

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Lee Baron-SD DENR, Pete Jahraus-SD DENR, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Yvette King-Butte CD, Justin Krajewski-RESPEC, Ken Sanbor-NGPJV, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Galen Burgett-Archeologist, Nathan Jagim-Meade W&P, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Mike Kuck-SDACD, Clint Pitts-BFID, Tim Reich-Butte CD and Tom Quinn-BFRWP

Introductions were made around the table, as there were several new faces joining the group. Minutes from the last meeting were sent out, no questions or corrections were needed, Clint moved to approve, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl presented the treasurer's report, Clint moved to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

Matt Stoltenberg gave a field report, starting with Segment IV. (See Budget Handout) There are funds left in the water monitoring budget (approx. \$9250) and these will be invested in some additional water quality monitoring on Horse Creek. Regarding irrigation requests, there have been some changes in the completed systems from previous approvals. There are more applications pending and a few of the remaining could definitely be completed by the deadline of November 1. Approximately \$44,000 is available and that amount could increase depending on completion of a few projects. Discussion was held on whether to make any funding decisions until we know how much is going to be available. Clint had doubts about the remaining applicants for pivots being able to be approved due to the time delays with the BOR permitting system. Karl suggested that one of the higher ranking applicants be moved to the top of the list due to the fact that they would not need to go through the permitting process since it was an underground pipeline and could be used immediately.

Matt and Tom gave a brief report on the activity of the soil quality trailer and recent outreach activities.

Matt gave a report on the Belle Fourche Weed Mgmt. Area. The group did a willow planting near the Bismarck Bridge. Several partners collaborated with the effort and they did several different herbicide treatments and used willow cuttings for the site. They also included some bare-root species to compare the success rates. Matt gave a report on the CIG grant applications. Mike Kuck asked about the CCPI grant that we were approved for and the BFRWP was approved for over \$400,000 but only had applications for \$150,000-200,000, so some of the allocation was not able to be used. Tim stated that almost \$50,000 was pulled out by NRCS at the very beginning and wondered why? Mike did not know the answer to that. Matt reported that we did get a range planning contract between the BFRWP and the SD Grasslands Coalition. Matt passed copies of the contract to all board members. Karl moved to approve the contract, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Pete Jahraus-DENR, complimented the partnership on the cooperation between the partnership and all the partnering agencies. They are in the area touring the

Spring Creek and Belle Fourche River projects. Pete also reviewed the duties of Mike Kuck as they relate to the overall statewide water quality projects. There currently are 16 active implementation projects statewide and Mike will be available on an intermittent basis to assist with administration etc.

Pete briefly outlined the budget cuts they have had to manage. The 319 program through EPA is being reviewed nationally by the OMB and EPA internally. They (DENR) expect a budget reduction for 2012 but won't know for a while yet. This year's budget reductions were not severe. Lee Baron-DENR, stated that there were comments nationally that they didn't hear much from conservation, so those folks in Washington, D.C. need to hear from Conservation Districts and watershed groups. State Revolving Fund – The Redwater Association is not going to be allowed to come through the BFID to get funding. There were reasons given but nobody who read the email could understand them, so further explanation is needed. Some discussion about whether the Redwater Assn. had taxing authority or not? This may be the central issue regarding the denial.

There was a contract for a joint funding agreement with USGS that had to be approved. Karl moved to approve, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Matt gave a brief explanation on the Leopold Conservation Award being submitted for Jeff Smeenk from Butte County. There is one winner per state, but not all states necessarily participate. The cost for submitting the application is \$1000 local dollars. The State winner gets \$10,000 cash reward. Matt thought that there were between 12-17 applicants in SD. Applicants are judged on overall conservation on their farms or ranches. After some discussion, Karl made the motion to contribute \$1000 to the Leopold Conservation Award, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Groundwater Study Update- We have received good reception in Butte County, but very questionable reception in Deadwood. After attending the Deadwood City Committee meeting, Matt and Tom are not hopeful of getting any match funding from them.

Nathan Jagim gave a brief report on the weed management and the efforts on the phragmites control in the BFID. At the Tri-State Expo, attendance was very poor but there were some very good comments made about the efforts of Weed & Pest to get information out to the public. Nate reported that we received another \$35,000 grant for weed control. A letter will be sent again to all landowners so they are aware of the funding for phragmites control.

Ken Sanbor-Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, presented what his group is all about, the conservation of migratory waterfowl from Canada to South America and Mexico. They are using the joint venture model developed years ago by NAWCA. Through various grants in the past, NAWCA funds have often been used for multi-purpose ponds in this area. NGPJV has a 17 member management board and their main purpose is to do projects locally. They do provide some seed money for cooperative projects and they also help coop some technical positions in some locations such as a biologists, etc. They focus on working on private lands in

conjunction with other groups and agencies etc. The NGPJV has invested dollars in projects in this area in the past through technical assistance from Steve Fairbairn, USFWS. He also went into the types of projects that they prefer.

Steve Fairbairn stated that there had been some previous discussion about archeological compliance, so he brought Galen Burgett with him for today's meeting. Galen is a private archeologist who used to be contracted with USFWS and did an excellent job for them. We can get in touch with Galen through Steve Fairbairn.

Yvette King presented information on putting a partnership ad in the new county wide directory. Ads cost \$145 and you get 10 directories for \$8 s/h. Karl moved to have an ad put in all three county directories, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

On another note, Tim mentioned that the Newell FFA students had won the national range judging contest in Oklahoma.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2011 @ 1pm.