

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
DECEMBER 4, 2009
MINUTES

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

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Tom Quinn-Consultant, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Clint Pitts-BFID, Matt Odden-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS and Yvette King-Butte CD

Before the meeting was called to order the Newell FFA Ag Issues Team gave a presentation on the Cap and Trade issue involving carbon credits and the permits for carbon emissions. The team members did a fine job of presenting and debating the pros and cons of Cap and Trade.

Tim Reich called the meeting to order. The minutes were sent out and after review, Clint moved to approve, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report, Segment III funds have all been used up with the exception of a few cleanup items and those will be taken care of with the final voucher this month. The auditors at the State level have approved the final audit reports and we are in compliance. Dale moved to approve the treasurer's report, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg went through the field reports. There are no monies left in the range/upland funds; only \$2652 left in the irrigation fund but this can be rolled over into the next segment.

Matt Odden and Matt Stoltenberg went over the Segment IV spreadsheet outlining completed and planned irrigation projects. The majority of these applicants are also applying for EQIP contracts. Matt Stoltenberg's recommendation was to wait until EQIP allocations are completed and then decide who to fund through the watershed project. Matt Odden is recommending approval of some of the irrigation pipeline projects that have not signed up for EQIP and won't be considered in the first round of EQIP funding. Clint cautioned the board that if we do send out approval letters on some practices, that those letters state that the producers must also contact the BFID, in the event that what they plan to do might require a special use permit from BFID or BOR. It was stressed by Jared Oswald and Matt Stoltenberg that DENR is very much in favor of pivot irrigation. Karl moved to approve the recommended applications, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Clint reiterated that he was in favor of approval as long as they went through BFID. Some of the entries on the spreadsheet were incomplete,

but Matt Odden will be meeting with all of these applicants in the near future.

To date on Segment IV, we have allocated \$281,863 of the \$655,000, with approximately another \$225,000 reflected in the applications on the spreadsheet. The remaining balance on the original Segment IV allocation is \$373,137, which will likely be reduced by the above \$225,000.

Jared Oswald gave an overview of the CIG irrigation scheduling project. This project runs through next October. The project had about 15 operators this past summer but Jared would like to get at least 20 signed up for 2010. Jared asked the NRCS representatives present if there were any federal programs available that might assist with the cost of the technology needed to continue this effort after 2010. CSP was brought up, but Matt and Tanse were not sure how it might fit. Jared pointed out that in order for this to be effective; they really need moisture monitors and efficiency calculations. Tim pointed out that this program, because of its usefulness when properly computed, would be an excellent candidate for a separate 319 grant or another CIG grant.

Jared then explained to the group how the WEB based program works and the process that farmers have to go through to use the program. To add more than 3 or 4 more producers to the 2010 CIG program, Jared will need some dollars to buy more sensors. There was some discussion on different funding sources for the additional sensors. Changing from periodic to real-time measurement under EQIP would benefit those producers with additional cost-share dollars that could be used to offset the cost of the sensors. Jared asked the group if they thought the project was worthwhile enough to try to extend it or do we want to finish this first grant and be done? Everyone present stated they felt it was very beneficial and that we need to try to secure funding to extend the project or write a new proposal to extend and expand this project because there was a huge learning curve in the first 2 years of this CIG project. All information gathered in the past 2 years will be extremely beneficial down the road.

November Grant Round – On behalf of the BFRWP the Butte CD applied and was successful in getting approval of the grant request to do an assessment of the Redwater Irrigation System to identify breach areas. They did not get the groundwater assessment and database project funded yet. This project brought with it a lot of questions about duplication of efforts, etc. so it was not funded in the first presentation. However, since then more information has been given to the State Water Board and this project will be re-submitted to the Conservation Commission for their Spring, 2010 funding round.

Matt Stoltenberg went over the BFRWP Segment IV amendment which is going to be presented to the Nonpoint Source Task Force for review on 12/15/09. The group discussed the information and the slides that Matt had included as well as whether to add any more information or slides to the presentation. Overall the presentation is done very well; there were a few facts and completion figures that need to be updated. Also needed to be added are the booth spaces used at different venues for an information and education recap.

Potential shows to be at this winter; Matt Stoltenberg thought Vale, Key City Pen of 3, Black Hills Stock Show; he questioned Belle Fourche but given the proximity of the BF Watershed, we almost have to be in the Belle Fourche Area Home and Ag Show. We will also be at the Black Hills Stock Show with the Soil Quality trailer and are scheduled to be down in Mission with the trailer on Jan. 13th for the rancher's forum.

Karl moved to approve payment of annual RC&D dues, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

The partnership also agreed to sign the 1619 Agreement in association with the NRCS partnership, Clint moved, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Redwater Irrigation District meeting is next Monday 12/14/09 at 2pm in First Interstate Bank. The next SD/WY Compact Meeting is going to be held 12/15/09 at American West Steakhouse.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday** 1/19/2010 @ 1pm in First Interstate Bank.