

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Dave Kimble-SD GF&P, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Rod Baumberger-Consultant, Tate Lantz-NRCS, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Bill Anderson-BFID, Joyce Williamson-USGS, Clint Pitts-BFID, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Tom Quinn-NRCS and Diane Gronlund-NRCS.

The minutes were mailed out, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report, there are a lot of funds coming in and going out as cost-share amounts are paid. Matt Stoltenberg and Karl reviewed the amounts paid out to date for range and irrigation. There is about \$6-7,000 left over from 2007, and about \$10-15,000 left from 2008. Tom Quinn needs to check with one producer on their application for cost-share. Clint moved to approve the treasurer's report, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Jared mentioned the Extension Irrigation Tour, comments were not favorable. Jared went over his handout updating the board and others present on updates for 319 Implementation Segment III, the NRCS-CCPI grant and the NRCS-CIG grant. Jared and Matt expect to have all the documentation recorded on all the 319 money prior to the next round of funding hearings in November.

The group talked about the RWA status of the Belle Fourche Watershed. The Belle Fourche Watershed is in the implementation phase, but they are not listed as a watershed that is in the implementation phase. The board discussed contacting the NRCS State Office to inform them that they have completed the assessment phase and are well into the implementation phase. The CCPI grant and work are complete and RESPEC is hoping to meet with NRCS State Office personnel in November to go over data. Jared reported the CIG grant is going well but they could add a few more producers if logistics worked with respect to weather data, etc. The group gave him some additional names of pivot producers around Fruitdale and Nisland areas.

Matt Stoltenberg reported they are on track to meet their 9000 acre goal.

Rod Baumberger reported he just attended a National GLCI conference in Harrisburg, PA where they toured 3 dairy grazing systems. Rod stated there is another GLCI conference coming up in Reno Dec. 14-16, 2009 and he thought this would be a good conference for Matt to attend and give a paper and talk about the work going on in the Belle Fourche Watershed.

Tim Reich went over the tours that have been conducted during the past month. Both the tour with elected officials and the tour for EPA and BIA went very well and were well received by those folks in attendance.

Tim asked Jared and Matt to go over the latest grant and funding proposals that they have worked on. First, RESPEC prepared an \$80,000+ grant proposal to re-build the inlet structure for the Redwater Irrigation District. Based on the recommendation from Dr. Scott Kenner, we have submitted a rough draft for an assessment project on the Redwater River Watershed taking in the Redwater Irrigation District to determine specific areas of massive water loss and potential saline problems on some soils. There is a significant selling job in front of us before DENR accepts the Redwater assessment as a project.

Matt Stoltenberg reviewed the Segment IV request – put in for 1.3 million over 2 years, which includes \$305,000 on irrigation and \$400,000 on rangeland improvements over 2 years. These amounts are proposed for cost-shared irrigation and rangeland practices. The hearing for next round of funding is 12/09/2008 in Pierre. It was mentioned that we are now entering year 4 of a 10 year plan, and it's probably time to examine our goals and our progress to see if we need to re-focus on goals that may be lagging. Also, we will start to see dividends with respect to TSS reductions from the work we're now doing on rangeland. We discussed attendance at the Dec. 9 Task Force meeting, Tim felt it was very important for at least all voting members to attend if possible as well as representatives from partnering agencies. EPA representatives will be in Pierre that day to present awards to the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership.

Joyce Williamson, USGS, went over their flow data taken this spring. The outputs of water are amazing. Most of the flows fell into the 25-50 year storm range.

Steve Fairbairn reported they have been repairing quite a few dams that were damaged from last spring floods.

Karl and Tim re-iterated the need for Matt and NRCS personnel to get together and get their numbers firmed up prior to the Dec. 9th Task Force meeting.

Bill Bailey from NACD, called Jared to get some information about the Belle Fourche watershed project and it sounds like he is doing some kind of future article for the NACD publication on the Belle Fourche Watershed – not sure when this is coming out.

The next meeting will be on 12/4/08 at 1pm in Belle Fourche at the First Western Bank.