



## 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, May 8, 2008 @ 8:00 AM**  
**USDA Building – Conference Room**  
**119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana**

### MINUTES

**SCCD Supervisors Present:**

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm  
Supervisor: Jon Bolstad  
Supervisor: Rom Hedges  
Supervisor: Tim Holte  
Supervisor: Todd Marsh  
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

**SCCD Supervisors Absent:**

Supervisor: Kent Nathe  
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez

**SCCD Staff:**

Judy Benson, District Administrator  
Mickey McCall, Technician

**NRCS:**

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

**Guests:**

Dick Iverson, Coordinator, Eastern Plains RC &D, Sidney Office

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman, Jeff Wivholm called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2008 Meeting**

After reviewing the April 13, 2008 minutes, Todd Marsh 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. Tim Holte 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 \$8,142.35 as listed on the Check Detail dated April 8 through May 12 were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for April as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding, and quarterly payroll taxes. The unpaid bills to the Bureau of Mines in the amount of \$8,000.68 are pending quarterly grant reimbursements. Tim Holte 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 by Jeff Wivholm and Tim Holte.

**NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich**

- Spring practice installation has begun, with producers requesting payments for legumes, soil sampling, no-till, along with a variety of engineering projects completed such as pipelines, fences, tanks, spring developments.
- Met with FSA County Committee to consider request for Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) based on livestock water needs. Request has been forwarded through FSA's channels for consideration.
- Assisted with tree orders and delivery as needed.
- Measured water level in Box Elder Dam per City of Plentywood's request. The level on April 17 was exactly the same as measured last fall before freeze up. We will continue to monitor the level on a monthly basis to coincide with meter reading on the Golf Course irrigation pump.
- Reviewed proposed chiseling site with Area Office conservationist, Holger Jensen. All locations were approved for chiseling. His opinion was that if the District Aerator is used, that twice over would probably provide a better result, with more aggressive soil/vegetation disturbance.
- Tim Solberg is working on a wetland recovery project on a Piping Plover nesting site with USFWS biologist Tim Connolly. They are proposing removal of a dump site on this wetland.
- Scott Thompson of MDFWP is moving forward with food plots for pheasant habitat, primarily in the Big Muddy floodplain. A county employee will be doing the actual seeding, and may rent the grass drills from the District.

- Future saline seep contracts may be reduced from 5 years to 3 years for managing recharge. This is due to a national review, and is still under discussion.
- Postcards promoting the Wetland Reserve Program were sent out to a number of producers from our State Office in the past month. One person has been in to inquire, but doesn't meet program requirements.

**Dick Iverson - Coordinator, Eastern Plains RC &D**

Dick Iverson, Coordinator of the Eastern Plains RC & D, rural development branch of NRCS, explained a few of the projects that he is involved in at this time. He noted that Mike Carlson had retired and he had been appointed to his position as coordinator. He reported on the Fort Peck Tribes Bison Herd and mentioned that Supervisor Todd Marsh had donated his time and services for the health management project for the herd, including blood sampling, ID tagging and vaccinating for Brucellosis. He reported on an Ethanol/Feedlot Tour that was hosted for Congressional Field Staff in September of 2007. Feasibility studies are ongoing and he will keep us up to date on the studies. He discussed the wind energy testing projects at various sites in eastern and north eastern Montana that are currently recording data. He extended an invitation to the 2008 Ag Open to be held in August.

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

Aquifer

- Well measurements schedule.
- Semi-Annual well measurements completed on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Roger Schmitz has not paid for the last 2 years of water use.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- 319 Grant has been extended to September 30, 2008.
- All data, maps, and pertinent information sent to DEQ on April 15.
- DEQ now developing SAP (Sampling and Analysis Plan).
- Sap will include 5-7 site on the Big Muddy, Beaver Creek, and Whitetail Creek, and 5 to 7 sites on Lake Creek, Sand Creek, and Cottonwood Creek.
- District will be required to employ a private contractor to take samples with District supervision.

USGS

- Well measurements scheduled monthly thru November.
- Crews from Jamestown and Bozeman here week of 5-19-08.

R C & D

- Quarterly meeting held April 16 in Baker.
- Working with Dick Iverson, Coordinator, on contract negotiations with NCOC for payments.

Trees

- 1<sup>st</sup> shipment of trees arrived on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- County would not turn on water at fairgrounds. Hauled water!
- Second shipment on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Misc.

- Assisted Marvin Wagnild with salinity well measurements.
- Assisted Jon Reiten with Data Loggers in Sidney.
- Assisted 2 people with water rights issues.
- Met with Bob Sanders of DU on April 15<sup>th</sup> about Easements and carbon Credits.
- Updated Web Site.
- Worked on Newsletter.

Coming Up

- Tree planting.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Post Driver  
The purchase of a post driver was discussed. It was decided to apply for a 223 grant for the purchase. Mickey McCall will try to prepare the paperwork for fall.
- Grass Drill  
After discussion on a new policy for the grass drill, Jon Bolstad made a motion to charge a \$25.00 per day fee for the use of the grass drill. Tim Holte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Lonnie Michels used the grass drill without signing a rental agreement or paying the deposit. The drills had not been cleaned prior to return. It was suggested to send him a bill and a letter explaining our policy on the use of the grass drill and an additional \$75.00 for cleaning fees.
- Storage Trailer  
The Board asked Mickey McCall if he could put together an application for a 223 Grant for a storage container prior to the May 16 deadline. The committee will meet at the Spring Board meeting in Helena, June 2-3.

**New Business:**

- Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS  
The NRCS Bozeman office sent us a signed copy of the 2003 Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS. Since no changes have been made we will not have to review until next year.

- Insurance Amendment  
The Insurance Amendment regarding the use of NRCS vehicles was discussed. Tim Holte had a motion to sign the amendment. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Chairman Jeff Wivholm signed the agreement. It will be sent to the NRCS Office for signature. Upon return, a copy will be sent to Western States Insurance Co.
- 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. It was renewed in the amount of \$10,227.50 for 91 days at a rate of 2.58% (CD#7008928) with the remaining \$5,000.00 transferred to the Money Market fund. Two CDs at Rocky Mountain Bank in the amount of \$5555.25 each will be due on June 6 and the CD at Montana State Bank in the amount of \$1,769.19 will be due on June 18. The three CDs will be discussed at our June meeting.
- 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. The cost is the factor 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 other option would be to have an election by mail. The District would be responsible for the cost. The Board Members present stated that acclamation would be all right for this election as only two candidates are running for two positions.

**New Business:**

- Spring Board Meeting – Helena, June 2-3  
Spring Board Meeting will be held in Helena, June 2-3. Jeff Wivholm asked that Judy Benson check with Jan Fountaine at the MACD office as to whether she reserved rooms for the directors. If not, Judy will call for reservations for Jeff for the nights of June 1 and June 2.
- QuickBooks Seminar – Billings, May 20-21  
Judy Benson passed around a brochure regarding a QuickBooks Users Conference to be held in Billings, May 20-21. Jon Bolstad made a motion for Judy to attend the conference. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Todd Marsh will be contributing to the conference expense.
- 310 Survey Discussion

The Board members present completed a 310 Survey as requested by Laurie Zeller, DNRC. The results were needed prior to the MACD Spring Board meeting to be held June 2-3.

- Conservation Efforts with BLM

The Board member present discussed a questionnaire from Jan Fontaine, MACD, regarding any working agreements that the District has with BLM. There is less than 240 acres of BLM land in Sheridan County; therefore the District has not had a memorandum of understanding or cooperative working agreement with BLM.

**Adjournment:**

- Tim Holte motioned to adjourn the meeting. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.
- Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,  
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman  
Date: July 8, 2008