



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, April 8, 2008 @ 10:00 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 Supervisor: Steve Hove

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Kent Nathe

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

Guests:

David Pratt, NRCS Area Resource Conservationist, Miles City Office
Scott Kaiser, DNRC, Miles City Office

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Jeff Wivholm called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2008 Meeting

After reviewing the March 11, 2008 minutes, Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Manuel Vazquez 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. Jon Bolstad 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 \$7,683.34 as listed on the Check Detail dated March 11 through April 7 were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for March as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding payroll taxes, NACD dues, and the printer purchase. There were no unpaid bills. Jon Bolstad 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

- Provided maps for the 5% residue spot checks done by airplane. The flight will most likely be done this fall, and producers will be notified 30 days prior to the spot check. A total of 43 tracts will be reviewed in Sheridan County.
- Completed reviews on majority of EQIP contracts which were not on schedule, bringing them up to date. We still have 1-2 that will need to take some action, but have received no response from the participant.
- Letters were sent to all current contract participants with a reminder about practices which are scheduled for installation this year.
- Continue to receive applications for EQIP cost-share. We assume that we will cut off applications on June 1 for 2009 funding consideration. Currently have about 18 applications on our register.
- Will be reviewing proposed chiseling sites for biological considerations with Holger Jensen from the Miles City Area Office next week. This is to ensure that all policies are being adhered to and that the sites are suitable for application of this practice. We have 20 sites scheduled for chiseling this year.
- Will probably begin measuring water levels on Box Elder Dam this week, once the ice is gone. The City of Plentywood has already negotiated an allotment of water usage with the Golf Course for this irrigation season.
- Continue to follow up on Continuous CRP contracts for trees (field windbreaks) which need further assistance (mesh, drip line, replacements). Also have continued interest in the program as a whole, especially if wildlife

habitat practice is implemented. Signed modification for Paul Overgaard contract to add mesh and drip line on field windbreaks planted last year.

- Processed a number of sodbuster requests, one field investigation for wetland identification, and assisted with District tree ordering (species selection, spacing, etc.)

NRCS - Dave Pratt, Area Resource Conservationist

David Pratt, Area Resource Conservationist, Miles City Office, explained the new NRCS area. He discussed the uncertainty of the new Farm Bill and the newest April 18th deadline. The NACD website is a good source for Farm Bill update. He reported that there were 350 contracts to review as well as status reviews in his area. As an area, \$7,000,000.00 has been obligated for this year. He reported that Sheridan County has 18 new contracts totaling over \$300,000.00 and a total of 97 active contracts.

SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Well measurements completed on schedule.
- Semi-Annual well measurements scheduled for this week
- All water use payments have been received except Roger Schmitz.
- TAC meeting was held March 6, 2008. Next meeting scheduled for March 5, 2009.
- TAC meeting minutes ready to send.
- TAC recommendations approved by District Board.
- DNRC policy is to require a letter withdrawing an application that has not yet been granted.
- Met with USFWS about Big Muddy/Lake Creek. Refuge would like assistance with water quality on both creeks.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Data compilation completed. Formatting data for DEQ. Will send as soon as Jon Reiten has written portion completed.

USGS

- Submitted reports and invoices totaling \$13,200.
- Well measurements scheduled monthly thru November.

R C & D

- Participated in new RC&D Coordinator employee discussions with Dave Kascht and David Pratt of NRCS on March 4th.
- Quarterly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 16 in Baker.
- Dick Iverson hired as New Coordinator.

Misc.

- Attended KATQ Farm Expo banquet on March 14th and presented 2007 Cooperator of the Year award to Nathan and Jessica Shackelford.
- Completed USDA IT security training on March 25th.
- Grass Drill repairs completed by Tommerup.
- Investigated prices for no-till grass drill.
- Discussed FWP program for using grass drill for upland bird feed plots. County would rent drill and County employee would operate.
- Assisted Judy with NRCS cooperative agreement.
- Updated Web Site.
- Worked on Newsletter.

Coming Up

- NCOC Carbon Credit meeting at the Bicentennial Room on April 9th.
- RC&D quarterly meeting in Baker on April 16th.
- “Made in Montana” workshop April 22nd at the Jubilee Room.
- Tree planting.

Unfinished Business:

- Post Driver
The purchase of a post driver was discussed. No decision made.
- Grass Drill
The grass drill repairs were discussed. Mickey McCall reported that the drill is at Tommerup Machine for repair. They also discussed as to whether purchasing a new drill would be feasible or continue the use of the drill that we have. No decision made.
- Storage Trailer
After storage trailer discussion, Todd Marsh made a motion to allow \$3000.00 for the purchase of a storage trailer. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Mickey McCall will try to find something available for the allowable price.

New Business:

- Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS/Dave Pratt
After some discussion of the Cooperative Working Agreement with Dave Pratt, he thought that there was a more current agreement than the one we had the copy of. He contacted the Bozeman office to get the most recent copy. That will be available at our next meeting.
- Insurance Amendment

The Insurance Amendment regarding the use of NRCS vehicles will be discussed at the next meeting along with the Cooperative Working Agreement.

- Bureau of Mines – MOU
The new Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Mines and Sheridan County Conservation District regarding the 273 Aquifer Project was reviewed by those present. Rom Hedges made a motion to sign the agreement. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The agreement was signed by Chairman Jeff Wivholm.
- Admin Grant – Board Approval
The Admin Grant for the forthcoming year was reviewed. The final figure for the mill levy was not available at the time of the meeting. Bill Nyby, Commissioner, will not have that figure available until mid-April. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the Admin Grant with the estimated mill levy. Manuel Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The Admin Grant will be sent in prior to the May 1 deadline with the actual mill levy amount.
- CD Renewal – Rocky Mountain Bank
CD#7006089 at Rocky Mountain Bank in the amount of \$15,227.50 is due for renewal April 23, 2008. The current renewal rates 3.02% for 2 years, 2.65% for 1 year, 2.30% for 6 months, and 2.20% for 91 days were reviewed. Jon Bolstad made a motion to renew \$10,000.00 for 6 months and transfer the balance of \$5,227.50 to the Money Market fund to be used for the storage trailer purchase. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.
- Election – Ballot or Acclamation
Judy Benson reported that she had talked to Mary Dahl at the Clerk & Records office about the Supervisors names being on the ballots for the November 2008 election. Election by Acclamation had been done in 2006, possibly because of a cost issue since the Town of Outlook, the Town of Westby, and the Medicine Lake Refuge are not in the Conservation District and special ballots would have to be prepared. The Board Members present stated that they would like to have the candidates listed on the ballots if possible, unless high cost is an issue. Judy Benson will contact Mary Dahl and see what can be done.
- Trees & Tree Mesh
Judy Benson had contacted J&L Fencing in Sidney as to the cost of the tree mesh. They quoted a price of \$70 for 300 ft. rolls and \$105 for 500 ft. rolls. They have the mesh on hand and will deliver to Plentywood at that price. The board members agreed that the District should order the mesh

and sell at a 20 per cent mark-up. The Pioneer Manor had contact the District to order lilacs. The Board agreed to let them purchase the lilacs from the District as long as there is not another local source available.

Scott Kaiser – DNRC

Scott Kaiser, DNRC, Miles City Office, spoke briefly with the members present. He passed around a Board Evaluation Questionnaire that he would like the board members to fill out and review at another meeting. If possible he would like to return to our meeting when we review them. He also discussed the importance of an annual audit. He suggested that we could possibly apply for a 223 grant as plans progress for a storage shed, post driver, or weed badger. He also talked about 310 permits.

Adjournment:

- Jon Bolstad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Manuel Vazquez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
- Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 13 at

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: May 13, 2008