



April 22, 2010
Minutes

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1:10 pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Tom Quinn-BFRWP, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Yvette King-Butte CD/BFRWP, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Matthew Odden-NRCS, Justin Krajewski-RESPEC, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Clint Pitts-BFID, Nathan Jagim-Meade Co. Weed & Pest, Lee Baron-DENR

The minutes were sent out and reviewed, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor motion carried. Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report, Clint moved to approve, Tim seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

GRANT REPORTS-

Matt Stoltenberg gave an explanation of the updated budget. He reported that in the near future, there will be a lot of activity in irrigation cost-share being paid out on center pivots that are going in right now. There was some question on progress on the Whitewood Creek Fecal TMDL and the Water Quality monitoring items. The Whitewood Creek TMDL project has been started but not completed yet and the \$50,000 allocated in water quality monitoring on Horse Creek is more than will be needed by USGS, so some of these funds will be available for Water Quality monitoring in other parts of the watershed. Some discussion was held on the need for monitoring on a portion of Alkali Creek for fecal coliform bacteria. Matt also reported that he attended the last Grasslands Coalition meeting. He plans to get in touch with Rod Baumberger and Dave Steffen to come up with a price per acre and to come up with a new contract for rangeland management planning, implementation and monitoring.

Jared reported on progress on increasing involvement in the CIG grant. He also reported that we have a SDSM&T student to help with the CIG program this summer, gathering soil moisture data on both the Belle Fourche and Angostura Irrigation Districts.

The audit has been completed and all went smoothly.

The Redwater Ditch Loss study will begin sometime in May or whenever the Redwater Ditch Company starts to irrigate. This study is currently funded at the \$25,000 level with a match component of approximately \$15,000.

Jared also reported that they are in the process of writing a proposal for the extension of the CIG grant for another 3 years, after the expiration of the current CIG grant at the end of this year. Clint stated he believes there needs to be some buy-in from

the producers involved, such as, an application process or term the benefit, similar to a cost-share program, etc. Karl voiced support of the BFRWP developing an application process to participate in the soil moisture monitoring program at \$10/acre for 3 years up to a maximum of 160 acres per producer. The purpose of this proposal is water conservation. Water quality monitoring funds will not be used for this proposed moisture monitoring program. With respect to monitoring, Jared stated it would be helpful to have a monitoring station on Horse Creek above the North boundary of the irrigation district so we have a good handle on what is naturally flowing into the irrigation district. Clint seconded Karl's motion on the soil moisture monitoring program through the watershed. Amendment to the motion: Matt Odden suggested the applications for this program be on an annual basis so that participation is more accurately documented. Karl and Clint both agreed to the inclusion of this amendment to their motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg and Matt Odden went over the list of the ranked and approved irrigation applications. There was quite a bit of discussion on an application for a stream bank stabilization project. Tom VerHelst has done a preliminary design of this project and the estimated cost-share needed is \$34,000. Tim suggested that the BFRWP offer assistance at 50% cost-share not to exceed \$20,000 total cost-share. If accepted, this cost-share money would come from riparian improvement funds. Karl moved to approve the proposed, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Matt Stoltenberg then proceeded with his report on cost-share dollars available in Segment IV through the BFRWP. After funding the recommended applications, there will be approximately \$200,000+ for future cost-share applications. Karl moved and Clint seconded, to approve the applications for piggy-back(w/EQIP) cost-share and the top 5 regular applications for cost-share, all in favor, motion carried.

Some discussion ensued for Matt Odden and Matt Stoltenberg on calculations of \$/acres and overall cost-share calculations. Clint had some questions on the location of a few of the applications.

DENR –

Lee Baron was out to go over how billing is handled and to look at some of the practices that have been implemented.

WEED & PEST-

Nathan Jagim from Meade Co. Weed & Pest reported on the upcoming planned activities on weed management and mapping. They have a grant for \$35,000 to do the mapping and they have contracted with Mid-Dakota Vegetation Management to do the mapping in the field. Nathan asked if there was any other data that the watershed would like to have acquired while they are in the field mapping. Jared stated that cut-banks or any active erosion areas would be of great interest. RESPEC has a GPS camera that the mapping crew could use, and then the location would be captured. Also, badly over-grazed riparian zones could be documented. This summer, they plan to focus on Whitewood Creek from the Meade/Lawrence Co. line down to the Cheyenne River. Nathan has also talked to George Zimmerman from BH RC&D to discuss the possibility of a WHIP grant for the future work that their current Weed & Pest grant won't fund. This avenue of funding was used down in Fall River County for the salt-cedar project.

Clint Pitts reported that the grant that the Weed & Pest just got will be administered through the BFRWP for pay-out to the vendor.

Sponsorship Requests-

Matt Stoltenberg was over at Sturgis for their job fair, and he also did some I&E work with the Extension Service on the small acreage workshops. Matt took the demo trailer to Pine Ridge and he and Tom Quinn went to Union Center for the Cammack Ranch Supply Trade Show. On behalf of Tate Lantz, Matt made a request for the funding of the Newell Vo Ag Team for range judging. Their request this year is for \$800. Along that same line, Tim brought up the Canon Envirothon competition, which will be taking place the first part of August in California. Yvette has all the information. Tim feels that the Newell Vo Ag Team would make a great Envirothon team. The registration cost per team (2 chaperones and 5 team members) is approximately \$1000 (not including travel costs and other misc. costs). Dave Ollila is very busy so others may be needed to coach and chaperone. Karl moved to fund the Newell Vo Ag team at the \$800 level, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg reported that Rick Thompson had contacted him about sponsorship of the steer roping competition at the Black Hills Roundup. They are looking for \$3000 but would likely accept a lesser amount for partial sponsorship.

Proposal Updates-

RESPEC is submitting a revised proposal for the Groundwater Study to the Conservation Commission. Matt also talked to Harvey Paulson, Redwater Irrigation District, about AWEF funding and he was very receptive if approved. The plan is to get Harvey, Tom VerHelst, Matt Stoltenberg and Tom Quinn together at the NRCS office next week to go over the planned project.

Matt visited with a private consultant on remote sensing in relation to our current and proposed CIG projects. He is putting together a pre-proposal for this CIG grant next week and if approved, he will proceed with a full-blown proposal.

Jared is also working with an Irrigation District in New Mexico, the Carlsbad Irrigation Board and they are very interested in the technology that has been developed in the Belle Fourche Irrigation District through the BFRWP. Under this new CIG proposal that Jared is writing, the BFRWP technology will be shared with the State of New Mexico and all irrigators in South Dakota.

Dave Kimble, SD GF&P, has \$1.5 million for SD & NE for grassland restoration. He is now at a point in this grant where he is looking for participants. He can include up to 5000 acres in SD.

NPS Task Force –

The current task force intends to re-organize their current list of participants who have voting rights. Tim asked if we want to continue to pursue a membership on the Non-Point Task Force. Clint stated he feels we should be on there; Karl agreed and further stated we should be a member, representing watershed partnerships because that gives us a broader focus than just irrigation. The consensus is to pursue a membership on the State Non-Point Source Task Force board.

Tim asked a few questions regarding water banking or gifting/transferring water rights. Lee Baron, DENR, didn't know any specifics regarding State policy. Tim also asked if there was any stream in SD that has been designated an "Outstanding Natural Resource Water Body"? Lee stated there has been some discussion regarding this designation but didn't know any actual designations at this time.

Cook Ditch-

Sarah Eggebo stated that Mike McGuigan had come in and requested funding to put the Cook Ditch into pipe, a lot of water loss is occurring in this area. It may be a candidate for AWEF funding in the future.

Tim reminded everyone that at the next partnership meeting we need to take another look at our 10 year plan and also re-visit board organization.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6/17/2010 at Belle Fourche, SD in First Interstate Bank @ 1pm.