



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
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 @ 9:00 AM
USDA Building – Conference Room
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana

MINUTES

SCCD Supervisors Present:

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm
Supervisor: Jon Bolstad
Supervisor: Rom Hedges

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Todd Marsh
Supervisor: Kent Nathe
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

Guests:

Jerry Rodriguez, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Medicine Lake Refuge

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Jeff Wivholm called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2008 Meeting

After reviewing the October 14, 2008 minutes, Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

4. 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. Rom Hedges seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

5. Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$48,811.77 as listed on the Check Detail dated October 10, 2008 through November 10, 2008 were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for October as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding, HydroSolutions (319 Project), and Mt Tech (273 Aquifer). There is an unpaid bill to Mt. Tech of the U of M in the amount of \$3,378.18, pending the receipt of payment for the third quarter invoice for the 273 Aquifer Grant. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The checks were signed by Jeff Wivholm.

6. NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich

- Thank you for the card and flowers while I was recuperating from my y. My goal is to stay out of the hospital for a while at least!
- Attended a DC meeting in Miles City last week. Met with the interim State Conservationist, Jon Hempel, briefly. He will only be here through December. He advised us of a large financial audit of all NRCS obligations coming in the next week. They are unsure of what time commitment this may entail, but said it will take priority over all other activities.
- We are in the process of completing National Resource Inventory data collection. This is a yearly activity, aimed at looking at changes in cropping activity in the county. Approximately 126 sites will be reviewed here.
- Follow-up on existing EQIP contracts has become more urgent because of the impending financial audit. Any contracts with practices out of date are in jeopardy of having termination procedures begun. Unfortunately, while a lot of progress has been made in the past month, we do still have a large backlog of practices not completed.
- Even with the above statement, our field office exceeded planning and application goals set for us for 2008, so we can take pride in our accomplishments over the past year.
- Status reviews were conducted on Highly Erodible cropland for purposes of monitoring compliance with conservation plans. Once again, an aerial survey was used to measure residue. All 43 tracts which were checked in Sheridan County met requirements. I do have some concerns about a return to summer fallow, and those fields becoming more “black” than we would like to see. We will try to address this issue with a news article in the District newsletter.

7. SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Well measurements on schedule.
- Semi-annual measurements completed on October 31st.
- The aquifer test at Tom Enanders will continue until the end of November

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Data from HydroSolutions has been received.
- Payment has been received.
- Final report nearly completed.
 - Jon Reiten is working on it in Billings.
 - Mickey is working on it here.
- Spent the week on October 20th at MBMG in Billings working on report with Jon Reiten.

USGS

- Compiled data.

R C & D

- The last quarterly meeting was held on October 22nd in Culbertson.
- State RC&D Board meeting Thursday November 13th in Billings.

Other

- Need to replace windshield on Chevrolet pickup. Approximately \$350.00

USFWS -Jerry Rodriguez – Medicine Lake Refuge

Jerry reported that he plans to attend our meetings from time to time. Hopefully we can find a project to partner. He discussed the budget decreases and staff reductions causing programs to be put on hold since his arrival. He stated that it had been a good grazing year. He discussed they would be looking at water quality issues over the next few years. He also noted that they had quit diverting the water on the Muddy and kept it going downstream this summer. The board members and Mickey McCall thanked Jerry for assisting Mickey with the Aquifer project. In turn, Mickey keeps Jerry posted on water issues.

8. Unfinished Business:

- MACD Convention – Nov. 19-20, Missoula
Jeff Wivholm, Mickey McCall and Judy Benson are planning to attend MACD in Missoula. Judy will call the Hilton Garden Inn and cancel the 2

extra rooms reserved and confirm the 3 needed. A pheasant feather wreath has been ordered from Diane Spoklie for the auction item for MACD.

- Aerator
It was brought to the attention of the Board members by Mickey McCall that Carl Eidsness had used the aerator during the week of October 6, 2008 and caused extensive damage to the shaft, teeth and bearings. The board advised Mickey McCall to talk to Doug Tommerup for a quote on parts and labor. Further discussion will held at the next meeting
- 319 Big Muddy Status
The final billing in the amount of \$48,443.53 was submitted to DEQ on September 30, 2008. Payment was received October 31, 2008 and the payment to HydroSolutions and Mt. Tech were sent November 10, 2008. There will be an additional payment to Mt. Tech for Jon Reiten's time on the final report.
- Map Books
The total sales to date on the map booklets and wall maps are \$5,448.00. Included in that total, Hi-Line Sports has sold 60 map booklets totaling \$1500.00 and the Barber Chair has sold 61 map booklets and 7 wall maps totaling \$1646.00.

9. New Business:

- MACo Health Insurance Renewal
We have received our new health insurance policy and new rates for 2009. The monthly rate will increase \$61.00 per individual and \$153.00 per family. The Participation & Affiliation Agreement with MACo was signed and returned to them prior to the November 14 deadline. Further discussion will be held at the December meeting.
- Equipment Purchase
Mickey McCall discussed down well computers to replace the paper recorders now in place. He estimated the 10 computers and barometers at a cost of \$5,000.00. The board requested that the final decision be made at the December meeting.
- Christmas Party
It was suggested that we have our Christmas Party at the Gold Dollar Steak House as early in December as possible. Prime rib and shrimp were selected for the menu. Judy will cal the Gold Dollar and try make reservations for Friday, December 5 and also request prime rib if possible. Invitations will be sent as soon as the date is confirmed.

11. Pass Around Files:

The Pass Around Files were reviewed by the board members present.

12. Adjournment:

- Jon Bolstad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM
- Next Meeting:
Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: Dec. 9, 2008