



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, August 11, 2009 @ 8:00 AM
USDA Building – Conference Room
119 N Jackson – Plentywood, Montana

MINUTES

SCCD Supervisors Present:

Chairman: Jeff Wivholm
Supervisor: Jon Bolstad
Supervisor: Tim Holte
Supervisor: Todd Marsh
Supervisor: Nathan Shackelford

SCCD Supervisors Absent:

Supervisor: Rom Hedges
Supervisor: Manuel Vazquez
Associate Supervisor: Steve Hove

SCCD Staff:

Judy Benson, District Administrator
Mickey McCall, Technician

NRCS:

Monica Friedrich, District Conservationist

GUEST:

Todd McCabe, Producer

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 8:00 AM, Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

2. Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2009 Meeting

After reviewing the July 14, 2009 minutes, Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes as true and correct. Nathan Shackelford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

4. Financial Report:

After review of the Financial Reports dated July 15, 2009 through August 10, 2009 including the bank balances, the deposit detail, the profit and loss, balance sheet and the two CDs at Rocky Mountain Bank #7008578 in the amount of \$18,466.70 and #7008579 in the amount of \$5,140.05 with a renewal date of August 7, 2009; Tim Holte made a motion to accept the Financial Statements and renew the two CDs at today's rate of 1.6% for 5 months. Todd Marsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present.

5. Bills to Pay

The expenditures totaling \$8,353.16 as listed on the Check Detail dated July 15, 2009 through August 10, 2009 were reviewed. The figure includes the regular monthly bills for July as well as payroll, health insurance, second quarter payroll taxes and July 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 and the second quarter Aquifer quarterly report. Todd Marsh made a motion to approve the total expenditures as listed. Nathan Shackelford 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**

- Received last minute funds for one more EQIP contract, a transition to organic farming application.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been announced and signup began yesterday, and will conclude Sept. 30 for 2009 contracts. Another signup period will immediately commence, as the signup is continuous, and end Jan. 14, 2010 for next year's contracts. This is a big effort on the part of NRCS so that acreage that could be enrolled won't be lost from the program.
- A demonstration of how the new CSP program works will be given for those interested.
- We only received a few new applications for 2010 EQIP.
- Continue to evaluate wetland applications for potential enrollment in WRP. Also continue to assist with implementation of scheduled conservation practices and payments.

We anticipate the bulk of our time being invested in CSP through the end of this year, and into the next year.

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

Aquifer

- Well measurements are current.
- Water Use Authorizations issued to Tom and Corrie Enander for permits SC-034 and SC-023.
- Will conduct aquifer test on SC-033 this week.

Aquifer Tests

- Aquifer tests remaining include 2 for Pat Riley west of Crane, and 1 for Jim Davis in Larslan.
- Agri-Industries has completed repairs to their pumping unit.

Big Muddy – USFWS/Tribes

- Sampling Big Muddy, Medicine Lake, Lake Creek, and Cottonwood Creek for field parameters, chloride, and nitrates.
- Will be receiving USFWS contract for sampling services within the next 2 weeks.

USGS

- Assisted a team of technicians from the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, ND. They took soil samples from 15 wetlands between Westby and Comertown. The project involves phosphorous content in the soil.

R C & D

- Bob Nansel began his duties as coordinator on July 20th.
- State RC&D Association conference call was held on August 10th.
- Quarterly meeting was held on July 22nd in Wolf Point.

Other

- Received software and hardware for downloading wind generator data. Tried to download the data from the generator, however, no one had started the data logger so no data was available. The data logger is now operating.

Coming Up

- USGS, MBMG, and USFWS personnel will be conducting Electro-Magnetic conductivity studies south of Westby during the week of September 14th.

7. Unfinished Business:

No Unfinished Business

8. New Business:

- 10 Minute Training - “Grants”:

The Conservation District Training for August 2009, *Grants* was reviewed and discussed by the supervisors present. Judy Benson will send a reply to Karl Christians, DNRC stating that the trainings had been completed.

- Todd McCabe – Range Renovator
Todd McCabe, Sheridan County producer, attended the meeting to dispute Invoice # 440, dated June 22, 2009 in the amount of \$2,245.00 for the use of the range renovator. He stated that he had no problem with the rental of the renovator for the 220 acres that he had done and left a check for \$1,100.00 to cover that amount. He did state that he felt he should not have to pay the per day charge in the amount of \$975.00 for the 39 days that he had the renovator nor should he have to pay for the repair to the drag in amount of \$150.00 or the broken point in the amount of \$20.00. The disputed amount totaled \$1,145.00. The members of the board explained to him that those stipulations, the \$25.00 per day charge and any mechanical damages must be repaired by the User or the User must pay for the repairs and also any broken points, as listed in the Range Renovator Policy that is to be signed by the producer prior to the use of the renovator. It is also stated in the Policy that a \$250.00 security deposit is to be paid when the renovator is leased. Neither was done. The drag had to be repaired and one point replaced before the next producer was able to use the renovator. Tim Holte reported that he had left messages for Todd to return his call so he could tell him of the per day charge and also ask that he stop in to the office and sign a contract. Tim's calls were not returned. The Board Members chose to table the discussion, until the date of the policy for the \$25.00 per day was found in prior minutes.
- ARS Notice of Renewal – Lease #57-5436-4-595 (Metal Pole Building)
Judy Benson reported to the board that the annual Notice of Renewal on Lease #57-5436-4-595 for the metal pole building at the Research Farm and been received from ARS. The terms listed covered the period from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 with quarterly payments in the amount of \$648.00 each.

9. Pass Around Files:

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

10. Adjournment:

- With no further business before the board, Jon Bolstad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Shackelford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the supervisors present. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.
- Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. (September meeting cancelled due to harvest.)

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Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Judy A. Benson,
District Administrator

Jeff Wivholm
Chairman
Date: October 13, 2009