

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
MARCH 1, 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, Bill Anderson-BFID, Thad Berrett-BLM, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg-Consultant, Clint Pitts-BFID, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Nate Jagim-Meade Co W&P

For the purpose of continuity, these minutes are not necessarily in chronological order.

The minutes of the last meeting were sent out and reviewed, with no further discussion, Clint moved to approve, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The treasurer's report was reviewed, several cost-share payments were made and advertising/promo items were purchased, Dale moved to approve, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Yvette also mentioned that the annual audit would be taking place the week of the 12th.

Tour - The group discussed possibly conducting another tour sometime in July to include, area commissioners, city & state officials, members of the SD-DENR staff, senators/ representatives and area producers. Invitations should be ready by May for budget purposes. As a side note Matt stated that SRM would be conducting a tour as well in early October.

Groundwater Study – To date \$6k each has been committed to the study from Meade County and City of Spearfish, it was suggested that an amendment to the grant timeline be made in order to make contact with entities again in time for their next budget meetings. Karl moved to draft an amendment extending the timeline to Dec. 31, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

DENR-TMDL – Previously the group had discussed that a report was submitted to EPA without public review and there were several errors in the information. It was then made available for public comment, several recommendations were made and some corrections were addressed. The group felt some of the information should be updated, for example it showed that there were only 44 septic systems in the watershed. New standards are being developed and will address the implementation of bacteria vs. sediment regarding BMP's.

Weed & Pest Presentation - Nathan shared the powerpoint presentation that was used at the funding meeting for the weed and pest commission. The slide show was an overview of what had been accomplished since the Phragmites project had begun on the Belle Fourche River. The group is currently evaluating the pro's and con's of using different methods of delivery for better coverage when applying herbicide. Millborn Seed will be out later in March to evaluate the current sites and determine what type of seed mix will be best suited for stabilization and maintaining habitat.

They plan to continue with the harvesting and pole planting and hope to involve other partners in the effort. When asked what the projected time line of the project is; Nathan stated that he is looking at about 5 years, if the group can find alternative funding sources. It was noted that Segment VI may have some available funds for riparian areas and USFWS may also be interested in partnering. Nathan followed up with the topic of the Invader and whether the BFRWP would be interested in investing and advertising in the upcoming publication. Karl moved to approve \$2k with stipulation that \$4k would be contributed from other entities, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Dept. of Ag Publication – Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources – Tim attended a meeting in Rapid City intended to gather some input and discuss possible revisions to the current document. Some of the main concerns were that it lacked local input, planning and investment and that the goals were not technically defined. The Dept. of Ag encouraged everyone to make comment either online or a paper form was available.

Canon Envirothon – Tim would like to see this program implemented in South Dakota, it is a great opportunity for students to advance their knowledge of other conservation/natural resource concerns. There have been other attempts to get this program in South Dakota and Tim stated he would like to see it move forward, there are several interested parties willing to work at getting it going and the next step is to try to find funding in order to send a pilot team to this year's 25th Anniversary competition. A team consists of 5 students and 2 advisors for a week long competition in Pennsylvania. The group thought the Newell Ag Issues team would be good candidates. Clint moved to approve \$5k in support for getting a team to the competition, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Segment V – Matt Stoltenberg went over the budget and reviewed a list of applications that had been submitted. He mentioned that now was probably the time to approve some of these applications due to the nice weather and folks want to get busy with projects. There were 12 applications to review and all were considered good projects. It was brought to attention that another application had been left off the list in error that should be considered. The group decided that they would not be awarded until it was known whether or not the individuals had gotten EQIP contracts approved. Karl moved to approve the list which would include the additional contract that had been left off in error (13) at the \$170/acre if they were awarded an EQIP contract, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. At this point, Dale raised the question of future funding for gated pipe and maybe having a separate ranking. The group discussed the issue of being able to regulate or keep track of that pipe. If it were cost-shared it would have to be new pipe and it is something that would have to be considered when discussing cost-share rates and future funding. Referring back to the potentially new contracts, Jared mentioned the moisture sensors and whether or not that was going to be a requirement for producers. NRCS folks stated it would work hand in hand with the requirements for EQIP contracts as far as the irrigation water management item. The group discussed the cost of the sensors and that the producers should have some

investment, and it was suggested that the cost of the sensor be taken out of the cost-share payment and listed as a line item on the payment app. Clint moved to add the sensor as a requirement to the cost-share contract and that the cost would be assessed on the payment app, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Other – Clint moved to approve the payment for cooler usage for the willow cuttings, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 24th @ 1pm, First Interstate Bank, Belle Fourche