

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JUNE 17, 2010
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Dave Kimble-SD GF&P, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Garrett Monson-RESPEC, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Clint Pitts-BFID, Tom Quinn-Consultant and Yvette King-Butte CD

Introductions - Garrett Monson will be joining RESPEC for the summer, doing field work and other small projects.

Tim called the meeting to order, minutes and agenda's were passed around. Karl Jensen moved to approve the minutes, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen presented the treasurer's report, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Field Report – Matt Stoltenberg gave an update on project completions and riparian BMP implementation. Budget-wise we are on track with public education/outreach and other line items. The BFRWP was present via the Soil Quality trailer at the Tri-State Expo, Cammack's Ag Day, Rapid City Ag Appreciation Day, Ag Lender's Range Camp and the AIANEA Tour.

Jared Oswald reported on the stage control automation units and improvement of irrigation delivery.

Whitewood Creek – The fecal TMDL is essentially complete except for some final plans and reports.

Water Quality Monitoring - The idea was to possibly put a monitoring station on the upper part of Horse Creek to capture true, natural run-off prior to ingress of irrigation tail water.

A proposal has been sent to Pete Jahraus and Angela Ehlers for a range planning project.

CIG Grant - Discussion was held on scheduled irrigation. Funding for extra sensors is needed, due to additional sign-ups for irrigation water management with these moisture sensors. Quite a bit of discussion took place on where we might find the funding in the budget for irrigation scheduling and water quality monitoring.

Matt Stoltenberg presented the findings from the study done by Matt Hubers. Hubers collected data in 2007-08 – very dry years. The study affords the partnership some very good information on rangeland in heavy clay soil.

An application for riparian protection in Meade County was presented. The proposal is to lengthen some pipelines and install additional tanks to water some grazing land now being served by the BF River and would keep livestock off the river. Karl moved to approve the application with a maximum cost-share of \$27,000, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt reported that the Redwater group had chosen to withdraw the AWEPP application for this year due to the large cost estimate. They would be very interested in funding opportunities once the current water loss study is complete to better estimate where the best cost benefit would be. Karl reported on the efforts of the Lawrence Conservation District to better quantify the old ditch systems that come out of Spearfish Creek and eventually end up in the Redwater River. All in attendance felt this would be a very beneficial piece of information. Clint stated that he thought DENR may have this information on record from an assessment they completed two years ago. Lawrence CD will get a copy of this study and then determine what, if any gaps there might still be.

Matt reported that the second attempt with the Conservation Commission for the Groundwater Study had been rejected. The funders would like to see more local involvement especially from the counties involved. The BFRWP strongly feels that a study of this type would greatly benefit the cities within the BF Watershed because of present and future water demands associated with urban expansion and growth.

10 Year Plan - Tim introduced discussion on the revision of the current 10 year plan. The present 10 year plan has evolved to the point where it truly is incomplete, and some of the issues that have come up in this overall watershed process, cannot be fully addressed in the remaining years of our current 10 year plan. The idea of the pipeline from Keyhole Reservoir to Orman Dam was discussed again, along with the idea on potentially placing an irrigation reservoir on Crow Creek above the inlet canal. Karl also brought up that the issues of septic systems have always been on the plan but hasn't been addressed yet and needs to be dealt with.

Karl and Jared both brought up ideas for developing a list or outline of primary points to include in the revision of the 10 year plan, and have this outline complete within a set time frame and then develop the revised 10 year plan from there. Clint also suggested that we need to involve BOR in any discussion involving a supplemental irrigation reservoir on Crow Creek. All agreed and Jared stated that he will contact Jim Weigel from BOR and see if he can attend one of our future board meetings.

Other Business-

Tax Document – Karl moved that based on the board's review of the tax document, we concur with said document as submitted; Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Tim reported that about 10 days after the 4th of July, he is going to be interviewed via telephone regarding the BFRWP by a student from Michigan doing her master's research. Anyone else interested in attending and contributing to this interview are more than welcome.

Board Re-organization – The meeting was turned over to Tom Quinn, Dale Lundgren moved to re-elect Tim Reich as president, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Tom Quinn turned the meeting back over to Tim. Clint moved to

keep the remaining officers the same, Karl seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Tom Quinn and Matt Stoltenberg gave a report on the activity of the soil quality trailer. It has been well received wherever it has been taken. Quinn has been contacted by the Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Association to come up and do a soil quality demonstration at Fessendon, ND on July 15 for a field day. After some discussion as to applicability, the board agreed to the trailer going up there as long as Tom could fit it into his schedule.

Dave Kimble, SD GF&P, reported that he has taken a private lands coordinator position with US FWS in Evanston, WY. His last day with GF&P will be August 18, 2010.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8/26/10 in Belle Fourche at 1st Interstate Bank.