

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JULY 16, 2008
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tom Quinn-NRCS, Karl Jensen-Law CD, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Dusty Kavitz-RESPEC, Brett Morlok-SDSM&T, Tana Bonnet-RESPEC, Matt Hubers-SDSU, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Matt Odden-NRCS and Clint Pitts-BFID

Minutes reviewed, Clint Pitts moved to approve, Karl Jensen seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen presented the treasurer's report and explained some items regarding the report; Clint moved to approve, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Board members present were Tim Reich, Karl Jensen, Clint Pitts and absent was Dale Lundgren.

Field Reports-

319 Implementation Segment III - It looks like all of the Phase III implementation goals will be met or surpassed by the deadline of spring 2009.

Brett Morlok, SDSM&T, reported that he has been working on flow measurement, general channel data collection, and beehive flume data collection. Lacy Pomarleau is in the process of making a computer model of the entire north canal.

Matt Stoltenberg- NRCS-CCPI Grant

The final report has been written and sent to the NRCS State Office for any review and edits that might be needed.

Tana Bonnet, RESPEC, is working on a soil moisture project within the BFID. They are currently working with 9 producers on 10 separate fields for this project. In this project, they are using soil moisture sensors at 1 ft. and 3 ft. depths. The fields that they are working on are mostly flood irrigated but there are also two center pivots in the study. They are finding that on KIB, KIA and Kt soils, that the soil can still feel somewhat moist but the sensor is reading very low available moisture, this is due to a high percentage of clay in these soils which hold onto water molecules very tightly.

Dusty Kavitz reported on the work he is doing on the moisture balancing project. This project will hopefully be able to be correlated with Tana's soil moisture project. The goal is to have the sensors be able to indicate more accurately when the producer's need to be adding more irrigation water based on desired field capacity and crop needs at a given stage of growth. Both Tana and Dusty's projects are somewhat overlapping because they are both using the same field sensors.

There was quite a bit of discussion on the acceptance of this research by the irrigators, not many are actually giving feedback but those present felt that most producers will only speak up if they have a problem, so lack of input is probably a positive response. Also some discussion was held on the ability and/or relevance of using soil moisture sensors on other land uses such as rangeland. This would require more thought and discussion prior to any commitment to expansion of these projects into rangeland.

Matt Hubers gave a report on this year's rainfall simulation project. He has hundreds of samples to analyze and tons of data to decipher. He will be working on this data throughout the rest of this summer, fall and winter. He is hoping to have all of the data analyzed and tabulated by the end of December.

Matt Stoltenberg – 319 Implementation

Matt passed out a handout on cost-share dollars paid out and obligated. There were some questions on whether everyone who was approved, would use all of their allocations. At this time, all of the people on the list have indicated their intent to proceed with the completion of their approved projects. They need to try to have their projects completed by the first of November.

Belle Fourche Watershed Resource Tour- The BFRWP will hold a Resource Tour on August 27, 2008 and the tour will be focused toward local civic leadership, county commissioners, state and federal legislators, etc. The tour will begin in Belle Fourche, then proceed to Keyhole and follow back down the watershed, stop for a catered lunch in Aladdin and finish up at Orman Dam.

I & E Proposals – Approximately \$10,000 in the budget for I&E. Justin Boerboom presented a proposal for a cover crop demonstration. He is primarily targeting cover crops on fallow ground in this area. This project will demonstrate 3 fields of 2.5 acres each (see handout). Tate brought up that there has been an EQIP incentive for cover crops starting this past year. Tim Reich asked if some soil moisture sensors could be installed in one or more of the test plots to incorporate moisture data into this cover crop demonstration. The place that Justin has in mind is that of a Meade County producer about 20 miles east of Sturgis and is within the Belle Fourche watershed. Potential speakers are Gale Brown, rancher from Bismarck, ND - Shannon Osborne, ARS Agronomist from Pierre and possibly a professor/researcher from SDSU Extension. With the inclusion of soil moisture sensors, the total cost of this project would be approximately \$5000. Part of this area is under a pivot and part of it is dry land. We are tentatively about 3 weeks off of harvest but need to have an answer from our state office soon because seed needs to be bought. Tim also brought up a potential I&E project which develops a very professional, attractive booklet/brochure on the Belle Fourche Watershed area. This would be fashioned after a book that Custer Conservation District put together with assistance from USDA. Tom Quinn brought up the idea of partnering with GLCI on some kind of rangeland tour/project. We also have had a request from a

producer in the Newell area to sponsor a bus tour to the Dakota Lakes Research Farm Field Day. Tom Quinn will check on the date and the costs of getting a bus to go from Belle Fourche/Newell/Sturgis to Dakota Lakes Farm and back. We also briefly discussed was the construction of a rainfall simulation model which would cost approximately \$5000. This would be very mobile and could be used throughout western South Dakota for field days, etc.

Matt Stoltenberg mentioned that he will be working on updating the BFRWP website so if anyone has any updates/information, we need to let him know. He will be contacting us monthly.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 24 @ 1pm in First Western Bank, Belle Fourche.**