

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JANUARY 13, 2011
MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order: Tim Reich @ 1:05 pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Clint Pitts-BFID, Tom Quinn, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Matthew Odden-NRCS, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Yvette King-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD and Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC

Board members present were Tim Reich, Karl Jensen and Clint Pitts, Dale Lundgren was unable to attend due to other business conflicts.

Minutes of the last meeting were sent out, Karl Jensen moved to approve, Clint Pitts seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg, RESPEC, gave progress reports on the EPA 319 Implementation Segment IV. Irrigation delivery, automation units and BMP implementations are all on schedule for completion on time. Whitewood Creek Fecal TMDL has hit a bit of snag, the funders have come back and requested that the proposal be re-modeled with no additional funding. Public education and outreach implementation are on schedule.

Water Quality Monitoring – The State has opted to not continue the operation of the Horse Creek gauging station by USGS, so the partnership may try to find the funds to keep this station open through this coming summer. The information from that station is very valuable to the watershed project. Matt Stoltenberg mentioned that we might consider asking DENR for an extension of the irrigation cost-share funding. All funds are obligated but probably won't be spent until later in the summer.

Matt Stoltenberg then reviewed the proposed changes to the irrigation ranking worksheet that the committee discussed earlier this morning. Primarily, the changes suggested would create more point categories regarding distance from the Belle Fourche River or the major tributary. The reason for the need for re-doing the ranking worksheet is that we are getting more competition for the available funds and need a more finite ranking. Items discussed relating to the ranking worksheet but left off for now are soil quality issues because they are evaluated for every application and an item indentifying cost per acre for each system. This was left off for now because the amount of cost share paid out by the BFRWP or BFRWP/NRCS combined is capped. The fluctuation in cost per acre would be the responsibility of the producer. There was some follow-up discussion regarding the distances from the river or major tributaries and the points associated with the respective distances to the water bodies. Quinn stated that we had made some modifications to the identified water bodies on the ranking worksheet to reflect water bodies that

have irrigation occurring from them. The item regarding the nutrient management plan was taken out as were the items dealing with the land use conversion and wildlife habitat because these items were seldom or never used on all previous applications. Karl moved that we use 30 points for the closest distance to the Belle Fourche River and major tributaries. Matt Stoltenberg will work up the final ranking worksheet.

The soil quality trailer is going to be at the Black Hills Stock Show and the Pen of 3 that are coming up in February. The demo at the Pen of 3 will depend on the weather. If it is too cold, we won't use the rainfall simulator but will use the table top demonstrations on absorption, compaction, etc.

Next Wednesday, 1/19/11, Matt Stoltenberg, Jared Oswald and Tim Reich will be meeting with the Redwater Irrigation District Board to discuss funding and a possible proposal to help them fix part of their primary irrigation ditch. This may be able to be accomplished on the Redwater using State Revolving Fund dollars. The BFID has agreed to act as the project sponsor for the portion of the project that will be used on the Redwater Irrigation District. There has also been some discussion with DENR about using some SRF funds to re-build the Redwater diversion structure and possibly do some irrigation pipeline on the portions of the Redwater Irrigation Ditch that seep the worst. The Redwater Irrigation District is very small in comparison to the BFID, so the Redwater Irrigation District Board has to look at any proposals for funding, in a very conservative manner.

Matt Stoltenberg brought up the topic of cultural resources on the projects that are planned for completion by the BFRWP. To date, we have been able to get these projects completed using the NRCS cultural resources process, but this may be changing due to minimal staffing of NRCS Archeological personnel. Steve Fairbairn stated he knows of a recently retired USFWS archeologist that might be interested or willing to do cultural resource surveys and reports for the BFRWP. Steve Fairbairn said that the current grant on ponds through the Butte CD is about half invested and on schedule. He stated they also just recently got another grant approved for multi-purpose ponds and wetland creation through Elk Creek CD. There was some discussion on replenishing our supply of give-away items at various booths for promotion. We are currently out of pens. Everything from pens & pencils to magnets and letter openers were mentioned. No firm decision made other than to definitely replenish the pens. Karl Jensen moved to approve investing \$300 on pens, Clint Pitts seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Belle Fourche River ComPac Meeting – Clint, Jared and Matt were all in attendance. Clint stated it was pretty much business as usual. Skip Waters from Crook County is still trying to somehow organize support and funding to construct another dam between Keyhole and the SD-WY Stateline, he is getting very little support from the rest of the group.

Next meeting date will be 3/17/11 @ 1pm in Belle Fourche, First Interstate Bank.