



AUGUST 26, 2010
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Matthew Odden-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Lee Erickson-NRCS, Nathan Jagim-Meade Co Weed & Pest, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Gerald Moller-BLM, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Tom Quinn-BFRWP, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Tom Berdan-GF&P, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS and Clint Pitts-BFID

Introductions were made around the table, Lee Erickson is the new Soil Conservationist at the Sturgis NRCS Field Office.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by Karl Jensen and Tim Reich by consensus. Karl gave the treasurer's report and most of the transactions were payouts on irrigation cost-share.

Matt Stoltenberg went over the budget for Segment IV and due to some cancelled projects from the Spring funding round, Matt is recommending a Fall funding round for irrigation. We have about \$150,000 to spend this Fall, leaving a little over \$100,000 for irrigation cost-share next Spring. Ranking for these Fall applications would have to be completed by 9/16/10. A motion to confirm the decision arrived at via phone, to have the Fall funding round for irrigation, Karl moved and Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Clint Pitts reported that the Stage Control Automation Units will be completed by next June, before irrigation season.

There are two on-going projects for the Riparian BMP Implementation. Tanse Herrmann has two operators needing assistance with diversion repair projects on existing water spreading systems. Karl moved to approve the two applications at 50%, not to exceed \$5000 per application, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Matt stated they had some requests for dam restoration also. He asked

Steve Fairbairn if USFWS had any funds available. Steve said they do and he would be willing to look at the potential projects.

Whitewood Creek TMDL has been submitted and we are also on track in the monitoring budget for water quality. Matt has also spent quite a bit of time setting up monitoring plans for CSP participants.

The Elk Creek Range Tour is going to be on 9/15 and the Soil Quality Trailer will be on site for this tour. Karl moved and Clint seconded to contribute not more than \$750 to help sponsor the Elk Creek Range Tour and the Butte Range Monitoring Workshop, all in favor, motion carried.

There was some discussion held on the need for more of Jim Johnson's plant ID books. Belle Fourche NRCS is out of them. Matt Stoltenberg is suggesting the purchase of about 20 or so to have at the monitoring workshop. No decision was reached on this item.

PROPOSALS – The Irrigation CIG was rejected but RESPEC plans to improve and re-submit. The Remote Sensing CIG was rejected and this project is a good one but probably needs more explanation. Matt felt that the reviewers may not have understood remote sensing in the context described in the proposal. The Pulling Together Initiative was also rejected and not sure why, the ones approved were quite a bit smaller than what the BFRWP applied for.

The board discussed submitting the Ground Water Study this fall; but approach it in two phases. Karl moved to submit a proposal to compile the data for phase one this fall, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

POTENTIAL SEGMENT V BUDGET – Matt Stoltenberg went over the numbers with the board and others present. All were comfortable with the proposal numbers. Matt stated that part of the Segment V budget includes revisiting the 10 year plan.

Some discussion ensued on the potential for getting involved in the Cheyenne River Watershed Project. A lot of questions and discussion ensued on the impact of involvement in the Cheyenne River Project for the BFRWP. Those in attendance were very interested.

Tim is encouraging members of the partnership to make requests to their local City and County governments by writing a letter of support and asking them to contribute \$7000 per City or County as match dollars for the ground water data compilation.

Tim discussed the interviews and discussions several have had with the student from Michigan State. She appears to be the leader of the graduate project which

addresses watershed projects and partnership efforts. Tim also reported on the Canon Envirothon and the basics of that program and the competition.

Tom Quinn gave a brief Soil Quality trailer update and Tanse brought up the need for digging more soil in preparation for the winter's planned events.

Nathan Jagim, Meade Co Weed & Pest, gave an update on the mapping going on in the efforts against phragmites. It all has to be completed mainly on foot which is fairly slow going and expensive. The issue of stream bank stabilization came up as a need if all the phragmites is eradicated and if it's the only plant present on the bank to hold the stream banks in place. Restoration costs can be very high and labor intensive depending on the terrain, etc. Nathan would like to apply again for a PTI grant and he also plans to submit an application for a WHIP grant.

Meeting dates: There will be an Executive Board Meeting on 9/16 or 9/17 to approve applications for the Fall grant round and the next regular meeting for the BFRWP will be on 12/2/10 in Belle Fourche at First Interstate Bank.