

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP  
MAY 22, 2008  
FIRST WESTERN BANK @ 1 PM  
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1 pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Law CD, Diane Gronlund-NRCS, Tom Quinn-NRCS, Bill Anderson-BFID, Dave Schneider-Mayor of Belle Fourche, Heidi Sieverding- C-Lock Technology, Sarah Mason- C-Lock Tech, Patrick Kozak- C-Lock Tech, Patrick Zimmerman- C-Lock Tech, TJ Swan-Butte Co. Extension, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Matthew Minnick-RESPEC, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Rod Baumberger-Consultant, Clint Pitts-BFID, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD and Tim Reich-Butte CD

Tim Reich called the meeting to order. Clint Pitts had questions about Pampas Grass and Tom Quinn was able to explain. Clint moved to approve the minutes, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report and there were a few questions that Matt Stoltenberg was able to answer. Clint move to approve the report and Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Introductions were made around the room.

**Field Report** – Jared Oswald passed around a handout on the 319 grant. Some dollars were taken out of the 319 budget and \$88,000 was re-instated as an SRF loan. This movement of funds will not impair the project and the SRF loan funds can also be used as match for the 319 funds.

An individual producer was in need of \$4500 in additional funds to complete a center pivot, the board agreed to the increase, Karl Jensen moved, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg reviewed the progress on the CCPI grant. Work is right on track. Matt briefly reviewed the projects on the Wind ranch. Jared mentioned there is about \$10,131.83 left in the CCPI budget, and they hope to close this out by this August. There is also 319 budget funding for another 9000 acres of riparian area planning. Rod Baumberger and Matt Stoltenberg both thought they could get the additional 9000 acres this year.

**CIG** – Conservation Innovation Grant – Currently Jared has 9 participants and would like to have 10. Tom Quinn told him to get him a list of who he had signed up already and he would try to get him one more participant.

Rod Baumberger presented another cost-share application for a producer for some pipeline extensions and tanks in his grazing system.

Jared asked about the possibility of hosting a grazing workshop. Rod mentioned that the partnership should talk about partnering with GLCI. Steve Fairbairn from USFWS mentioned that he thought it would be very beneficial to have a riparian workshop that focused more on private land rather than federal lands leased for partial grazing use. All in attendance were in agreement.

Tim Reich introduced Dr. Pat Zimmerman, C-Lock Technology, to give a few comments and an overview of C-Lock and what it is and how carbon sequestration works on grazing lands. C-Lock differs from other carbon sequestration programs because C-Lock actually models an individual farms performance and management practices. This way, their model for individual farms should be more accurate. They use climate data as far back as it goes, high resolution soils maps, and they confirm cropping and yield data with FSA records. Because C-Lock is more specific, they have found that the poor to moderate managers don't do all that well in their system but the moderate to high level managers do about twice as well. They are interested in working with us and they are working with investors all over the world to possibly put together projects. Almost every activity that we promote to improve water quality, will also increase carbon sequestration in the soil. Example: by fencing off a riparian area, you decrease the amount of methane production being produced. To date, they have been working to get their system in place and have put about \$7 million into the development of their system so far, and they are soon ready to go into the marketing phase.

Rod asked how C-Lock was going to go about verifying range condition. Dr. Zimmerman stated that one way was to have range consultants go out and ground-truth. The other way is to use remote sensing technology, which has been around for quite awhile, but has been very sketchy with respect to results. This technology is getting better, but is still not perfect. The best way is probably still boots on the ground. For rangeland to be profitably enrolled, you have to look at carbon, methane, etc. to make it feasible. Rangeland has been a challenge and they are still working on an accurate model for rangeland. There was a lot of interest from the group and a very interesting presentation. This endeavor would be a very interesting addition to the work being completed by the BFRWP. Right now, carbon sequestration is a tool being used to buy time for industry to come up with better methods to decrease emissions. In 20 years, if emissions are not severely curtailed, carbon sequestration won't be enough to matter with respect to atmospheric pollution.

Matt Minnick, RESPEC, put together a handout on a proposed project on the Belle Fourche Watershed Aquifer study. This project would put together information that would be used to develop a well database, well completion reports and logs could be accessed from DENR and there are probably about 1000 or so completion reports on file in Pierre that could be accessed. It would take approximately 6-8 months to complete this project. Jared is not sure that DENR would be in favor of funding this kind of proposal with 319 funds. Tim Reich stated that if we can't fund through 319, we can probably find another funding source to support this kind of project. The board was unanimous in their support of pursuing this as a project. The initial project would cost about \$60,000.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday** July 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in First Western Bank, Belle Fourche.