

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on November 5, 2014 at 7:00pm at the USDA Building in Circle, MT. Those present were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Jenny Garoutte-Vice Chair, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Casey Nay-Urban Supervisor, Brant Quick-Rural Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-NRCS and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Matt Beery was absent. Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

Meeting minutes from October 2014 were reviewed. Steve made a motion to approve the minutes and Casey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Reports from October 2014 were reviewed. Steve made a motion to approve the reports and Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Following Correspondence & Visitors**

223 grant email from Linda Brander was shared with supervisors. This email stated that the recently submitted 223 grant may face adjustments.

The proposed resolutions were shared with supervisors to read at leisure.

A letter from the Montana Department of Agriculture requesting nominations for Young Ag Couples Conference in Helena January 21-24, 2015 was shared. Nominations are due by November 26.

Colorado Conservation Tillage Association (CCTA) High Plains No-Till Conference will be held in Burlington, CO on February 3-4, 2014.

### **Public Comments on District Business**

There were no public comments on the Districts business at this meeting.

### **Field Office Report**

#### **Outreach**

Range Soil Health Workshop: Field Office assisted with logistics: helped procure supplies, set up facilities and provide back-up for the kitchen staff. DC gave a short presentation about the importance of the Local Working Group; Ashley ran the audio-visual recording equipment.

Daisies: Johnna and Ashley presented to the Daisies (age 6) on October 24. Topics included:

- How Seeds Move
- How Seedlings Grow
- Soil Structure, included a demonstration by Ashley involving cereal and milk. There were no casualties.
- Seeds for food: people, wildlife, livestock

#### **Programs**

- CSP Renewal: Going is slow. Guidance is still coming, resulting in constant revisions. Upgrades to mapping software (Toolkit) continue to cause lost productivity and frustration! Deadline for all renewal contracts is December 2014.
- CSP end of fiscal year payments for 2014 are in progress.

#### **Upcoming Events—Staff**

- DC Meeting November 17 in Butte. Johnna will be gone for 3 days.

- All-Employee Meeting December 3 in Miles City. Johnna and Ashley will be gone 2 or 3 days.
- DC to speak at FSA Meeting December 8 at 2pm. Will speak about Local Working Groups.

**November 2014****Harvest Montana**

November 20-21, 2014

Great Falls, MT

**December 2014****Montana Grain Growers Convention**

December 2 – 4, 2014

Great Falls, MT

For more information: [www.mgga.org](http://www.mgga.org)

**Soil Health Workshop**

December 3, 2014

Hardin, MT

For more information: 406-665-3442, ext. 101

**Montana Organic Association Conference**

December 4 – 6, 2014

Great Falls, MT

For more information: [www.montanaorganicassociation.org](http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org)

**Montana Pulse Day**

December 5, 2014

For more information: 701-222-0128

**Montana Wool Growers Association Annual Meeting**

December 5 – 6, 2014

Billings, MT

For more information: [www.mtsheep.org](http://www.mtsheep.org)

**Montana Stockgrowers Association Convention**

December 11 – 13, 2014

Billings, MT

For more information: [www.mtbeef.org](http://www.mtbeef.org)

**Administrator's Report**

Avery Sukut Fund—Mary updated the board on the Avery Sukut fundraiser. Both sets of donated items raised a total of \$180.00. Brett & Haley Schillinger and Shell Brueland had the winning bids.

Chocolate Walk—The CD office participated in the Chocolate Walk this year—decorating the office and passing out candy to both kids and adults alike. We saw a lot of great costumes!

NACD dues— Asked area CDs the standard procedures on dues calculation for NACD. Both Richland and Garfield Counties pay 1% of their mill levies. One percent of the McCone County mill levy is \$98.84, so we will round up and pay \$100.00 instead of \$470.00 paid last year.

Convention Auction Item—Asked again for ideas on a convention item. Jenny will speak with Heidi Taylor for price/availability of barn wood boxes and/or sagebrush pen/pencil sets. Mary will contact Jana Hance, Circle Chamber for craftspeople information and products.

Evaluation Form—Administrator will be on the job for one year on November 11. Evaluation forms will be emailed to the supervisors.

### **Chairman's Report**

Steve traveled with Rachel Frost and Dean Rogge to Denver on October 7<sup>th</sup> to visit with Mike Blenden, Regional Refuge Manager for Montana, Wyoming & Nevada regarding the new CMR Refuge Manager. Mr. Blenden was impressed at the dedication and commitment from counties, conservation districts and partnerships working together on the CMR. They also met with Michael Thabault, Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services regarding the Greater sage-grouse and if it should be listed as endangered. Mr. Thabault mentioned future educational opportunities for landowners on the impact of having an endangered species on their land.

Steve and Dean then traveled to Great Falls on October 9 to attend the Bison Advisory Council Meeting. Steve said that there was a strong consideration for no action on bison at this time. He mentioned that Mr. Moody, State Representative from Lewistown polled hunters about bison and they said, "yes, they would shoot a bison, but not at the expense of a rancher."

Fall Workshop—Steve was very appreciative of the meal provided by Virginia Power. He had hoped to thank her, however, she had left before he could. He asked if the District could send her a thank you card.

Johnna really appreciated Bill Milton's comment on "Quality of Life" conversations with key people in your life and operation. She thought Bill had much to share and could have presented an entire workshop just on Holistic Resource Management practices.

### Winter Workshop Ideas:

#### Speakers

- Scott Ravenkamp—soil health
- Dan Buerkle—soil health
- Rachel Frost / Ken Nelson—salt cedar
- Mark Henning—soil health
- Johnna Blankenship—local working group

Workshop is planned for February 18<sup>th</sup> (tentative date). It will be a full day workshop with lunch. Applicator points may available.

### Grants

In the fall workshop evaluation, participants were asked for preference on equipment available for rent through the District. It was split evenly where half of the participants liked to have a post pounder and/or a no-till disc drill available to rent. One participant wanted both.

The board voted for re-submission of HB223 grant for a post pounder in the next round of grant funding. Brant made a motion to approve the re-submission of the grant and Jenny seconded the motion. Motion passed. The no-till disc drill grant has been tabled at this time.

Another suggestion made: As the District believes that this conservation tool is a much needed item for the county, Steve, Casey and Larry will plan to meet with the CHS Farmers Elevator Board to discuss the possibility of this company purchasing a post pounder and have it available for producers to rent.

### Old Business

CWA with DNRC & NRCS: Per David Pratt, the CWA is currently with DNRC. Steve will contact Karl Christians on the status of CWA. This will be noted in the old business section until completed.

Bison Ordinance: We are awaiting verbiage on fence specs from Laurie Zeller.

Opening(s)—At the past board meeting, the Board was asked for any suggestions or recommendations for Rural Supervisors. Jenny mentioned asking Patsy White and Steve mentioned offering Sylvan Walden an Associate Supervisor position as she lives so far away. Mary and Johnna mentioned speaking with Carla Delp, too.

String of Pearls—Brant had inquired about the "string of pearls" in the last meeting. Steve will discuss that with Rachel Frost, MRCDC and report back to the group at the next meeting

### New Business – none

### Adjournment of Meeting

Steve made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Brant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

The next scheduled board meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, December 3, 2014 at 1:00pm.

Mary Hendrix      12/3/14  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator      Date

Steve Wanderaas<sup>Chm</sup>      12-3-14  
Steve Wanderaas, Chairman      Date