

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP  
JULY 21, 2016  
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1:15pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Melanie Williamson-Butte CD, Kim Smeenk-SD Envirothon, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Erin Walter-RESPEC, Mackenzie Kenney-RESPEC, Gina Selig-RESPEC, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Valerie Riter-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Bill Anderson-BFID, Matt Stoltenberg-BFRWP, Anine Smith-DENR, Nate Jagim-Meade W&P, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Tim Reich-Butte CD and Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD/BFRWP

Several new individuals were present, introductions were made around the table. The minutes were emailed, Karl Jensen moved to approve the minutes, Bill Anderson seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen presented the treasurer's report making note of the 1<sup>st</sup> Interstate Bank contribution to the Envirothon and that funds invested in this year's Range Camp that was subsequently cancelled would be discussed later, Dale Lundgren moved to approve the treasurer's report, Bill Anderson seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg reviewed the budget and discussed project funding. Upcoming events for I&E include Cammack's Rancher Roundup, Jim Thompson announcements, cover crop tour and watershed tour in conjunction with SDACD Annual Convention. Karl moved to approve \$250 for Cammack booth, \$1k to JT Ads, up to \$100 Reddick Grazing Tour and to roll the \$500 from Range Camp which was cancelled to the SRM Fall Workshop, Bill seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Also planned are a Cover Crop Tour and Watershed Tour in conjunction with the SDACD Convention. Karl moved to approve \$1k to each tour, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Other grant opportunities, the Irrigation Scheduling CIG will be announced in the fall and the NRCS Cover Crop Coop Agreement will be utilized for a pilot project in the amount of \$5k.

Segment 8 draft is due Sept. 1 and the full proposal is due Oct. 1. Matt reviewed the preliminary budget and noted DENR's direction for focus on Horse Creek monitoring. Karl moved to approve the draft, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the RCPP project, the focus being riparian health, dams/ponds, broader area but still benefiting the wildlife, a multi-state and multi-agency effort. The group is looking for additional partners and a sponsor, the group

is working on boundaries for the project as well and the next meeting will be held in September.

Nate Jagim reported on the progress of the BFRWMA Phragmites control and rehabilitation project. Nate noted that has a 70% improvement by using the water stinger for the pole plantings but having lower success rate with the bareroot plantings in part due to drought conditions. Phragmites treatment will take place in August and Bill Walker will be doing an evaluation and follow-up on the Russian Olive demo site. The group will be tapering its funding needs going into 2018 and finding new funding sources and local sources to finish out the project.

Tim Reich spoke to the group about the Envirothon and about the hiring of a state coordinator (Kim Smeenk) and reviewed what Kim has done thus far as the new coordinator with the event. She will be attending the International event in Canada, setting up a booth at the state and local fair, developing tool kits for instructors and attending the SDACD Convention as a part of her future plans. The SD Envirothon needs a sponsor to administer funds for the project, Dale moved that the BFRWP be that sponsor, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Justin Boerboom-NRCS addressed the group and discussed the need for funding smaller projects involving the conversion of open ditch to buried pipe for irrigation, focusing on water savings and producer investment. This would include all three conservation districts. This item will need to be added to the CC Cost Docket and a follow-up grant application prepared if the item is added. This project would initially be a \$30k request and use a ranking system. 319 funds have already been designated as piggy back for this project should CC funds be acquired.

Anine Smith-DENR spoke about the newly available Segment 6 reports and comments on the above mentioned projects.

Meeting was adjourned and next meeting set for Jan. 19, 2017 @ 1pm.