



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 9, 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
Supervisor: Todd Marsh
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Kent Nathe
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

GUESTS:

None

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 – November 12, 2008 Meeting

After reviewing the November 12, 2008 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.

4. Financial Report:

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

5. Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$10,394.59 as listed on the Check Detail dated November 11, 2008 through December 8, 2008 were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for November as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding, Brekke Construction (223 Grant expense for storage unit), MACD Convention travel expenses and our holiday dinner. There are two unpaid bills to Mt. Tech of the U of M in the amount of \$4,443.79, pending the receipt of grant payments. Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. John Bolstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The checks were signed by Supervisors Jeff Wivholm and Todd Marsh

6. NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich

- Thank you on behalf of the NRCS staff for hosting us at your annual Christmas party. We enjoyed ourselves, and the past year working with the Conservation District.
- The financial audit of all cost-share contracts is well underway, and we have spent the past two weeks reviewing those. One contract has been cancelled, with only a \$20 soil test payment left unpaid. We are looking at cancelling another one like that one, as the producer is unable to procure landowner signatures to prove control of land.
- We have continued to certify practice installation and make payments on these contracts through the past month. We have received zone maps on the Precision Ag contracts from the Technical Service Provider hired to make them, and so that initiative is now underway.
- We are expecting new Farm Bill programs to be rolled out early in 2009. We will hopefully know more about financial allocations and program rules in January.
- You may be hearing about meetings being held around the state to bring livestock producers up to date on feedlot rules with DEQ. The closest one in our area will be in Glendive on January 8.
- A group of agencies which provide easements on lands suitable for wildlife habitat have been working on a pamphlet to inform landowners on what is available. They are now thinking of approaching local bankers, attorneys, accountants, etc. with this information first, assuming they are often the first place people start when they are interested in placing their land under

easement. They have asked our local office to provide points of contact for them to approach.

7. SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Well measurements on schedule.
- Compiling data from aquifer test at Tom Enanders.

Big Muddy 319 grant

- Final report nearly completed.
 - Jon Reiten is working on it in Billings.
 - Mickey is working on it here.
- Working on final financial data for Rob Rung (matching dollars)

USGS

- Collecting land access written permissions
- Compiling data

R C & D

- Appointed to State RC&D Board.
- State RC&D Board meeting held on November 13th in Billings.
- Appointed to Coordinator acquisition Committee
- Met with Randy Phelan, NRCS Coordinator Supervisor, and RC&D Coordinators from around the state at MACD convention in Missoula.
- Will hold committee conference call on December 9, to finalize recommendations to State Conservationist
- Interviewed 3 applicants for Admin Assistant position in Sidney

Other

- Attended MACD Annual convention in Missoula Nov. 18-21.
- Attended NAPRL focus Group meeting in Sidney on November 24th.
 - Buzz Mattelin presented the Froid Research Farm wind project.
 - Jerry Bergman explained the MSU-EARC building project at Sidney
- Assisted Judy with Annual Financial Report

Coming Up

- Pump tests
- Vacation 12/22/08-1/2/09

8. Unfinished Business:

- MACD Convention – Nov. 19-20, Missoula
Jeff Wivholm discussed the resolutions presented at the convention. Jeff discussed the water resolution and that Senator Tester had been contacted to include Conservation Districts in his proposal. The split-state status for brucellosis was also discussed among the board.

- Aerator

Mickey reported that the repairs for the aerator had been ordered and would be shipped possibly today. The total for the parts will be \$3,328.46. He presented the board with a break-down of all parts costs with the amount of \$2,028.93 to the District and \$1,379.53 to Carl Eidsness for the damages incurred while he was using the aerator. The freight cost and labor costs which are unknown at this time will be prorated. The board also requested that Carl's \$250.00 deposit be held until the final bills were in. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve going ahead with the repairs and replace all tines as well as the damaged shaft, sharing the expense between the District and Carl Eidsness as stated above. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.
- Equipment Purchase
 - Down Well Computers - Mickey McCall discussed down well computers to replace all but four of the paper recorders now in place. He estimated ten computers and two barometers at an estimated cost of \$4,939.00 from Electronic Data Solutions. He also reported to the Board that he had been visiting with Pat Reilly of DNRC about doing irrigation pump testing. Mickey discussed the District doing the testing and Jon Reiten doing the data analysis. The new computers would be used for the testing. Mickey discussed a proposed rate schedule. Tentative approval was given. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the purchase of the well computers up to \$5,000.00. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.
 - Weather Stations – Mickey reported that the draft 223 Grant proposal to purchase ten to twelve weather stations to be placed at strategic locations in the area around the aquifer throughout Sheridan County. The landowners would pay twenty percent which would be approximately \$200.00 to \$300.00 of the total price of each weather station placed on their property. Our goal is to have two dozen within the county. District personnel will collect and distribute that data for the life of the stations. The project cost is estimated at \$20,000 with the grant request at \$15,000.00. The 223 grant proposal will be submitted prior to the next deadline.

9. New Business:

- Wages and 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 board members present reviewed Mickey McCall and Judy Benson's present wages rates as well as the increase in health insurance premium. Todd Marsh made a motion to increase each of their wages \$1.00 per hour

effective December 1, 2008. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

- Annual Financial Report – Montana Department of Administration
After a line by line review of the Annual Financial Report for year ending June 30, 2008 with the board members present, Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Report. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Judy Benson will submit the report to the State of Montana prior to the December 31, 2008 deadline.
- Audit
The board members discussed and internal review of the Sheridan County Conservation District books. It was suggested that Todd Marsh, Jon Bolstad, Tim Holte and any other board members that would be available try to do a review in January or February. Judy Benson will check with Laurie Zeller, DNRC, as to forms to follow for the review.
- Dry Prairie Rural Water Appointment
Joni Sherman of Dry Prairie Rural Water sent notification that it was time for the District to appoint or re-appoint one member from our County to be the representative on the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority Board for a two year term. Rom Hedges made a motion to re-appoint Gordon Kampen, pending his approval, to another two year term. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Gordon Kampen will be contacted for his approval and Dry Prairie Rural Water then will be notified of the Board decision.
- Manuel Vazquez Re-appointment
Manuel Vazquez will complete his three year term as Urban Supervisor on the District Board in March of 2009. A letter will be sent to Manuel notifying him that it is time for his re-appointment and request his interest in continuing to serve on the District Board. Upon his reply, we will contact the City of Plentywood to request the re-appointment.
- Sign Final 223 Invoice & Report – Storage Unit
The 223 Invoice and Final Report for the Storage Unit were reviewed. Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve and sign. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. The 223 invoice and final report were signed by Chairman Jeff Wivholm and will be mailed today to DNRC, Attn: Laurie Zeller.

11. Pass Around Files:

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

12. Adjournment:

- With no further business before the board, Jon Bolstad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rom Hedges seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM
- Next Meeting:
Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.
USDA Building – Conference Room
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Approved,

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: Jan. 13, 2009