

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on August 5, 2015 at 7:00pm at the USDA Building in Circle, MT. Those present were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-DC, NRCS and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Jenny Garoutte, Dusty White, Josh Murphy, Brant Quick and Casey Nay were absent. Due to a lack of quorum, all decisions will be tabled until the September meeting. Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

### **Correspondence & Handout**

- MSCA Report to NRC/CBD
- US DOI, US F&WS, CMR National Wildlife Refuge-Montana Compact Case WC-2015-05
- Soil Health Bus Tour Evaluation and Feedback
- Post Pounder Rental Contract
- MCD Conservation News Fall 2015 Newsletter
- MT Saltcedar Team email: next meeting & River Rendezvous
- CMR CWG Meeting Agenda & June Meetings

### **Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Reports**

Meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report from July 2015 were reviewed, but motion to accept will be tabled until the next board meeting.

### **Public Comments on District Business**

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

### **Field Office Report**

Two CSP contracts obligated this week.

Two CSP renewal applications.

EQIP range inventories are the next high priority. Ashley is working on an inventory for a 2015 application that was deferred; includes water lines, cross fences and solar plants. At least two more inventories are scheduled for summer and fall of 2015. Robert Kilian has promised to help for two or three days.

We have two cropland conservation plans for EQIP. One will most likely be deferred for the second time as the producer cannot provide proof to meet the irrigated land eligibility criteria. Douglas Jones will assist with engineering.

Currently dedicating a great deal of time to CSP field verifications.

Terry Heck will join us for the September meeting to talk about EQIP ranking. Please have suggestions, ideas and questions ready:

- Is it possible to create our own set of ranking questions?
- Is it possible to advise or make recommendations regarding EQIP local ranking?
- How much authority does the Local Working Group have with regard to ranking?
- Please have ideas about how to include the Local Working Group's priorities in ranking.

I asked for a second ATV. We were given one from Wibaux which was scheduled to be replaced. It is not top of the line.

Haynie Soils Tests: We have tentative approval from the Area Office to conduct a series of four Haynie tests for the purposes of education and outreach. Please be thinking of who might like a test and how we could correlate the tests to provide the most relevant information.

## Chairman's Report

Steve was in Helena for the Invasive Species Committee meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Council will be hiring people to do assessments of invasive species in Montana. Also, there will be a two day Summit April 13<sup>th</sup>, location TBD.

## UPCOMING

August 10—Bison EIS Meeting in Malta at 5pm

August 13-15—McCone County Fair

August 18—RCAC Teleconference

August 18—North 40AG Field tour in Jordan & Circle

August 25—MT Saltcedar Team Meeting in Jordan

August 26—CMR CWG Meeting in Circle

September 1—River Rendezvous in Jordan

September 1-2—Ranch Resource Roundup in Miles City

September 23—Area 1 Meeting

## Administrator's Report

Soil Health Bus Tour evaluations were passed out. Most participants enjoyed the tour and feedback reflects it.

Invitations for the Area 1 Meeting will be mailed out soon—week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will include an agenda and pre-registration form.

The RCAC meeting for the District Development Grant will be held August 18<sup>th</sup>. Mary will speak to the council, but may enlist help from Rachel Frost, too.

The CMR Community Working Group will be meeting in Circle on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the Fairgrounds. Meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes were distributed.

The upcoming fall newsletter has a two page spread on FAQs (from MT FWP website) on the Draft Bison EIS. There is also a reminder that the public comment period ends September 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be made directly and easily on the MT FWP website.

Also, this is the last paper issue of the Conservation News. Starting December 2015, it will be available electronically only. It may become a monthly issue as well.

The district has a new email address through MACD. It is [mcconecd@macdnet.org](mailto:mcconecd@macdnet.org). The yahoo account will be phased out.

## Old Business

**Post Pounder:** The post pounder has been purchased and it has been added to the district insurance policy. The final rental agreement and price will be discussed at the next board meeting.

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

**Bison Environmental Impact Statement:** Public comment period ends September 11<sup>th</sup>. MACD asked the MT FWP to extend the comment period and they declined.

## New Business

No new business.

## Adjournment of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Mary Hendrix      9/2/15  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator      Date

Steve Wanderaas      9-2-2015  
Steve Wanderaas, Chairman      Date