



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, March 10, 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: Todd Marsh
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Tim Holte

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

GUESTS:

Karl Christians, DNRC, Helena, New Supervisor Training following board meeting

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., March 10, 2009.

2. Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

3. Oath of Office – Manuel Vazquez & Nathan Shackelford

Oath of Office for Manuel Vazquez was administered, signed and notarized. Manuel Vazquez re-appointed by the City of Plentywood to serve a second three-year term. Nathan Shackelford was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2009 Meeting

After reviewing the February 10, 2009 minutes, Jon Bolstad made a motion to approve the minutes with the name correction on page 6, Mike Nelson changed to Mark Nelson. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

5. 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. In review of the two CDs to be renewed at Rocky Mountain Bank, one in the amount of \$4,607.79 and the other in the amount of \$18,249.87, Judy Benson that Rocky Mountain has a special offer on a 5 month CD at 2.4%. Todd Marsh made a motion to renew both CDs for 5 months at 2.4%. Jon Bolstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

6. Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$7,009.06 as listed on the Check Detail dated February 10, 2009 through March 9, 2009 were reviewed. The figure includes the regular monthly bills for February as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding. The unpaid bills at this time total \$12,100.95 to the Bureau of Mines, pending the 319 Big Muddy final report. Judy Benson reported that the District had received a credit in the amount of \$160.96 from the Montana State Fund after the recent audit. Judy was reclassified to Clerical Office Employee, which resulted in the credit. 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 Todd Marsh.

7. NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich

- Local Work Group meeting was held on 2/25/09. Had representatives from District, FSA County Committee, and Extension Service present. Funding percentages were adjusted away from cropland towards grazing land and multiple land use contracts. Ranking questions were also changed/updated.
- Producers with existing Precision Ag contracts had a meeting on 2/11. They primarily compared results and how they intended to apply variable rate fertilizer this spring.
- Another meeting for those interested in Precision Ag is scheduled for March 17 at the Froid Fire Hall at 9 a.m., and also in Wolf Point in the afternoon. Signup for Precision Ag contracts ends March 18.

- Received the list of tracts which will be flown to check residue levels for compliance with Food Security Act compliance plans. We requested the flight for Sheridan County to be done in the fall, rather than this spring.
- We participated in net conferences regarding changes to the Farm Bill programs. GRP (Grazing land Reserve Program) will only be offered in a few counties (not Sheridan Co.) WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) was funded at \$11.9 million in Montana, up from \$3-4 million in the past. There are some changes in processing applications, such as knowing a ballpark number of what will be offered per acre at time of signup.
- Tim Connolly of USFWS is working on a direct mailing letter outlining some of the options producers have for enrolling wetlands in one of the many programs available.
- I am meeting with Ron Anderson, Plentywood City Council, and Tim Hendricks, NRCS engineer to discuss water level monitoring and maintenance required on Box Elder Dam tomorrow.
- Changes have been made to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which pertains to the District. Supervisor approval and signature on NRCS plan documents will need to take place in executive session to protect producer privacy. In addition, District employees will need to sign an agreement regarding FOIA policy if they will be doing any work which involves NRCS files. It may be worthwhile to have Mickey and Judy do this at some point.

8. SCCD Technician's Report – Mickey McCall

Aquifer

- Unable to measure any wells in February.
 - Last measurements in December just before the snow and cold temperatures.
 - March well measurements will probably be limited.
- MBMG has completed data analysis from aquifer test at Tom Enanders and will present results at the TAC meeting on March 12.
- Provided USFWS with map of monitoring wells in their scheduled grazing and burning areas.

USGS

- Preparing for monitoring activities.
- Organizing procedures for new project around Medicine Lake.

R C & D

- Paul Finnicum, Poplar NRCS office, remains interim Coordinator.
- Vacancy advertising will ended February 26th. No activity regarding applications or interviews.
- State RC&D Association conference call was be held on March 9, 2009.
 - Association will meet with new State Conservationist on March 25th.
 - Looking for a representative to the NRCS State Technical Committee.

Other

- Parts for aerator arrived on January 6.
 - Tommerup cannot complete repairs, John Deere will. No activity as of yet.
- John Deere will also repair and service grass drill.
- 223 grant request for weather stations.
 - RCAC meeting was held March 9th.
 - Presented the project to the committee via telephone.
- Met with Jerry Rodriguez regarding the USFWS/NACD MOU and possible operations funding from UFWS.
- Completed newsletter.
- Competed Admin grant request for new laptop computer. Ready for Board approval.
- New laptop should be operational in approximately 2 weeks.

Coming Up

9. Unfinished Business:

- SCCD Financial Review
Todd Marsh started the financial review, prior to this morning meeting. The review will be completed as time allows for the supervisors.
- 2009 Annual Plan
Copies of the 2009 Annual Plan were passed around to those present for review. The Annual Plan will be signed at the April meeting.
- CD Operations Self Audit
The CD Operation Self Audit will be completed at the April meeting.
- Pickup Savings Fund
Todd Marsh reported that he had inquired as to how the county records depreciation on their equipment and was told that they calculate depreciation only to determine market value on their vehicles and equipment. It was suggested at our last meeting that the dollar amount of depreciation on the District's pickup could possibly be put into a savings account for replacement or repair costs. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.
- 223 Grant Update
Mickey McCall reported that he had a conference call March 9, 2009 with the RCAC committee while they reviewed the District's 223 Grant application for the weather station project. As of today, we have not received notification of the outcome.

10. New Business:

- Bureau of Mines – MOU- Pump Testing
The draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Sheridan County Conservation District and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology was reviewed by those present. A copy has been sent to the Bureau for their review and any changes or additions that they may request.

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. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM . Karl Christians, DNRC, did a New Supervisor Training Presentation immediately following the meeting for all board member present.
- Next Meeting:
Tuesday, April 14, 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: April 14, 2009