

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
MARCH 13, 2014
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tim Reich-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Anitha Chirumamilla-SDSU Ext., Rutendo Nyamusamba-SDSU Ext., Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Tate Lantz-NRCS, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Bill Anderson-BFID, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Rod Baumberger-Range Consultant, Matt Stoltenberg-Consultant, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Justin Boerboom-NRCS and Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD

Introductions were made around the table, Joe Nichols is new to the group and he will be replacing Steve Fairbairn in the coming weeks.

The minutes of the last meeting were emailed, Karl moved to approve the minutes as they were presented, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl reviewed the treasurer's report with the group, having no questions or comments, Dale moved to approve the treasurer's report, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

The board clarified that the board is comprised of the chairman of each district within the partnership plus the manager of the BFID, therefore, as Bill Anderson assumes the position of BFID manager, he is therefore a voting member of the partnership.

The annual audit by Casey Peterson & Assoc. is scheduled for March 24th.

Matt distributed several handouts. The first topic discussed was the 2014 Cost Docket. Matt would like an approved docket for DENR, and this one is similar to dockets in the past, typically it follows the USFWS and would like to maintain the current system which allows for some flexibility. All board members unanimously agreed with the docket.

EPA has approved the \$500k requested, we are looking at a June/July release date.

Several applications were on file and ranked. 3 applications were chosen to invest the remaining funds and 5 will be pending until the July release of more funds. Dale moved to approve the top 3 applications and the next 5 pending until July, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The board would like to see a limit of one project per producer and be flexible to let the producer to choose which project to proceed with if they are approved and have multiple projects.

Irrigation Scheduling – The recommended cost share is \$450 per new pivot project. Karl moved to approve the \$450 rate, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Range/Riparian Funding – Several range projects are on the list and will be ranked at a later date.

The Redwater Ditch was introduced to the conversation and it may be an issue that comes up in the near future, the Redwater Ditch is in need of some streambank stabilization to prevent loss in to the Redwater itself.

Matt stated he would be working with NRCS this summer on range planning.

Jared Oswald discussed the BF Storm Water Plan – Jared should have a draft to the city soon and to the BFRWP as well. He stated that the city had minimal impact on bacteria and sediment, the study proved to be a wise decision. He is also potentially working on a proposal for Hay Creek as it goes thru the City of Belle Fourche, but that will be something looked at in the future.

Dale Lundgren asked the group about shelterbelt assistance following the Storm Atlas, is there a funding source? In discussion, Conservation Commission grants were mentioned, could they be considered a riparian item or would it fit into the current scope of work.

Agency Reports – NRCS – A No-Till Support Group has been formed to assist producers in converting to no till and to provide information, the group met March 12 and included producers, NRCS staff and local ag business influence. NRCS is still waiting to rank EQIP application but should be able to proceed within the next few days. The Honeybee Initiative is all the buzz...but NRCS is still trying to work the bugs out. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered before they feel comfortable with the program, applications however, are due April 18th.

Next meeting is July 24th @ 1pm, First Interstate Bank, BF