

McCone Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2013

A regular meeting of the McCone Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on December 4, 2013 at the McCone County USDA field office. Those in attendance were Steve Wanderaas, Larry Nagel, Emily Guldberg, Matt Beery, Jenny Garoutte, Mary Hendrix, Johnna Blankenship with NRCS and Mandi Nay with DRWA. The meeting was called to order by Steve Wanderaas at 1:05pm.

Meeting minutes from August 2013 were reviewed. Steve requested one correction "They would like to form partnerships to obtain funds but the" to "They would like to form partnerships to obtain funds but they" Change was approved. Matt made a motion to approve the amended minutes and Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes from November 2013 were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes and Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2013-2014 Budget was reviewed and many changes have been proposed. An amended P&L will be submitted to Board members for final review. Budget has been tabled until the next board meeting.

Board also requested an inventory of saleable items be included for final budget review.

Following Correspondence & Visitors

Rachel Frost from MRCDC could not attend the meeting, but Steve updated group pertaining to SWMI Salt Cedar Project. This project maps for salt cedar and noxious weeds. Presently, Garfield and Musselshell Counties are participating in project. Steve will work with Rachel to set up meeting with Keystone Pipeline and he would like to tentatively schedule this meeting for January 15, 2014.

Mary shared an email from Le Anna Johnson with Coal Bed Methane. She will be at the next board meeting in January.

Steve discussed the upcoming CMR NWR community working group meeting in Glasgow on December 11th. Garfield County requests that we attend. He will be attending this session and encourage other supervisors to attend if possible.

Mandi Nay, DRWA, updated the board on the status of project to date. The main focus at this time is in Richland County where engineers are awaiting drilling the pipeline under the canal. This was placed on hold until the canal could be drained, and unfortunately, it is now waiting for spring time. DRWA is also working with the Town of Fairview with a couple of proposals—either utilizing the City of Sidney or the City of Culbertson to provide water to Fairview. DRWA is represented by 4 counties: Garfield, McCone, Dawson and Richland. The 3 representatives from McCone County are: Jerry Meissner, Henry Helgeson and Jim Moos. Richland County is looking for new board member.

Public Comments on District Business

There were no public comments on the Districts business and no visitors were in attendance at this meeting.

Administrator's Report

The open house ad will appear December 4 for both *Circle Banner* and *Wolf Point Herald*. Still working on plaque orders through the Jock Stop in Glendive. Will place order for cake with Albertson's in Glendive. The plan is to pick both up on Wednesday, December 11.

MACD Convention – discussed EO display boards that Dave Martin with DNRC is working on. Asked if anyone had pictures of past conservation events to submit for our area.

The 2013 MACD Final resolutions packet were given to supervisors for perusal. These resolutions will be brought up at the next legislative session.

Mary expressed her interest in attending / assisting MT Envirothon in Lewistown next April 28-29. It could be a great learning opportunity for our youth in the community for 2014-2015 school year.

Tree order form and prices are set for 2014. Will be included in the Winter newsletter. Newsletter will be completed by mid December and will be printed by BOSS. Newsletter will be sent to approximately 752 households (Circle, Brockway, Vida as well as the rural routes in County)

Website update discussed with board. Would like to use wordpress.com and create newer version with domain name of mcconecountycd.com and email mcconecountycd@yahoo.com. The cost for website will be \$18.00 for domain name, additional features may be added in the future for added cost. Supervisors were asked for input on logo and mission statement for "about us" page.

Field Office Report

Johnna discussed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The application due date is by January 17, 2014. She has received 2 applications to date. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ranking starts at the first of the year and expects awards to be presented in early March 2014.

Cooperative Work Agreement (CWA) between Conservation Districts, DNRC and NRCS are in the final stages and should be completed by next week. Once this has been approved, it may be modestly modified to fit each conservation district.

Jim Sparks "The Weed Guy" will be in Glendive on February 4, 2014. Flyers for the workshop are forthcoming.

David Pratt will be attending the open house.

Old Business

A review of the financial book will be conducted, Emily to contact Candy Milroy to schedule.

Bison fence specs are just awaiting a few finishing touches. Jenny will work with NRCS technicians to finalize it. Once finished, the application and fence specs will be forwarded for final legal review.

Baseline Water Monitoring – Steve is interested in speaking with Alice Stanley regarding DNRC program. It was discussed that perhaps we discuss baseline water monitoring with DNRC and CBMP to see what each had to offer.

New Business

Tree building – No leaks were observed at the building. There are currently 3 desks in the building and it will stay there for the time being. Old desk from USDA office presently in Larry's garage should anyone need it. There are pallets both in and outside of the building. Larry volunteered to remove the pallets from outside the building.

Tree planter / fabric layer – both equipment requires new seats as well as a jack for the end of the tree planter. Steve to contact Claude Loberg for fabrication costs.

In county/out of county usage of equipment addressed. Would like to keep equipment in county only and have customers fill out a rental agreement as well. This has been tabled until the next board meeting.

Johnna agreed that the Conservation District may use NRCS vehicle as long as it is within the county and on district business. Any additional stops from the USDA Building to work designation are strictly prohibited. NRCS is given priority first on vehicle.

Administrator hours have been changed from advertised 20 hours to 25 hours weekly. Larry made a motion to approve new hours. Jenny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Authorized signatures at the Credit Union have been updated. Authorized signers are Steve Wanderaas, Emily Guldborg, Larry Nagel and Mary Hendrix. Jenny made a motion to approve authorized signers. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Spring Workshop: Steve is interested in bringing producers in for a spring workshop of Cover Crops, Biological Control of Noxious Weeds and Soil Health. Tentative date for workshop is February 12. He would like to have Rick Bieber, a producer from SD, to facilitate cover crops, Mark Henning with DNRC to speak about soil health and entomologist from MSU or MSUB to discuss bugs. He would like to investigate a cost-share dollars program with DNRC for this program. Program will also include lunch and possibly producers may earn private applicator points for attending.

Next board meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, January 8, 2014.

Steve made a motion at 4:15pm and Larry seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Mary Hendrix, District Administrator

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman