

The McCone Conservation Board of Supervisors met on October 7, 2015 at 7:00pm at the USDA Building in Circle, MT. Those present were Steve Wanderaas-Chairman, Larry Nagel-Urban Supervisor, Brant Quick-Rural Supervisor, Josh Murphy-Rural Supervisor, Johnna Blankenship-DC, NRCS and Mary Hendrix-Administrator. Casey Nay, Dusty White and Jenny Garoutte was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

### **Correspondence & Handout**

- Resolutions 15-1 & 15-2
- Supervisor Travel Expense Reimbursement Form
- Conservation October E-Newsletter
- MSCA Conservation News
- Declining CRP Acres Could Result in the Recurrence of Saline Seeps
- Montana Noxious Weed List
- Current EQIP ranking questions

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

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

Treasurer's report from September 2015 were reviewed. Brant made the motion to accept the report and Josh 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 PROGRAMS**

**CSP:** No more acres will be allocated for the 2015 CSP program. Nine applicants will be offered the option to defer their applications until 2016. No word yet on how CSP 16 will differ from previous years' programs.

**EQIP:** We have 2 applications with completed conservation plans and 2 others with partially completed plans. There are several more that will likely not be processed further until or unless the applicants supply missing documents, etc. We hope to have at least 2 applications funded in 2016.

### **CRP:**

- Crested wheatgrass and Smooth brome; failed re-seeding.
- See email correspondence between Circle FO and MCAO.
- Is support available from the Conservation District?
  - Informal meeting with CED Sue Wittkopp
  - Meet with the FSA COC
  - Joint memo to request that a representative from the Area Office attend
- We wait for guidance on our roles and responsibilities with the newest CRP signup.

### **OPERATIONS**

- Ashley has applied for a Soil Con position in Lewistown. The position was offered as a lateral transfer. The job opening closes today. We will know more soon.
- New 4 wheeler and flatbed trailer

- Old projector. We'll keep the projector in the back room; anyone is welcome to use it.

### EQIP RANKING QUESTIONS

- The majority of McCone producers usually apply for either cropland or rangeland EQIP contracts.
- As Terry described, we do have a voice in determining Local ranking questions.
- Hope to submit our recommendations to Terry on November 5, 2015 in order for them to be considered and hopefully applied for the 2016 EQIP ranking, probably February of 16.
- Increased efforts to promote pollinator habitats under the EQIP program.

### Chairman's Report

The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) may ask for a representative from each of the counties within the MRCDC area to go see the governor in Helena and/or travel to Denver to visit with USFWS regarding bison.

### UPCOMING

- November 2-5—Soil Health Workshop in Missoula, Great Falls, Bozeman, Billings & Plentywood
- November 4—Board Meeting in Circle
- November 5—CMR Community Working Group Meeting in Lewistown
- November 10—Invasive Species Meeting in Helena
- November 17-19—MACD Convention in Missoula
- December 2—Board Meeting in Circle
- December 2-3—Soil Health Workshops in Forsyth

### Administrator's Report

Mary is working on cleaning up files and office space; the upcoming November E-newsletter; and reading up on the Montana Weed Management Plan.

She 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.

### Old Business

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

### New Business

Discussed the upcoming Soil Health workshops (November 2-5 and December 2-3) and how attendance may impact upcoming board meetings. Supervisors in attendance does not foresee attending the November workshops due to shipping and working cattle so the November meeting will stay scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We will revisit the timing and date of the December meeting at the November board meeting.

### Adjournment of Meeting

Larry made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Brant seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Mary Hendrix  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator

12/8/15  
Date

Steve Wanderaas  
Steve Wanderaas, Chairman

12-8-2015  
Date