

McCone Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the McCone Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on February 5, 2014 at the McCone County USDA field office. Those in attendance were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Jenny Garoutte-Supervisor, Matt Beery, Supervisor and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Emily Guldborg was not in attendance.

Meeting minutes from January 2014 were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes and Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports were reviewed. Steve made a motion to approve the reports and Jenny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Following Correspondence & Visitors

Mandi Nay with DRWA updated the board that recently residents outside of Circle on Highway 13 or on Highway 200 requested information about the possibility of DRWA providing a pipeline to them. They are collecting data on the interest, volumes, costs and the feasibility involved in the potentiality of it being constructed. She stated that DRWA is still awaiting information from Washington about funding. This is still on Senator Baucus' desk. She expressed that they hoped to hear about it soon.

LeAnna Johnson sent a letter inviting us to the Coal Bed Methane meeting in Forsyth, MT on February 12, 2014.

Public Comments on District Business

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

Administrator's Report

Circle Ag Show: While our collective booth (Conservation District, DRWA, FSA & NRCS) did not have many visitors asking about our programs, there was a good turnout and it was good exposure for us to be involved in the show. If the Ag Show continues, we should participate as well. Adam Huseby was approached to showcase his apiary skills for the 6th graders in May. He may have honeybees and/or honeymaking techniques to demonstrate.

Kids Programs: Mary spoke with Helen Murphy (principal-Redwater Schools) & Tara Hubing (HS counselor) regarding 3 kids programs.

6th Grade Conservation Day: It was determined that the best time for it would be the final week of school, so the Rolling River trailer has been tentatively reserved for May 19 or 20. Logistics (moving the trailer & who would demonstrate) still need to be finalized.

Mother's Day Lilacs: Discussed having CG lilacs for sale for students for Mother's Day. Cost would be \$1.25 each. Mrs. Murphy liked the idea so we will proceed with this.

MT Envirothon: Discussed briefly information on the Envirothon for students grades 9-12. Mrs. Hubing was interested in program and Mary advised her that she will forward information as it becomes available.

Tree Orders: Slowly trickling in, presently have (7) orders with a total of 549 trees. It's been discussed that tree orders are down across several reporting counties and North Dakota.

Newsletter: Spring Newsletter will be mailed out the last week of February. We will be trying a new vendor in Miles City. The cost will be approximately \$70-100.00 lower with higher quality paper with newsletters machined folded. It will still be in black and white, but the color version will be available on our website. Ryan with the Circle Banner has agreed to pick it up for us. Thank you, Ryan!

Administrators Workshop: This training will be for the many new administrators in Eastern Montana. It will be held on March 25, 2014 in Miles City. Supervisors welcome.

Grants: We have been approved for RRGL Grant and the Mini Education Grant. The RRGL grant is in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the Mini Education Grant is for \$500.00. Both grants are slated for use in the upcoming workshop and cover crop seed mixes.

Website: The website is nearly complete and Mary invited supervisors to view it after the meeting. The annual fee is \$59.00 that includes domain name and a no-advertisement option. Board had previously approved website. Mary also asked supervisors for photos that can be uploaded to the new site. Website address is:

www.mcconecountycd.com.

Field Office Report

Johnna is at a pipeline training workshop and could not attend the meeting. She has been very busy with CSP and has 15 applications to date.

Old Business

Financial Book Audit: We will contact Tax Masters in Glasgow after tax season to complete an audit. This will be noted in the old business section of the agenda until completed.

Spring Soil Health Workshop: The board discussed gifts for presenters and it was decided on barn wood frames (for the 3 agency people and Rick Bieber) with an additional gift for Rick. Jenny to contact Kelly Doan on possibility of purchasing and maybe engraving frames. Mary will contact Emily on the menu, prep and set-up of the workshop.

We received a call from Daniels County DC advising that a couple of producers from Scobey may attend workshop.

CWA with DNRC & NRCS: Has been approved, but still waiting on final agreement for signature.

Conservation District credit card: Having a district credit card for incidentals was discussed. The incidentals may be securing rooms for convention, speaker rooms etc. McCone Credit Union will be the lender and the account has to be made on behalf of a person, not an organizational entity. The board agreed that Mary should be on the application/credit card along with McCone County CD. The credit card limit should be set at no more than \$2,000.00. Matt made a motion to approve the credit card application and Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community Garden: Some of the ideas discussed for the community garden were placement of garden, water usage (rain garden tanks vs hooking up with city water), donations of water tanks and grants. This project is still a work in progress and will be tabled for the next meeting.

Tree planter / fabric layer: Both equipment s require new seats as well as a jack for the end of the tree planter. Steve has contacted Gene and Alice Engen to fabricate a new seat for the tree planter. Larry advised that his son will purchase a seat at Runnings (if available) for the fabric layer. They may need to modify it to work, but will look into it.

Mill Levy: Steve advised that the Mill Levy for the district is currently capped and the district is not given the full value of the Mill Levy which is \$7,147 for FY2014. He is working with Maridel with the city of Circle.

New Business

Date Change: The date for the next board meeting has been changed from March 5 to March 12, 2014.

Map Books: Mandi requested a donation of 2 map books to the ambulance service to assist with EMT calls. Current maps are from 2009 and outdated. Larry made a motion to approve the donations and Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Annual Plan of Operations was discussed. This plan is for January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015. It has been consolidated to 6 objectives for the Conservation District to focus on this year. Jenny made a motion to adopt the Annual Plan and Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator requests hours to change to 40 hours weekly and discussed upcoming projects with the board. Larry made a motion to approve the change to 40 hours and Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Equipment purchase: Steve solicited the board for any interest in purchasing a post pounder. He asked board members if they would use one if it were available and most members stated they would. Steve will contact Judith Basin County and research more information. It was agreed by the board that we should look at equipment that would be useful to the community and revenue generating.

Baseline Water Monitoring: Discussion about impacts on springs due to oil production. Mary will contact Scott Brown with MSCA for more information. It was also discussed a possibility of hosting a Baseline Water Monitoring workshop in the fall.

Upcoming Events:

2/18/14 National Soil Health Video Feed, Miles City

2/27/14 CMR Community Working Group, Lewistown

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:06pm and Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next board meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, March 12, 2014.

Mary Hendrix, District Administrator

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman