

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
FEBRUARY 19, 2009
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Tom Quinn-NRCS, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC and Diane Gronlund-NRCS

The minutes of the last meeting were mailed out, Dale Lundgren moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl went over the treasurer's report; payments have gone out to RESPEC, SDSU, USGS and to two producers for cost-share. Dale moved to approve, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Tim Reich began discussion on the field day demonstration trailer. The total cost of the trailer, with all the demo options listed, will be \$17,440.00, the base trailer including all the bins and shelves is about half that amount. The balance is encompassed in the 10 different demo options. The Partnership has \$8000 available from Segment III and another \$20,000 in I&E from Segment IV, so there are plenty of I&E funds available to pay for the complete package. The board was in favor the purchase, Karl moved to go ahead with the purchase, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Tim will make contact with Mr. Davis to let him know to get the trailer equipped as per his bid.

Matt Stoltenberg, RESPEC, gave the field report and went over the 319 budget based on today's dollars. All BMP milestones have been met and are on track with 319 expenditures. Jared Oswald, RESPEC, gave his report on the CIG grant, there is \$35,400 available for administration but these dollars cannot be used for the purchase of needed hardware, etc. This will have to be handled out of annual district funds, that way the partnership doesn't have to get permission to purchase something for a piece of equipment. The BFRWP worked with 9 producers involved with the CIG grant last year, and have a list of about 15 more for this coming year. Jared also reported they had a good meeting with the NRCS state office earlier this week on some potential water quality projects. Through AWEP, there is going to be about \$70,000,000 available nationwide for large projects but the dollars have to go directly to producers. The rules for this haven't been totally developed yet, but the application deadline is 3/2/09. There will be a need to develop a local ranking worksheet for this program that includes a component that enhances soil quality through prescribed grazing and cropping management systems. The plan is to incorporate I&E efforts on No-Till, Cover Crops and Grazing Systems along with the use of the Water Quality trailer to promote soil

quality. The project proposal that RESPEC has started working on is for 1-1.5 million/year for 5 years. Jared also talked to Pete Jahraus, DENR, about the lack of funds available for range upland planning from the Grasslands Coalition. Matt went to them to offer range planning through RESPEC, using the dollars that DENR had told the BFRWP they had. The Grasslands Coalition informed Matt that they didn't even know they had the funds. Pete Jahraus just informed Jared that they were going to authorize RESPEC to do at least 50,000 acres initially at \$1/acre. After the initial 50,000 acres are done, we can probably get the funds from the coalition to do an additional 50,000 acres. There was discussion on the need for follow-up on plans already completed as well as follow-up on new plans to try to achieve good prescribed grazing systems through the rangeland planning efforts through the BFRWP.

TMDL for the Belle Fourche River in WY has just been announced. WY-DEQ is going to sponsor the project. RESPEC is planning on bidding the completion of this project. The BFRWP is willing to meet with the supervisors from Crook and Campbell Counties to give them information on our TMDL plan and what it has allowed us to do. Jared talked about the need to re-work the model of the Belle Fourche Watershed to include the adjacent uplands and then we can continually update the model to include improvements in the watershed as they are implemented. This will require cooperation between the watershed and NRCS staffs to insure an accurate model.

Some discussion then ensued on the cost-share list presented to the board for approval. After some discussion, Karl moved to approve the list, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt reported that he had been down in Albuquerque, NM for the 62nd Annual SRM meeting, with a lot of good comments coming from that meeting. Jared pointed out that the Newell Field and Home Show was mostly a crafts show and probably questionable as to whether it makes sense for the BFRWP to be there in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4/16/09 at 1:00pm at First Western Bank in Belle Fourche.