

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
AUGUST 20, 2009
MINUTES

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

Present: Tom Quinn-NRCS, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Yvette King-Butte CD, Matthew Odden-NRCS, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Don Adams-Butte Co. Weed Supr., Clint Pitts-BFID, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Joyce Williamson-USGS, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Dave Kimble-SD GF&P, Mike Stenson-SDDA/BFRWMA, Nathan Jagim-Meade Co. Weed & Pest and Bill Erk-Butte Co. Weed & Pest

Tim called the meeting to order and there were several new people in attendance so Tim asked that everyone introduce themselves and state whom they represent.

There were no corrections to the minutes as mailed, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen reviewed and gave the treasurer's report to the group. Clint moved to approve, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg gave the field report on all grants currently still open. All projects are on or ahead of schedule and all goals have been met for this year.

Matt Stoltenberg reviewed the remaining cost-shares from Segment III funds. On Segment IV, we have \$305,000 in irrigation funding. To date, we have over \$200,000 in irrigation applications, not including supplementation of EQIP cost-shared sprinkler systems. With that component of funding included, we have over \$284,000 of the original \$305,000 obligated. Because of the obvious need for these funds, the board discussed a request for an additional 300k for year 2 of the Segment IV irrigation funds. Matt Odden had put together a list of irrigation requests which was passed around to the board for their review. After review, Karl moved to approve the irrigation funding list in draft form, subject to last minute revisions; Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg reported on the use and allocation of CCPI funding. We were able to allocate almost all of the 2009 funds through the outstanding efforts of Tanse Herrmann and Justin Boerboom from the Sturgis F.O. and Matt Odden from the Belle Fourche F.O. The 3 above employees put 12 CCPI contracts together that totaled \$687,761 out of a maximum \$700,000.

Matt Stoltenberg then gave an update on the CIG Grant. To date, 15 cooperators are currently participating in the project. So far, 2 years are complete of a 3 year project.

Matt led the discussion regarding the proposed Segment IV amendment due in October, 2009. Regarding the needed range planning, it was mentioned that all of the range consultants need to be working for the same price per acre, keeping in mind that Matt Stoltenberg does all his own GIS work where Rod Baumberger and Dave Steffen don't do the GIS portion.

Tim pointed out that we definitely need some administrative funds in the amendment as it is a good deal for the local sponsors and a great deal for the State

because inclusion of administrative funds makes it possible for local CD and RESPEC personnel to carry out this work.

Karl brought up the subject of compiling the areas groundwater data for use by well drillers, agencies, agriculture producers and general public. Instead of the information being scattered among different agencies the data and analysis would be at one central location. Upon further discussion, Tim moved to complete a grant application in the amount of \$50,000 with a match of \$100,000 from contributing partners for the project, which would include the data collection and compilation into one resource location, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Joyce Williamson, USGS, brought a new funding agreement with her today, but she has a fairly short turn around time, so she asked if the board could take action on this new agreement today if possible. Karl moved to approve the new funding agreement, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The cost will be approximately \$25,000 over 2 years.

Tim mentioned revisiting the Redwater irrigation issues regarding the amount of water loss each year and the possibility of doing a study to see what the most cost effective and efficient way of reducing the loss would be. After further discussion, Clint Pitts moved that a grant application be completed in the amount of \$25,000 matched equally with match funds; Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Nathan Jagim, Meade Co. Weed & Pest, addressed the BFRWP to discuss partnering with the Belle Fourche River Weed Mgmt. Area to potentially brainstorm and put together some funds to try to address invasive species infestations within this watershed. Karl mentioned that this discussion fits in very well with the priorities that have been stipulated by the member Conservation Districts. Clint also mentioned that the BFRWMA is not set up as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization so if large grants are obtained, they have no way of administering those dollars. Nathan asked if invasive species were ever a component in our grant applications for water quality, and Tim explained that in South Dakota, funders have never been willing to allow us to include treatment of invasive species within our funded projects but that we recognized the needs are there. Nathan has done some background grant research and there are some federal PTI grants that might be accessible once the partnership and organizational mechanism is set up. The BFRWMA is trying to get this set up so that they can go after funding in 2010 for implementation of this funding in 2011. The locally noxious plant that is most severely impacting the irrigation district and the watershed in general is phragmites. This plant has become very invasive. Tim asked if the BFRWMA was already an established group and the answer is yes, but they don't centrally administer any of the grant funds they receive, and cannot do this at this time. To date, the members are the BFID, Crook, Butte, Lawrence and Meade invasive species organizations. Some agencies have also offered some limited assistance, such as SD GF&P and USFS.

In Nathan's mind, he sees the smaller grants to continue to be used for monitoring and then go after the larger grants for invasive species management. Tim asked how committed the counties have been to this effort – Nathan answered that in Meade Co. the County Commissioners have been very committed. Karl mentioned that in Lawrence Co., Dave Heck has been very proactive and effective in trying to attract funding to take on the implementation workload.

Tim also asked if the grants available might be able to address administrative fees in addition to the actual implementation of control measures already in place. Clint mentioned that the biggest challenge in the control of invasive species is impressing the need for the control of these species on the funders and the public in general.

Tim asked what the BFRWMA wanted or expected from the BFRWP? Mike Stenson stated that they, with the assistance of Andy Canum, could write the grant but they really needed our support and we are a 501(c)3 organization which they are not. Clint Pitts mentioned that he has been actively involved in both organizations, and he would really like to have RESPEC assist with or at least review the grant applications as they need to be developed. Tim stated that he wants to make sure that whatever resources are committed by the BFRWP; that those costs are covered, and RESPEC is a very important resource to the BFRWP.

Nathan stated they did not come here requesting that we do their work for them, mostly the support. Karl moved that at this juncture, that the BFRWP support the efforts of the BFRWMA in securing funding for the treatment of invasive species control, Dale Lundgren seconded. Further discussion ensued, for State grants, those dollars would come directly to the BFRWMA for the work specified. An amendment to the above motion is that the BFRWP will also administer any grant funds that require 501(c)3 designated body be involved and the administration fees will be paid to the BFRWP for this service. All in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg, Matt Odden and Tom Quinn mentioned that the soil quality trailer has been busy and then reviewed the upcoming schedule of events. We discussed the need to establish a maintenance schedule and setting up a fund to pay for maintenance on the trailer. We also need to do some type of sign on the trailer to indicate ownership.

Matt informed everyone of the upcoming SRM range tour out at Jeff Smeenk's place, and asked if the BFRWP would sponsor a bus to go up there. Karl moved to sponsor a bus, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Dave Kimble gave a brief report on the work he has been doing, trying to expand somewhat beyond ponds such as grazing plans on CRP lands coming out of the program and riparian improvements such as buffers, etc.

The next meeting will be December 3, 2009 at 1pm in Belle Fourche at First Western Bank.