



## SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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, March 11, 2008 @ 10:00 AM**  
**USDA Building – Conference Room**  
**119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana**

### MINUTES

**SCCD Supervisors Present:**

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm  
Supervisor: Rom Hedges  
Supervisor: Todd Marsh  
Supervisor: Kent Nathe

**SCCD Supervisors Absent:**

Supervisor: Jon Bolstad  
Supervisor: Tim Holte  
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez  
Associate: Steve Hove

**SCCD Staff:**

Judy Benson, District Administrator  
Mickey McCall, Technician

**NRCS:**

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman, Jeff Wivholm called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2008 Meeting**

After reviewing the February 12, 2008 minutes, Kent Nathe made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

**Financial Report:**

After review of the Financial Reports, including the bank balances, the deposit detail, the profit and loss, and balance sheet. Kent Nathe made a motion to accept the Financial Statements. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

**Bills to Pay**

The expenditures totaling \$5798.71 as listed on the Check Detail dated February 12 through March 11 (today) were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for February as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding payroll taxes. The Unpaid Bills Detail summary was reviewed. Kent Nathe made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The checks were signed.

**NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich**

- Working with Ron Anderson of Plentywood City Council to establish water levels in Box Elder Dam with corresponding irrigation limits for Golf Course. NRCS will provide actual water level readings and the acre-feet available at those levels. Ron is working on a sliding scale to use; less water available = less water for Golf Course to irrigate with.
- Completed National Resource Inventory (NRI) data collection for 2008 sampling sites. Data collected is on cropland, primarily interested in farming practices, crops grown, and residue cover.
- Have most of the EQIP contracts which were not on schedule status reviewed and back on schedule. There are a few that will require further work, which could include termination. Problem is primarily a lack of response on the part of the contract holder.
- Scott Thompson, biologist with Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks was here to discuss proposed biologist position to be located in Plentywood again. This person would primarily be responsible for establishing food plots for pheasants in existing CRP contracts. The County Commissioners have already agreed to provide equipment towards this goal.
- Precision Ag contract holders are meeting on Thursday (March 13) this week to figure out how to utilize Technical Service Providers (consultants) and get the ball rolling with their agreements.
- Participated in Water Reservation Technical Review committee meeting on March 6.
- Sheridan County was approved as part of the Farm Service Agency's continuous CRP area for wildlife habitat. They do not have rules out yet, so we can't enroll anyone, but have quite a bit of interest in the program.

- Contributed a couple of articles to the District newsletter this spring, one on wetlands and one on program sign-up.
- Thank you to the District for inviting NRCS staff to be part of your annual holiday party. We enjoyed it and look forward to another year working with the supervisors and staff in Sheridan County.

### **SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall**

#### Aquifer

- Well measurements completed on schedule.
- All water use payments have been received except Roger Schmitz.
- TAC meeting was held March 6, 2008. Next meeting scheduled for March 5, 2009.

#### Big Muddy 319 grant

- Data compilation completed. Formatting data for DEQ. Will send as soon as Jon Reiten has written portion completed.
- Met with USFWS about Big Muddy/Lake Creek. Refuge would like assistance with water quality on both creeks. Will be discussing plans in March.

#### USGS

- Checked as many sites as were accessible. Downloaded 7 data loggers.

#### R C & D

- Participated in conference call about hiring personnel for CRDC and Bio-Tech Department.
- Participated in potential employee interviews on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Misc.

- Updated Web Site.
- Worked on Newsletter.

#### Coming Up

- RC&D quarterly meeting in Baker on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Jeff Wivholm Appointment – Oath of Office  
Jeff Wivholm signed his Oath of Office for another three-year term. His signature was notarized by Josie Johnson, Notary Public.
- 2008 Annual Plan  
The 2008 Annual Plan was reviewed by the member present. Jon Bolstad was added to Research Committee. The Capacity Building Grant completed in 2007 was removed (Item 17). Kent Nathe made a motion to approve the 2008 Annual Plan as amended. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.
- Nominating Petitions- 2 Positions (Todd Marsh & Kent Nathe)

Todd Marsh reported that he had filed his petition and Kent Nathe reported that he would be filing his petition today, March 12.

**New Business:**

- Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Technical Advisory Committee met Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Board Meeting Room at the USDA Building. The Board reviewed the minutes of that meeting. Based on the recommendations of the committee:

- SC-031 - Eric Nielsen's Water Reservation application SC-031 was not reviewed as Mr. Nielsen has verbally withdrawn this application.
- SC-023 – Tom and Corrie Enander - Tom Enander attended the meeting and explained that an exploratory well was drilled as scheduled in 2007. The quality of the water from the initial sample was questionable as the sample was taken immediately after drilling. The SAR was 8.66. Further sampling of the water in this well is necessary and will be evaluated in the spring of 2008. The Enanders plan to drill the irrigation well in 2008 and, assuming no negative findings, anticipate that the permit will be issued in 2009.

The Committee approved this plan of action and recommends that the District Board approve this schedule and authorize Mr. Enander to drill the production well and perform a pump test. Mr. Enander will be required to notify the District of these activities at least 2 weeks in advance so that a District representative can be present during the drilling and establish a monitoring network prior to the pump test.

- SC-032 – David Thuesen - Since Mr. Thuesen did not attend the Committee meeting it was not possible to determine the status of this application. However, a report from the NRCS soil Scientist regarding soils in the project area has been completed.

The committee recommends that the District Board direct Mickey McCall to schedule a meeting with Mr. Thuesen and attempt to gather the information necessary to ascertain the status of this application. This information will include the location and disposition of any wells drilled for this project, accurate well logs for these wells, any water quality information from these wells, and a detailed plan and timetable for future exploration wells related to this project.

Todd Marsh made a motion to approve all the recommendations as stated in the minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee. Kent Nathe

seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

- Post Driver  
Mickey passed around a couple of post driver proposals to the members present. After reviewing, they decided to wait until next meeting for further discussion.
- Grass Drill  
The income and expenses from the grass drill were reviewed. The board recommended that the drill be repaired.
- 28 Ft. Storage Trailer  
A proposal on a 28 foot storage trailer was discussed. The board members present thought that a longer trailer was needed and are possibly available at a similar price. Other storage options were also discussed. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- Financial Projection  
Chairman Jeff Wivholm suggested that we put together a financial projection for the April meeting.
- Cooperator of the Year – Award Presentation  
Mickey McCall will be presenting the Cooperator of the Year Award to Nathan and Jessica Shackelford at the KATQ Farm Expo Banquet to be held at the Elks Club. As always, the District will purchase the banquet tickets for Shackelfords, Mickey and board members planning to attend.

**Adjournment:**

- Rom Hedges motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kent Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
- Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,  
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman  
Date: April 8, 2008