

A regular meeting of the McCone Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on May 14, 2014 at the McCone County USDA field office. Those in attendance were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Matt Beery-Supervisor, Brant Quick-Supervisor, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-NRCS, and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Casey Nay and Jenny Garoutte were not in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Meeting minutes from April 2014 were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes and Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Following Correspondence & Visitors

Steve shared an article from the April 3rd Billings Gazette that Jeff Hagener, Director of MT Fish Wildlife and Parks said that it is no longer considered viable to establish a herd of free roaming bison. The Conservation District has a bison ordinance that is still in the process of being finalized. He also shared a letter from Garfield County regarding mill levies.

Mary shared a letter from the McCone County 4-H Council soliciting sponsorships for the upcoming McCone County Fair. The board felt that we should participate and approved a Silver sponsorship (\$50).

Public Comments on District Business

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

Administrator's Report

Mother's Day Lilac Sale: Went very well with orders for 460 plants. Most orders were from first time customers to the Conservation District.

Tree Sales: Due to inclement weather, the first tree sale on May 10 was short and sweet. We did see traffic until noon. The next tree sale will be on May 17th from 10am-2pm. Over one thousand trees have been bagged and tagged for this sale

Kids Programs: Everything is in place for the Makoshika trip as well as the Rolling River Trailer Demo at Prairie Elk Colony.

Soil Health Field Trip: Have reserved a block of 20 rooms with the Comfort Suites in Bismarck for July 8th and July 9th and once a date has been set, Mary will release one of the nights from the group block.

Mary will be working on the budget for the next fiscal year. She will be going through Quickbooks and eliminating / adding categories as needed. This will be submitted for the next board meeting for approval.

Field Office Report

The CMT tool for CSP is still down and the older CSP tools-Watchdog has wind speed issues and Spectrum records data and stores it, but has retrieval issues. Johnna stated that they are discouraging 2014 AIR07 and WQL06 (WQL24) applications. The trend is more towards CSP instead of EQIP. Two resource issues (criteria per land section) are needed for CSP and many small operations fall through with this requirement. CSP have to be ranked by May 21 and then she will go into the field next. She already has a 2015 CSP application. EQIP applications need to be re-ranked and she may be down to 2 applications soon. She will have field time for EQIP this summer. The new person will be here in September. She asked if anyone hears of available housing to let her know.

Old Business

Financial Book Audit: Tax Masters in Glasgow has been contacted and we are still waiting to hear back from them. This will be noted in the old business section until completed.

CWA with DNRC & NRCS: Per David Pratt, this is still at the State Office awaiting signature. This will be noted in the old business section until completed.

Conservation District credit card: Credit cards have been received. Steve and Mary are both card holders.

Equipment purchase: Steve contacted our insurance carrier on liability and its additional costs. The liability rider will cost the district \$45.00 annually with a \$750,000 per occurrence up to a limit of \$1.5 million. A rental agreement such as the one Judith Basin uses should cover the District from liability. The board had previously voted to pursue a post pounder for District business so we will submit a HB223 grant of \$15,000 in the next round of funding towards this purchase. The supplemental dollars required to purchase the post pounder can be financed either through FES or the Credit Union.

Baseline Water Monitoring: A participation request form will be submitted to Alice Stanley with DNRC once a signature from Steve is obtained. The form states that we understand that the purpose of this monitoring program is to establish baseline groundwater quality and availability in advance of oil and gas activity and in areas currently at risk from oil field activities. The program will characterize well water and aquifers currently used for domestic or stock water. Since McCone County was not on the original designated counties (it was added after the MACD Convention last November), we may not have the same funds available for monitoring. Once a contract with DNRC is in place, Category A & B producers will be contacted and should funds allow, the District can focus on the most impacted Category C wells.

New BusinessUpcoming Events:

6/17/2014	CMR Community Working Group, Malta
7/8 or 7/9/2014	Soil Health Tour
7/16/2014	CMR Rangeland Monitoring Fest, Malta
7/23/2014	Garfield County Soil Health Tour
8/27/2014	Salt Cedar Team, Jordan

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm and Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next board meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, June 4, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Mary Hendrix, Administrator

Date

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman

Date