

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
AUGUST 30, 2012
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Jennifer Walker-BLM, Tom Berdan-SD-GFP, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg, Clint Pitts-BFID, Joyce Williamson-USGS, Justin Boerboom-NRCS and Cliff Conry-Butte CD

The minutes were mailed out and copies made available, Karl Jensen moved to approve the minutes, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen presented the treasurer's report and it was noted that 6 irrigation projects had been completed and paid out. Dale moved to approve the treasurer's report, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt reported that the Segment IV final report had been submitted for review. He also reviewed the remaining Segment V budget and suggested a fall funding round. Discussion was held regarding the criteria for the fall funding round. It was suggested that in order to be considered, the producer will need to be ready to install this fall and understand that if they move forward with that decision they will not be considered for EQIP on that particular practice. Next, the group discussed the cost-share amount and due to the fact that this won't be a piggy-back situation with EQIP, it was suggested that \$275/acre be offered. Karl moved to approve the criteria and \$275/acre, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. A list of 22 applicants will be contacted and those interested will be ranked within the next 2 weeks.

Segment VI Budget Proposal – Matt and Jared noted some of the new items included on the handout for the Segment VI proposal. The Belle Fourche Stormwater Master Plan will be a study to identify priority areas and practices that can be implemented within the city's stormwater system aimed at reducing bacteria concentrations in the BF River.

Matt stated that this proposal will be submitted to DENR within the next couple of weeks for review. Clint asked about the inclusion of the Redwater ditch and Matt and Jared responded that they didn't feel like it was an option at this point. There are currently 6 other proposals being presented to DENR for funding. Clint then asked if there was room to add any funding for automation. Matt suggested \$50k for the on-going task of automation. At this point Tim suggested an increase from \$60k to \$80k for the Master Plan and adding a \$50k line item for automation. Karl motion to approve Tim's suggestion, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Ground Water Study – How does the group want to proceed? Matt suggested cleaning up where we are at and to start fresh with a new proposal with the results to show progress. Currently there is \$22,780 left to invest without any supported match. Jared asked if maybe a request for an extension would keep things open and not starting from square one. Matt also noted that the districts involved in the study will need to make motions to proceed with the groundwater study. Karl made the motion to go ahead and proceed with the request for an extension, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

SRM – SD Chapter of the Society for Range Management will be holding their annual meeting in October in Deadwood, SD. The group is interested in sponsorship of this event. The main focus of this group in South Dakota is education, 40-60 participants are expected at the event this year. Dale moved to approve up to \$500 for the event, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

At this time, Karl made a motion to contribute \$150 to the SDACD Endowment Fund in Tim Reich's name, Dale seconded with the amended amount of \$200, all in favor, motion carried.

In a previous motion made via email (8/1/12), Clint moved to approve \$6000 from the riparian budget be obligated to the restoration efforts along the Belle Fourche River after the Phragmites treatments, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Clint also moved to approve a request to DENR for the transfer of \$3000 from irrigation scheduling to Project Mgmt./I&E, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Butte Conservation District will be submitting a grant proposal for the start-up of the Canon Envirothon Pilot program in SD. There has been some renewed interest in the program from Anne Lewis at Discovery Center in Pierre and the Outdoor Learning Center in Rapid City. The proposal will address teacher training, outreach, supplies, organizing coordinators, advisors, partner groups and putting together a state competition.

A CIG Grant titled Helping Farmers & Ranchers Adapt to Drought, was discussed and would include irrigation scheduling, the use of moisture sensors etc.

Jennifer Walker, BLM, presented information on a program through her organization, Challenge Cost-Share, which would be available starting in 2013 and continue for the next 3 summers. She would like to partner with the BFRWP on the project that would include monitoring BMP's and vegetation and ensuring the proper functioning of BLM and Private Lands. There is the potential to invest \$5-10k locally. Clint felt this was a great opportunity to partner with BLM and moved to approve the partnership on this project, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg asked the group for support in the nomination of Gary Cammack for the Excellence in Range Management Award. The group agreed unanimously in support, Gary has always been a supporter of the BFRWP efforts.

Next meeting will be held **November 29 @ 1pm**, First Interstate Bank, Belle Fourche.