

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
MARCH 17, 2011
MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Matthew Odden-NRCS, Tom Berdan-GF&P, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Ted Parsons-CCNRD, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Rod Baumberger-Consultant, Clint Pitts-BFID, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Jenny Walker-BLM, Thad Berrett-BLM, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Lee Baron-DENR and Yvette King-Butte CD

Introductions were made around the table for new folks in attendance. Minutes from the last meeting were sent out, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen presented the treasurer's report, Clint moved to approve, Dale Lundgren seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg passed around a project summary handout and reviewed the budget updates from the last meeting. We currently have slightly over \$154,000 left to invest in irrigation projects. If all the ranked projects are approved today, approximately \$130,000 will be obligated, leaving about \$20,000 left to obligate. A November 1 deadline has been set for the completion of all projects funded. The remaining funds in the Riparian BMP Implementation are being invested in a stream-bank stabilization project in Meade County. We are still waiting on final approval of the Whitewood Creek Fecal TMDL. There has also been an extension from June to December 31, 2011 to finish the water quality monitoring projects.

At this point, Ted Parsons-CCNRD, had questions regarding the TMDL and in his words, "What is the normal process?" Tim and Matt proceeded to explain the process we went through and the labs that were used and the 10 year plan, etc. The CCNRD just received the initial copy of their documents for comment and just wanted a little guidance since the BFRWP had already gone through the process.

Matt mentioned that the West Strawberry TMDL was out for comment. The main concern here was that it was a fecal TMDL, with septic tanks as the top priority. The language in the document involves the BFRWP and Matt thought the group should be aware of it.

Eight applications were pre-approved and ranked with the new ranking sheet for the Spring round of funding. As stated before these projects totaled approximately \$130,000 and would all be piggy-backed with EQIP contracts, leaving approximately \$20,000 to be obligated. Dale Lundgren moved to approve the 8 applications and to include an additional application from Meade County, in the case that someone from the original group would cancel their application, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried. All documents for those approved must be signed and returned to the office by March 25th.

Regarding the SRF, Lee Baron with DENR had no updates other than that they were still in a continuing resolution and as far as he knew an 18% reduction in EPA funds would be across the board.

The BFRWP has an application in with the State Water to assist with the Redwater Ditch Project.

There were two CIG pre-proposals sent in and they were approved, now full proposals have been sent in and we should know whether they have been awarded sometime in June.

Nathan Jagim, Meade Co Weed & Pest, mentioned that the Missouri River Watershed had CIG funds available for work on Russian Olive control. He also said that they were working on setting up a test site near Sturgis Brown High School, which has a large area of infestation to work with.

CCPI funds were decreased from \$700,000 to \$491,000 and there were no clarifications on the decrease. April 8th is the deadline for obligations. Sturgis has approximately \$125,000 worth of projects and Belle Fourche doesn't have a solid dollar amount that they could specify but the timelines eliminated moving some of the general EQIP's to CCPI.

Range Camp sent in a request for sponsorship for the 2011 event. Karl moved to approve a \$500 sponsorship, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Jim Thompson also asked if we were interested in the summer ad program and it was unanimously decided that we would wait until we had our Segment V budget.

In reference to the aquifer study, contacts have been made with area city and county governments proposing possible match funding for Phase I. So far, most have responded positively and it is on their radar but contact needs to be made again closer to budget time. Tim went on to explain the project and noted that Meade County had already obligated \$6000 in funds. It was noted that Gary Cammack emphasized the economic impact of the BFRWP beyond the funds that were put on the ground. Dale brought up the question of who would maintain the database once it was up and running, and that is something that will be handled in Phase II.

Matt Stoltenberg mentioned that we had a RAC application in with the Forest Service in Spearfish but have not gotten word yet on whether it was accepted or not.

Thad Berrett, BLM, gave an update on what his office was working on at this time. They will be doing a lot of field work due to the fact that they have several leases expiring this year and they need to check the conditions before renewals are made. There are 6 allotments that will be looked at as far as range health. There are a couple of riparian areas that need to be assessed, some restoration that needs to be done and possible sage brush planting in areas with die-out or that historically have had sage brush but no longer have any growth. A number of willows may be ordered from the conservation districts for the riparian rehab sites, they just need get the correct species.

Nathan Jagim, Meade Co. Weed & Pest, updated the group on the Phragmites/Salt Cedar Project. 13,000 acres of mapping have been completed and

several hundred acres have been treated. Nathan said the South Dakota Invasive Species Management Association (SISMA) is planning an 8 page information insert, similar to one put out by Nebraska. He was wondering if the BFRWP would be interested in sponsoring a page. The insert will include listings of noxious weeds, photos, articles and it would be called "The Invader". Tim mentioned to Nathan that he may want to have a booth at the Butte/Lawrence Co Fair and the Tri-State Expo. Yvette said she could email him the registration packet for the expo and would get him set up for the fair.

Ted Parsons, CCNRD, explained that they had received the first copy of their TMDL report for review. They are disappointed and skeptical of the document and the accuracy of the numbers. He feels they need a lab that does a more thorough job with the type of testing that is done. Ted feels they need to be more specific as far as percentages of fecal and whether it is human, deer, cattle, turkeys, etc. Yvette will find the information on the lab that was used in our TMDL.

Regarding the Redwater Irrigation Project, there is a possibility of getting some SRF funds to help with the diversion structure, but will have to wait for budget issues to be resolved.

Tim mentioned the idea of purchasing some home water analysis kits. Yvette had gotten information via email about some that were available and they test for 11 different substances. We could use them as give-away items at booths. Karl moved to approve the purchase, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held May 19, 2011 @ 1pm.