



## 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, January 13, 2009 @ 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: Tim Holte

**SCCD Supervisors Absent:**

Supervisor: Todd Marsh  
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez  
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

**SCCD Staff:**

Judy Benson, District Administrator  
Mickey McCall, Technician

**NRCS:**

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

**GUESTS:**

None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The Sheridan County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' regular scheduled meeting, was called to order by Chairman Jeff Wivholm at 9:00 AM., January 13, 2009.

**2. Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

### **3. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2008 Meeting**

After reviewing the December 9, 2008 minutes, Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Tim Holte 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; Tim Holte made a motion to accept the Financial Statements. Jon Bolstad seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. In review of the Accounts Receivable, it was suggested that a certified letter be sent to Keven Johnstone regarding the use of the drill in June of 2008.

### **5. Bills to Pay**

The expenditures totaling \$18,101.64 as listed on the Check Detail dated December 9, 2008 through January 12, 2009 were reviewed. In the figure are the regular monthly bills for December as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding, Supervisor mileage & meeting expense, MACD dues, well computers and Montana Tech. There are no unpaid bills at this time. 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 Supervisors Jeff Wivholm and Tim Holte.

### **6. NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich**

- Financial Audit of all contracts was finished on Dec. 22. All issues for Sheridan County were taken care of. A total of 3 contracts were cancelled, with no repayment of funds required.
- Special Initiatives under EQIP for Precision Ag and CRP Transition will be offered again in 2009 for this county. The CRP transition is for producers who have expiring CRP contracts which will be converted to grazing land for livestock. We cost-share water developments and some fencing.
- A new Continuous CRP practice is being offered for upland game bird habitat development. These contracts will be focused on acreage which lends itself to good wildlife habitat. We will have more details after a teleconference tomorrow morning.
- We have contacted most contract holders who have a practice scheduled to be installed this coming year. We will be working on reviewing specifications and completing job sheets for these practices so everyone will be ready to go come spring.
- Still no word on rollout of new conservation programs, such as CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program). Farm Service Agency is putting on informational meetings in Roosevelt County regarding their program changes. Our local agency has not scheduled any meetings at this time.
- Our new State Conservationist, Joyce Swartzendruber, should be in Montana by mid-February.

- I will be off for another couple of weeks for surgery on my neck, beginning Jan. 26. Tim Solberg will be Acting DC during that time.

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

### Aquifer

- Well measurements on schedule.
  1. Last measurements in December just before the snow and cold temperatures.
  2. January measurements will be sparse, but need to download computers and change paper recorders. Looking for indications of an earthquake on January 3<sup>rd</sup> located 11 miles ESE of Dagmar.
- MGMB is compiling data from aquifer test at Tom Enanders.

### Big Muddy 319 grant

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

### USGS

- Compiling and analyzing data.

### R C & D

- Dick Iverson, Coordinator, retired effective January 2, 2009
- Paul Finnicum, Poplar NRCS office, appointed as interim Coordinator effective January 8.
- Discussed vacancy with Randy Phelan, NRCS Bozeman, and was approved to participate in selection of new Coordinator.
- State Coordinator Acquisition Committee conference call will be held on January 13, 2009.
- Appointed to State Legislative Committee.

### Other

- Assisted Marvin Wagnild with saline seep well measurements.
- Ordered parts for aerator.
  - Received parts on January 6, 2009.
  - Tommerup cannot complete repairs, John Deere will.
- Assisted Judy with annual report.
- Ordered and receive 10 data loggers to replace paper recorders in shallow wells.
  - Data loggers will also be used in aquifer pump tests.
- Completed newsletter.
- Competed 223 grant request for weather stations. Ready for Board approval.

### Coming Up

- Pump tests Jim Davis, Larslan; end of January.
- RC&D annual meeting February 4, in Sidney.
- Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for March 5, 2009.

## **8. Unfinished Business:**

- Audit/Financial Review  
After a short discussion regarding the audit/financial review of the District it was agreed that we wait until after the March 10 meeting as Karl Christians with DNRC will be here to conduct a new supervisor training session and may have suggestions for our financial review. Judy Benson will also check with Laurie Zeller, DNRC, and Jan Fountaine, MACD, prior to the next meeting to verify if a review can be done by the supervisors.
- Aerator  
Mickey McCall reported that the repairs for the aerator are in at the John Deere. John Deere has agreed to do the repairs as Doug Tommerup was not able to get the aerator into his shop.
- Manuel Vazquez Re-appointment  
The City Council Report in the January 8, 2009 issue of the Sheridan County News stated that the City of Plentywood had re-appointed Manuel Vazquez for another 3-year term as Urban Supervisor to the Sheridan County Conservation District Board. Judy Benson will contract Kelly Thiel at the City office for a letter stating Manuel's re-appointment for our files. Oath of Office will take place at a future meeting.

**9. New Business:**

- Oath of Office – Todd Marsh  
Supervisor Todd Marsh was unable to attend today's meeting. Oath of Office will be administered at a future meeting.
- SCCD Election of Officers  
Election of Officers will be held at a future meeting after the re-elected and re-appointed supervisors have taken their Oath of Office.
- Kent Nathe Vacancy  
Kent Nathe was re-elected by acclamation in the November general election to serve another four-year term beginning January 2009. Kent passed away December 26, 2008. The SCCD board of supervisors will have to appoint a supervisor for a two-year term to fill Kent's vacancy. After fulfilling the two-year term, a supervisor will then have to be elected for a two-year term to complete Kent's four-year term of office. After discussion, the Board agreed to wait until the February meeting to make an appointment.
- Planning Board Appointment  
Doug Smith of the Sheridan County Planning Board had requested that we appoint a replacement for Kent Nathe to represent the Sheridan County Conservation District on the Planning Board. Jon Bolstad made a motion to appoint board member, Tim Holte as the District representative to the Planning Board. Rom Hedges seconded. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. A letter will be sent to Doug Smith notifying him of the appointment.
- Annual Plan  
The SCCD Annual Plan of Operation was reviewed. Each supervisor was given a copy for review. Further discussion will take place at the February meeting.

- Workers' Compensation Audit  
The Montana State Fund notified the Conservation District in a letter dated December 11, 2008 that they would be conducting an audit for the period of October 1, 2007 – October 31, 2008. We received a call from Dan Pust with Montana State Fund scheduling the audit on Friday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- Roger Schmitz Water Usage  
Roger Schmitz had written a letter to the District after receiving his water usage billing in December 2008 stating that he had not used any water for the year and therefore should not be charged. It was agreed to send a letter to Roger explaining that the annual water use fee is for the permit, not for the amount of water used. If the permit fee is not paid, the permit can be denied.
- Supervisor Mileage and Per Diem Payment  
The checks for the supervisor mileage and per diem for 2008 totaling \$2,196.80 were signed and passed out to the supervisors present. Those absent will be mailed following the meeting.
- 223 Grant Approval – Weather Stations  
The 223 Grant Application for the weather stations was reviewed by the board member present. Tim Holte made a motion to sign and submit the grant application for the weather stations to DNRC. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Chairman Jeff Wivholm signed the application.

**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. Tim Holte seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM
- Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, February 10, 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