

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on September 10, 2014 at 7:00pm at the USDA Building in Circle, MT. Those present were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Matt Beery-Rural Supervisor, Brant Quick- Rural Supervisor, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-NRCS and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Jenny Garoutte and Casey Nay were absent. Meeting was called to order at 7:18pm.

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

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

Following Correspondence & Visitors

MACD—sent a thank you letter for the district's participation in Montana Conservation Month.

MACD sends out the Montana Conservationist to the CD office. Mary asked that if anyone was interested in having it forwarded electronically to let her know.

Public Comments on District Business

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

Administrator's Report

Montana Salt Cedar team (MST) meeting: Held in Jordan on August 27th. Mary mentioned that the flyover from the confluence to the dam showed very little salt cedar, but there are probably some small infestations that are hard to see from the air. She asked how the district should proceed in the future with salt cedar. The supervisors noted that there was probably some salt cedar in drainages close to the lake as well as scattered throughout the county that individual producers are aware of. The board would like the district to stay well informed and involved with MST. Steve will speak with Ken Nelson and the weed district too.

The MST will have a Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) member join the staff in January. They will work on coordinating maps, education and produce informational materials and videos highlighting success stories of salt cedar treatment programs.

Their next meeting will be held in February 2015.

HAPPENINGS:

Area 1 Meeting: Our area meeting will be held in Jordan this year on September 26th. Mary will contact supervisors on Monday, September 22 for final attendance count. The \$25 per person fee will be paid by the district. All supervisors are encouraged to attend and meet other districts in our area as well as agency people.

YOUTH OUTREACH:

Wildlife & Habitat: 7th & 8th graders workshop in limbo at this time. Mary has not been able to get commitments from wildlife biologists from either FWP or NRCS. Very frustrating.

FALL WORKSHOP:

Farmer's Union Oil has been approached for a monetary donation to purchase lunch for the fall grazing workshop. Mary spoke with Casey to see if there may be any interest from Ag Partners/Farmers Elevator to donate, too. These two companies were considered as they both sold fencing materials.

WINTER WORKSHOP:

Garfield County CD has asked if there were any new ideas for the soil health workshop as they are having difficulties in securing Dr. Beck (Dakota Lakes) as a presenter. The board was asked to think about it and forward any ideas to Mary.

OTHER:

Local Working Group Meeting: As we are coming up on the new year, Mary asked the board again if we should have a local working group meeting to set our Annual Plan of Operations. We will plan for a meeting in December or January.

Field Office Report**PROGRAMS**CSP Renewal

All 2010 CSP contracts are eligible for renewal. Contract holders may apply for a new contract if they decided not to renew.

McCone County has 7; 6 have elected to renew. The 7th will re-apply for 2015 CSP.

CSP 2014

David was instructed to submit all eligible applications. Circle had two with very low ranking scores; David requested that we write contracts for these two. Both applicants agreed to proceed with contracting.

Total 2014 CSP for Circle: 11

Contracts so far:	3
Accepted:	4
Pending:	3
Pre-approved:	1

EQIP 2014

One applicant decided to defer on the day of contracting deadline. Applications over \$150K require Regional approval; Circle has one. It is at the Regional Office for review now. The third application is at the Area Office awaiting review.

EQIP 2015

Seven applications. Some field visits complete, no inventories. Tracy Cumber has offered to come to McCone County later this month to assist with range inventories.

MACD MEETING IN JORDAN

Joyce Swartzendruber told the Field Office of plans to present an award to McCone CD and the Field Office for the success of our co-operative efforts.

Ashley Kiehl is attending Conservation Boot Camp in North Carolina this month. She should start work in Circle on September 28th.

Fall grazing workshop: The Area Office has audio-visual recording equipment; we have asked for and been granted permission to use it to record speakers and presenters.

Old Business

CWA with DNRC & NRCS: Per David Pratt, the CWA is currently with DNRC. This will be noted in the old business section until completed.

223 Grant – Post Pounder: Conservation Planning on Grazing Lands. We are scheduled to present by teleconference on September 11th at 12pm.

Baseline Groundwater Monitoring: We now have 6 producers signed up for sampling. According to Jane Holzer, the one well per producer criteria has been removed. Producers may request additional wells be sampled. They will be required to submit "why they want the well sampled"—e.g. close to oil well or oil traffic. Additionally, the wells should not be in close proximity to each other or are at the same depth levels. The program will accept applications until funding is exhausted. Brant asked if springs were included in this monitoring. He was advised that as far as this program was concerned, it was not, but we should discuss this with Jane at the Area meeting for the possibility of another program in the future that may sample springs.

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

Mill Levy Updates: Permissive mill levy meeting was held on August 20th at 7pm. The board voted on the final budget and for a permissive mill levy for district employee health insurance. The motion passed. The paperwork was submitted to the Clerk and Recorder on August 22nd to be included in the County budget meeting August 25th.

CMR Updates: Steve attended the MRCDC quarterly meeting in Townsend on September 2nd and 3rd. He discussed how impressed he was with the cooperation between the agencies for this event. The group viewed Toston Dam operated by DNRC. Steve mentioned that interest income from one generator from the dam goes towards maintaining all DNRC dams.

The CMR will be hiring a new refuge manager. MRCDC has drafted a letter requesting a meeting with the hiring panel in Denver. Steve mentioned meeting Refuge Manager, Bill West with Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge (Lima, Montana) during the quarterly meeting. He expressed his and the council's hope that the new CMR refuge manager will have a long tenure and be committed to working cooperatively with different agencies as Bill has.

Brant inquired about the "string of pearls". Steve will discuss that with Rachel Frost, MRCDC and report back to the group.

The Monitorfest has been rescheduled for October 3rd just north of the Fred Robinson Bridge. It will begin at 9:00am.

New Business

Waters of U.S.: MACD comments were provided to each supervisor and discussed. No additional comments or feedback was received at this time.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

9/11	223 Presentation
9/22 or 9/23	Quickbooks Training in Sidney
9/26	Area 1 Meeting in Jordan

10/1	Board Meeting
10/3	Monitorfest near Malta
10/9	Soil sample collection with Mark Henning
10/16	Fall Grazing Workshop

Adjournment of Meeting

Steve made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

The next scheduled board meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, October 1, 2014.

<u>Mary Hendrix</u>	<u>10-1-14</u>
Mary Hendrix, Administrator	Date

<u>Steve Wanderaas Chm</u>	<u>10-1-14</u>
Steve Wanderaas, Chairman	Date