discussion
Jeff Wivholm, Jon Bolstad, Mickey McCall and Judy Benson briefly discussed the convention held in Bozeman, November 13- 15.
- Research Farm donation to ARS Travel Donation
Mickey McCall had attended a NPARK meeting in Sidney on November 26. The board members agreed that he should continue to attend future NPARK meetings. Todd Marsh suggested that we receive an itemized statement or request for funds prior to the board making a decision on the Research Farm funds.
- Cooperator of the Year
The board and Tim Solberg with NRCS discussed several possibilities for Cooperator of the Year for 2007. A final decision will be made at the January meeting.
- Board Member Workshop Discussion – November 8 – Courthouse
Mickey McCall reported on the Board Member Workshop that he had attended on November 8 at the Sheridan County Courthouse. He reported that it was well attended and an informative meeting. He noted that our meetings are in compliance with the Open Meeting Laws that were discussed. He also reported to the Board that he is posting our agendas and meeting minutes on our website <http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org>. Our meeting dates and time are also published in the Sheridan County News.

New Business:

- Annual Financial Report
The Annual Financial Report to be filed with the State of Montana was reviewed. Jon Bolstad made a motion to accept the Financial Report as true and correct. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the board members present.
- Dry Prairie Rural Water Annual Board Member Appointment
Todd Marsh made a motion to reappoint Jon Bolstad to represent the Sheridan County Conservation District on the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority Board for another two year term. Manual Vazquez seconded.

The motion carried unanimously by the board members present. A letter will be sent to Dry Prairie stating the reappointment.

- 273 Aquifer Contract Update and Quarterly Report
Mickey McCall reported on change requests that he was submitting to Steve Schmitz regarding the new 273 contract that will be forthcoming for the new fiscal year. Those requests will be submitted with the grant report being submitted today. The grant quarterly report for the period ending September 30, 2007 was signed by Chairman, Jeff Wivholm.
- Christmas Party
The Roosevelt Conservation District had contacted us to possibly have a Christmas party with their District. The board members discussed that we wait until sometime in January and possibly have it in Medicine Lake. We will discuss decide on a date and location at the January meeting.

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, January 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: Jan.8, 2008