

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on September 2, 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, Josh Murphy-Rural Supervisor, Dusty White-Rural Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-DC, NRCS, and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Jenny Garoutte was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

### Visitors

Terry Heck, Area Resource Conservationist, NRCS discussed EQIP resource ranking questions. He was in favor of having local questions submitted from field offices to the area office for review. He mentioned that on the national levels, questions cannot be changed; on the state level certain questions can be challenged; but on the local level, questions can be adjusted. There were also no limit to the number of questions on the application. It may be necessary to re-tool the fund pool in the future, perhaps changing it from land use to by watershed so multiple counties may address many resource concerns within that watershed. Johnna asked if she and the board can craft questions and was told yes. He encouraged other DCs in the area join in submitting questions and said he will send out an email. He suggested that the questions are submitted than later mid-November and this could possibly effect 2016 ranking questions.

### Correspondence & Handout

- MT FWP Frequently Asked Questions on the Draft Bison EIS
- EIS comments from various sources
- DEQ 318 joint application for project in Dawson & McCone Counties (MTB008815)
- Post Pounder Rental Contract

### Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Reports

Meeting minutes from July and August 2015 were reviewed. Casey made a motion to approve the minutes and Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Reports from July and August 2015 were reviewed. Steve made the motion to accept the reports and Larry 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

- One CSP application in pre-approved status
- 2015 deferred EQIP will probably be the 2016 Area Office pick
- May have a 2017 EQIP, need to talk to applicant about SGI
- Currently dedicating a great deal of time to CRP field verifications
- Ashley and Johnna will spend 3 days next week in Miles City attending the Area Office meeting

### Chairman's Report

The Montana Saltcedar Team recently hosted the River Rendezvous touring the 7Blackfoot treatment area. We traveled by boat to the Blackfoot drainage to see the multiple partners' work in eradicating saltcedar.

The Invasive Species Council hired someone to do an assessment survey of invasive species in Montana. The next meeting will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Helena. Also, there will be a two day Summit April 13<sup>th</sup>, location TBD.

Public comment period for the Draft Bison EIS ends on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments from the board will be sent to each supervisor for additional input.

Steve spoke with Jim Moos, Commissioner about a comment from McCone County. Jim assured us that the commissioners will craft a statement on this issue.

They also discussed noxious weeds in the county and county roads. Jim mentioned that they have not had any applicants for the seasonal positions over the past two years. It was suggested that perhaps a higher hourly wage and a season end cash incentive may draw help in. As temporary positions, the county does not pay benefits such as vacation, holiday, sick day or health.

There are abundance of Canada thistle this year. Leafy spurge is plentiful and houndstongue are seen on many roadsides for the first time. Casey mentioned that he is hearing reports about a noxious weed that is very hard to control—buffalo burr. He said that it had been reported in Terry and Lindsay, but haven't made it into McCone County so far.

### Administrator's Report

We were awarded a district development grant, but haven't received the contract yet. Through this grant, we will host a conservation easement workshop, 3 ranchers roundtables and working with the sage-grouse subcommittee by sending out news blasts and emails.

Mary asked the supervisors to think about what workshops we may want to have in January/February time period. In the past 3 years, we have had soil health workshops. Suggestions: Saline Seep Workshop, Noxious Weed Workshop

Reminded supervisors to send in their RSVP for the Area meeting September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Asked if any supervisor was interested in attending the MACD Convention to let Mary know. There is typically scholarships available for one supervisor from a district to attend.

### UPCOMING

- September 23—Area 1 Meeting
- November 17-19—MACD Convention in Missoula

### Old Business

**Post Pounder:** The post pounder daily rental has been set at \$95.00. A 7 day week rental will be \$550.00.

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

### New Business

No new business.

### Adjournment of Meeting

Steve made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Brant seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Mary Hendrix  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator

10/7/2015  
Date

Steve Wanderaas  
Steve Wanderaas, Chairman

10-7-2015  
Date