

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JULY 24, 2014
MINUTES

Tim Reich called the meeting to order @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Anine Rosse-SD-DENR, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Bryce Ahlers-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Tate Lantz-NRCS, Cheryl Mandich-Am. Bird Conservancy, Bill Anderson-BFID, Mike Stenson-SDDA, Dave Ollila-SDSU, Ron Koth-Barr Engineering, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Matt Stoltenberg-BFRWP, Barry McLaury-SD-DENR, Scott Bockness-MSU, Bill Erk-Butte W&P, Scott Guffey-Pennington W&P, Sammi Shaykett-Butte W&P, Rutendo Nyamusamba-SDSU, Anitha Chirumamilla-SDSU, Nathan Jagim-Meade W&P, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD/BFRWP

Introductions were made around the table, several guests were in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting were emailed and copies made available, Karl moved to approve the minutes, Bill seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen delivered the treasurer's report, Bill moved to approve the treasurer's report, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Russian Olive is getting to be a larger problem in the Belle Fourche Watershed, and according to Bill Erk there are approximately 1000+ acres of riparian and drainage area effected. In an effort to move ahead without getting into regulatory issues, it has been proposed to approach the conservation commission for funding for control in specific areas. Tim asked that the BF River Weed Mgmt. Group to develop the scope of the project, in order to present something to the conservation commission board in September. Scott Bockness, MSU, was in attendance and shared with the group what they have done in the past to secure funding, past projects, the data they have collected, successes and failures and what will happen in the future. It was also recommended to use the seedless Russian Olive as an alternative. Tate Lantz, NRCS, stated that he would check into the possibility of NRCS assisting with some preliminary mapping to inventory the scope of the infestation, helping with a more focused pilot project and BFID would have match dollars to provide as well.

Matt Stoltenberg (handout) reviewed the current Segment VI budget, approximately \$210k remaining to invest and potentially fund more projects in the fall. RCPP pre-proposal has been submitted and announcements will be made on July 28th. Segment VII planning is in progress, proposal for approximately \$1.1million for a 2 year project.

Ron Koth, Barr Engineering, was in attendance on behalf of the Redwater Ditch and landowners on Spearfish Creek. These folks are interested in creating a partnership in the hopes of developing a solution to the aging irrigation infrastructure, improving stream and riparian habitat and the road/bridge system. Ron will be making contact prior to the next meeting and getting a group together for a presentation.

Cheryl Mandich, Conservation Specialist with the American Bird Conservancy was on hand to explain her involvement with the Long-billed Curlew, what the project involves and how they could possibly be of service in the future.

Dave Ollila, SDSU Extension, spoke to the group about the progress of the No-Till Council and the potential use of fibrous grass as a cover crop to create a forage based system for grazing instead of the traditional corn, beans, wheat. Fibrous grass may be something adaptable to the heavy soils in this area. He also spoke about meeting with Dwayne Beck at the Dakota Lakes research farm and visiting with Gabe Brown in ND to better develop cover crop grazing models.

Rutendo Nyamusamba, also with SDSU Ext. contributed that she would like to apply for a grant, a 3 year project developing a farmer-led model. She will be seeking support letters as the plan develops.

Tate Lantz informed the group of the SRM meeting to take place Oct. 8-9 with a tour on the 9th.

Next meeting Oct. 2 @ 1pm, First Interstate Bank, BF