



## 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, June 9, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**  
**USDA Building – Conference Room**  
**119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana**

### MINUTES

**SCCD Supervisors Present:**

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

**SCCD Supervisors Absent:**

Supervisor: Jon Bolstad  
Supervisor: Nathan Shackelford  
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez

**SCCD Staff:**

Judy Benson, District Administrator  
Mickey McCall, Technician

**NRCS:**

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

**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 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

**2. Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**3. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2009 Meeting**

After reviewing the April 14, 2009 minutes, Todd Marsh 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 dated April 14 through June 9, 2009 including the bank balances, the deposit detail, the profit and loss, and balance sheet; Tim Holte made a motion to accept the Financial Statements. Rom Hedges seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. A renewal notice on Montana State CD #76270 in the amount of \$1818.12 with a renewal date of June 18, 2009 was received. As of today the interest rate has not been determined. Interest will be checked on the renewal date. The board agreed to a six month renewal.

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

The expenditures totaling \$23,884.14 as listed on the Check Detail dated April 14, 2009 through June 9, 2009 were reviewed. The figure includes the regular monthly bills for April and May as well as payroll, health insurance, and Montana State withholding, quarterly payroll taxes, range renovator repairs, trees and tree mesh. The unpaid bills at this time total \$17,888.99 to the Bureau of Mines, pending the 319 Big Muddy final report and the Aquifer quarterly report. Tim Holte 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. Other Reports**

##### **➤ NRCS Report – Monica Friedrich**

- Organic Special Initiative signup is continuing until June 12. There is cost-share available to existing and new organic producers.
- We have been reviewing applications for Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). A letter sent out from Tim Connolly, USFWS, and NRCS office has generated a fair amount of interest.
- Applications for the SAFE CRP (wildlife habitat program) have been curtailed by FSA. Because of the low acreage available for this program, and the large amount of producer interest, Sheridan County may only get 1-2 small offers enrolled.
- We are actively contracting 2009 EQIP funds right now. Contracts will be obligated by July 15. We received funds for 6 precision ag applications, along with 8 that will be developed with funds received at the county level.
- Field Office appraisal was completed by Area staff in April. No major corrective actions identified.
- NRCS assisted the District with tree orders and delivery.
- Checked out several Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) projects for FSA.

- Working on a rangeland monitoring project with Area staff to evaluate production increase on aerated land.
- Set some permanent survey benchmarks at Box Elder Dam. These can be used to check water levels, amongst other purposes. Also provided cost estimates to City Council for fence along east shore of dam to prevent off road vehicle damage.
- Requested that supervisors sign a confidentiality agreement for protection of NRCS Personally Identifiable Information (PII) found in conservation plans which the District is asked to sign at board meetings. Question was brought up whether the agreement actually pertains to their role as CD members, and won't be signed unless they are convinced of the necessity.

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

April 2009

**Aquifer**

- Unable to measure any wells in April.
  - Started semi-Annual measurements. Completion of measurements will be later than normal due to wet conditions.

**Aquifer Tests**

- Completed aquifer test at Cal Jonsson's west of Crane.
  - Initial pumping was stopped due to pump motor failure.
  - Second attempt was started on Friday, April 10 and completed on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Recovery data and data loggers retrieved on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Aquifer tests remaining include 2 for Tom Enander, 2 for Pat Riley west of Crane, and 1 for Jim Davis in Larslan.

**USGS**

- No activity.

**R C & D**

- New Coordinator has been selected. Awaiting approval from Washington, DC.
- State RC&D Association conference call was held Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Quarterly meeting was Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> in Glendive.

**Other**

- Repairs on Aerator and grass completed.
- 223 grant request for weather stations has been approved but only funded at 2/3 of requested amount.

**Coming Up**

- Scheduled aquifer tests include 2 in Sidney, 2 for Tom Enander, and 1 in Larslan.
  - Sidney tests are for Pat Riley at DNRC. Compensation will come from Richland Co. Conservation District.
  - Larslan test is for an individual; Jim Davis.
  - Tribes will be sampling Big Muddy for the next 3 years. I will assist. Potential funding will be from the Refuge.

May 2009

**Aquifer**

- Began measuring wells in May.
  - Semi-Annual measurements completed.
- Completed Aquifer Grant (273) quarterly report.
- Completed aquifer test on SC-023 – Tom Enander.
- Started aquifer test on SC-034 – Tom Enander. Completed in June.

**Aquifer Tests**

- Completed compiling aquifer test data on Cal Jonsson well.
- Started aquifer test on Charlie Wyman well west of Crane.
  - Could not complete Wyman test.
  - Agri-Industries portable pump being repaired.
  - Aquifer tests remaining include 2 for Pat Riley west of Crane, and 1 for Jim Davis in Larslan.

**USGS**

- Began a new project with MBMG, USGS, and USFWS on oil brine plumes.
  - Spent 2 days assisting Jon Reiten and USGS personnel sampling wells in the Westby area.
  - Compensation will be through MBMG.

**R C & D**

- New Coordinator was selected and approved by Washington, DC.
  - Person selected turned down the offer.
  - Another candidate was selected and approved
  - Bob Nansel accepted the offer and will start on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- State RC&D Association conference call was held on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Next quarterly meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in Wolf Point.

**Other**

- Assisted Marvin Wagnild with salinity well measurements.
- Distributed trees.
- Planted approximately 3,000 trees.
- Negotiations in progress with USFS for services contract.
  - Approximate annual value \$5,000.

**Coming Up**

- Aquifer tests include 2 in Sidney, 1 for Tom Enander, and 1 in Larslan.
  - Sidney tests are for Pat Riley at DNRC. Compensation will come from Richland Co. Conservation District.
  - Larslan test is for an individual; Jim Davis.
  - Assisted Tribes with sampling Big Muddy. Project is for the next 3 years. Potential funding will be through the Refuge.

**7. Unfinished Business:**

- Weather Station Grant #223-09-3066 Approval

The District received the signed copy of the Grant #223-09=3066 Agreement for approval of the Weather Station Project in the amount of \$10,000.00 scheduled to terminate May 1, 2010.

- Olin Sims Project Donation  
Tim Holte made a motion to donate \$25.00 to the Olin Simms Project. Rom Hedges seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. A tree and a plaque will be placed at the State Capitol Commemorating Olin Sims, past NACD president.

#### **8. New Business:**

- 10 Minute Training - Understanding Mill Levies:  
The Conservation District Training for May 2009, *Duties of Officers*, and the training for June 2009, *Sturgis Parliamentary Procedures*, were reviewed and discussed by the supervisors present. Judy Benson will send a reply to Karl Christians, DNRC stating that the trainings had been completed.
- Enander's Pump Test  
As discussed in Mickey McCall's Technician Report, Tim Holte made a motion to approve to advertize for Public Notice on Tom Enander's Water Use Permits SC-023 and SC-034 as recommended at the March 12, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Todd Marsh seconded the motion. Mickey McCall will make the necessary arrangements for the Public Notice.
- Research Farm – Jan Peters Lease  
A copy of the e-mail from Roosevelt County Conservation District was read regarding the \$419.00 DCP payment that has been previously received by the Research Farm and sent to Jan Peters and extending the lease on the farm land for another two year term. His lease is not up until 2010, so the lease extension would be until 2012. The Research Farm pays him \$1,575.00 per year and he is requesting an additional \$419.00 to compensate for the DCP payment. As a government entity we no longer receive the DCP payment to pass on to him. The Roosevelt County Conservation District Board unanimously approved to extend the lease of \$1,575.00 per year for two years in addition to \$419.00 per year, pending Sheridan County Conservation District's approval. Tim Holte asked if the Research Farm has a lease with ARS for that same period of time and also questioned as to whether the amount of the DCP would always be \$419.00. Judy Benson will check with the Roosevelt Co. CD to obtain that information. Pending further information, the discussion was tabled.
- Research Farm - Summary Acreage History and Yield Report  
The Board reviewed the Form CCC-523 Summary Acreage History and Yield Report showing the pulse crop acreage reported to the Roosevelt County Farm Service Agency for the Research Farm. The report was for information only. No action was taken.

- Research Farm Tour – Thursday, June 25  
The Froid Research Farm Tour will be held Thursday, June 25 with registration beginning at 1:00 PM. NRCS State Conservationist Joyce Swartzendruber is scheduled to attend. We have contacted Angel Light Catering to make the arrangements for the steak supper.
- Range Renovator Rates  
Tim Holte made a motion to charge a \$25.00 per day fee for the use of the range renovator in addition to the \$5.00 per acre that we currently charge. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.
- MACD Spring Boards Report – Jeff Wivholm  
Jeff Wivholm gave a brief report on the MACD Spring Board meeting that he had attended June 1-3 in Havre. Jeff is an Area I director to the MACD Board. He reported dues collection was a topic of discussion. Several counties are still not paying their dues. The Russian Olive trees were discussed and it was determined that each county makes their decision with their local weed board as to whether or not to allow planting.

**9. Pass Around Files:**

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

**10. Adjournment:**

- With no further business before the board, Todd Marsh motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tim Holte seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.
- Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.  
USDA Building – Conference Room  
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

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Judy A. Benson,  
District Administrator

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Jeff Wivholm  
Chairman  
Date: July 14, 2009