

DECEMBER 2, 2010
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1:05 pm

Present: Tom Quinn, Joyce Williamson-USGS, Karl Jensen-Law CD, Yvette King – Butte CD, Matthew Odden – NRCS, Sarah Eggebo – NRCS, Bill Anderson – BFID, Clint Pitts – BFID, Jared Oswald – RESPEC, Thad Berrett – BLM, Matt Stoltenberg – RESPEC, Dale Lundgren Elk Creek CD, Rod Baumberger, Tim Reich – Butte CD, Nathan Jagim – Meade W&P, Justin Krajewski – RESPEC and Tanse Herrmann – NRCS

Tim Reich called the meeting to order. Clint Pitts moved to approve the regular meeting minutes as well as the Sept. special meeting, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl went over the treasurer's report and explained the entries, Dale Lundgren moved to approve, Clint Pitts seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg gave a report on the Segment IV 319 Implementation. Overall, the completion of Segment IV work is on schedule. Any un-obligated funds for the different work items in Segment IV will be discussed at the next watershed meeting. Under the water quality monitoring, USGS may have an additional \$9000 to help start monitoring on the additional sites in March 2011.

Matt Stoltenberg also reported on the matching dollars requirements. Due to increased cost-share payments on irrigation under EQIP, we won't be able to reach \$2,355,926 in total match, but the match we do have is more than enough to meet grant requirements.

Matt stated that with the increased cost-shares being offered for irrigation under EQIP and 319 funds, there is a lot more competition for cost-share dollars, which means that our ranking worksheet as it is now, is inadequate. We will be meeting after Jan. 1, 2011 to revamp the ranking worksheet.

Matt went on to report on range planning and public outreach with the soil quality trailer.

After finishing up the progress reports, Matt went on to the overall report for work completed outside of 319 funds 2006-2010. (See copy of report)

On the TSS reduction slide, these numbers are in the process of being updated. Jared believes the TSS numbers will be down. Joyce Williamson asked if there has been a trend developing over the course of the project showing water quality improvements? Jared stated he hadn't run that but it would be good information and he will run it. Matt Stoltenberg continued on with the report, reviewing

irrigation practice implementation, as well as 319 funds allocated to date and also shows additional need/demand of \$1,025,000. Of the \$605,000 allocated, about \$450,000 has been invested to date.

Segment IV Producer Range/Riparian Implementation

Tanse Herrmann stated he will have another completion ready for cost-share payment next week and may have interest in another riparian protection project. Dale Lundgren asked about the cost effectiveness of the radio ads. Several individuals spoke up in favor of the ads and stated they had received a lot of positive comments.

There was some discussion on the slide for Segment IV 319 Budget – this slide may need to either be removed or explained better. As it is, it seems to indicate there is over \$400,000 that still needs to be obligated when in reality we have requests and applications for exceeding the \$400,000. There was some brief discussion about the last slide in the presentation which states that for every \$1.00 of 319 funds invested, the Partnership has brought in \$8.14 in additional grants outside of 319. It was pointed out that any statement made at the Non-Point Source Task Force Meeting must be defensible by members of the BFRWP. Joyce asked the question of whether organizations in Western SD have been contacted and encouraged to attend the Task Force meeting next week. Nobody had to date, but those contacts will be made.

Jared Oswald gave a verbal report on the Redwater Irrigation District study. He stated approximately 65% of the water being diverted into the Redwater Irrigation Ditch is lost to seepage and evaporation with most of the loss coming from seepage. Jared stated that the estimate that Tom VerHelst had done on pipe a few years ago was \$4.4 million, but if the first 3 miles were lined instead of put in pipe, the cost could be reduced down to around \$500,000, and the first 3 miles accounts for most of the loss.

Belle Fourche Groundwater Study – this application to the Conservation Commission was approved after the presentation by Dale Lundgren. Some discussion was held on the probability of securing the matching funds from the local government entities within the project.

A report was given by Nate Jagim from the Meade Co Weed & Pest on the Belle Fourche Weed Management Area Grant. To date the acres of Phragmites have been mapped in Butte County, which has totaled 405 acres. There may be a few acres not accounted for in Butte Co. Some discussion on the use of some funds in the grant for public information to inform people about the Phragmites plants, their invasive characteristics and the control of this invasive species. Nate stated the team has applied to the State of SD for an additional \$35,000 grant. Tim asked if Phragmites would spread into upland areas. Matt Stoltenberg and Nate stated that it could but it does succumb to grazing pressure if it's grazed early.

Sponsorships – Jim Thompson contacted Matt Stoltenberg about their Winter Extravaganza and wanted to know if the Partnership wanted to run some more radio ads through this “Special” they are promoting. Karl moved to spend \$500 and Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Soil Quality Demo Trailer – reports and discussion were given previously on the demonstrations conducted this past Fall. The trailer has been winterized and the next dates for demonstrations will be at the B. H. Stock Show.

The Newell Ag Issues Team was present to give their presentation on Round-up Ready Alfalfa and to present the topics pros and cons. The students gave a very interesting and informative presentation in a skit centered around a discussion about GMO alfalfa in the coffee shop between a seed dealer and several producers, one being an organic grower with the “waitress” adding comments about what she had heard from others. The students did an excellent job and were very well prepared.

Next meeting will be on 1/13/2011 at Belle Fourche at First Interstate Bank.