

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on June 3, 2015 at 7:00pm at the USDA Building in Circle, MT. Those present were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Casey Nay-Vice Chair, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Brant Quick-Rural Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-DC, NRCS and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Jenny Garoutte, Dusty White and Josh Murphy were absent. Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

Visitors

Mandi Nay, Coordinator with Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority discussed potential grants and loans to secure livestock lines to DRWA water lines. She asked the board if they would be interested in sponsoring these grants/loans as DRWA as an entity cannot submit them. The board agreed to assist DRWA by submitting applications on their behalf.

Correspondence & Handout

- National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy postcard
- McCone Electric Co-op Annual Meeting & Voting Delegate Authorization
- Western Energy Alliance email
- Soil Health Tour Agenda & Producer Bios

Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Reports

Meeting minutes from May 2015 were reviewed. Casey made a motion to approve the minutes and Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Reports from May 2015 were reviewed. Steve made a motion to approve the reports and Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Comments on District Business

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

Field Office Report

Ashley is in training for most of the month of June. Johnna was out of the office last week and have been playing catch-up. She attended the Temple Grandin/Curt Pate workshop in Miles City on June 2 and thought it was fabulous. She mentioned that cows see blue, yellow and green, but cannot see red.

UPCOMING

Johnna: Salinity Management Training—June 8-12
Plant / Herbivore Interaction Training with Dr. Fred Provenza—July in Bozeman

Ashley: Conservation Planning—June 1-5
Soil Health—June 8-13
Cultural Resources—June 16-18

PROGRAMS

CSP: Still a lot of problems with software.

EQIP: One 2015 EQIP contract. Several EQIP applications for 2016.

REMINDER: An entity can't sign-up unless they have a DUNS number and registered with System Award Management (SAM).

Administrator's Report

4th – 6th graders trip to the Ft Peck Interpretative Center & Kiwanis Fishing Pond on Monday, May 18th was fun. We had 45 kids and 5 adults from Circle. Kids learned about fish species and then tried their luck at the fishing ponds. Later, there was a scavenger hunt in the museum. The principal, Mrs. Murphy, is retiring this year. We will need to approach the new principal for interest in a trip in 2016.

Summer newsletters were mailed out May 29th. Mary asked the board if we could provide newsletters electronically in the future and had been approved to begin that for the spring 2016 edition. She will advertise the conversion from paper to paper-less in the two upcoming newsletters.

Postcards for the Range Monitoring Day will be mailed out June 12th. We are asking for people to RSVP no later than June 18th. The BBQ will be held at Circle City Park after the program.

Postcards for the Soil Health Tour will be mailed out July 7th. We are asking for people to RSVP no later than July 14th. Ads will be placed in the Circle Banner for the July 9th edition.

310 permit: Mary spoke with Pearl Nickels on May 15th. They decided to move the fuel away from the pump station temporarily to use the pump for the season. It is located uphill from the pump station. They will contact us in the fall if they want to resume any work and/or need assistance.

UPCOMING

June 8-11—Administrator training in Great Falls

June 19—Range Monitoring Day

July 16—Soil Health Tour to Fallon County

August 13-15—McCone County Fair

September 23—Area 1 Meeting

Chairman's Report

Steve was in Helena recently for an Invasive Species Committee meeting. He mentioned that it is a monumental task before the committee and they are to report their findings to the Governor in two years' time.

Western Energy Alliance email—who is on the Public Lands Council for McCone County? Steve asked Mary to check with the County Commissioners.

Old Business

Post Pounder: Steve spoke to Sparky Dreesen with Farmers Elevator about the post pounder and they are not interested in purchasing this equipment. The HB223 application was placed in a parking lot approval status from the initial submission in September 25, 2014 and was brought up for reconsideration at the May 27th RCAC meeting. At that time, the council voted to fund this project in full. The supervisors were asked at the board meeting to look again at the rental price and agreement; and liability insurance for this equipment.

Bison Procedures: Steve is still working on procedures for the bison ordinance. This will remain under "Old Business" until completed.

Annual Plan of Operations: Based on the feedback received from the Local Working Group meeting, Mary will put together a draft plan for the board to review at the next meeting. This has been tabled until the next meeting.

District tree plot & right of way discussions update: Mary met with the new County attorney to discuss legal ramifications, if any, easements and the county law that requires landowners to purchase equipment (culverts) for road improvements. He will meet with the Commissioners and let us know. We did not have the necessary information available at this board meeting, so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

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. This will remain under "Old Business" until completed.

New Business

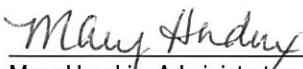
Local Working Group—local resource issue questions: Supervisors were given a 2009 EQIP County Funding Recommendations to review. This will be discussed at the next board meeting and will move to "Old Business" until completed.

Resolution: At the March board meeting, Scott Kaiser, DNRC suggested a resolution on future noxious weed funding. Steve spoke with Ken Nelson, MSU Extension Agent to determine if a resolution for additional funding may be a solution to a local resource issue identified through the LWG meeting held in February 23rd. Ken mentioned that they get their funding through the county as well as a small percentage from a pool of funds allocated through state pesticide licensing. He mentioned that the biggest issue is not funding, but the inability to attract candidates for minimum wage seasonal positions. He mentioned competing with a job market where starting wages can begin at \$20 an hour. He also mentioned that the county employment policy prohibits paying his employees more than other department (roads e.g.) seasonals.


Steve determined that a resolution may not be a solution to this issue.


Adjournment of Meeting

Steve made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Brant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 7:00pm.


Mary Hendrix, Administrator


Date


Steve Wanderaas, Chairman


Date