

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
MAY 16, 2013
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Dave Ollila-SDSU Extension, Clint Pitts-BFID, Tim Reich-ButteCD, Tom Quinn- BFRWP, Barry McLaury-SD DENR, Lee Baron-SD DENR, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Tom Berdan-SD GFP, Lee Erickson-NRCS, Sarah Eggebo-NRCS, John Rombough-Lawrence CD, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Tate Lantz-NRCS, Matt Stoltenberg and Yvette Kirkman

Introductions were made around the table, Barry McLaury will be replacing Lee Baron, who is retiring.

The minutes from the last meeting were sent out and included in today's handouts, there were no additions or corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved. The treasurer's report was delivered by Yvette Kirkman in Karl Jensen's absence, no questions or concerns, the report was approved unanimously.

Tim went over the audit briefly and explained the charges. In order to finalize the audit, Clint moved and Quinn seconded the finalization, all in favor.

Segment V has roughly \$2000 left to invest, all other funds have been obligated or invested.

Segment VI – Matt passed around a handout showing a significant amount of the Segment VI funds have been obligated for sprinkler systems (\$212k) and riparian BMP projects (\$15k) but we are awaiting the arrival of the funding.

Matt then proceeded with the report outlining range improvement projects showing the break-out of funding between the USFWS and the BFRWP. USFWS funds are coming from grants administered by the Elk Creek CD and Lawrence CD. The spreadsheets Matt passed out only address the cost-share amounts of the projects which is 50% of the total cost of the projects. Quinn moved to approve the range improvement projects as outlined, Clint seconded, all in favor. Clint asked a question about the fence cost and Steve Fairbairn explained that their docket, which is what Matt used, is set up on the fencing to capture the cost of the materials, with labor being the donation of the producer.

Groundwater Project – Jared met with the Belle Fourche City Council and answered some questions and concerns about what impacts this study might have on the City of Belle Fourche. After some discussion, the watershed did acquire permission to do some water sampling in and around the city to re-check water quality.

Tate Lantz passed around a summary of the last 5 years of CCPI. In SD, another \$1 million is going to be coming to SD for EQIP; those funds could also be used for CCPI. This year's breakdown on EQIP per county: Butte Co. \$478,000 – Lawrence Co. \$13,940 – Meade Co. \$1.2 million.

An additional amount of sage grouse WHIP funding is also going to be available; approximately \$380k.

I&E – Jim Thompson is available if needed for advertising and PR. Matt would like to stick with the same budget as last year's (\$2000), he feels that is a reasonable amount.

There are 30 soil sensors remaining for use this year and need \$2100 to pay for the sensors.

A request came for a \$500 sponsorship for Range Camp.

Clint moved to approve \$2000 for radio spots, \$2100 for soil sensors and \$500 for range camp, Quinn seconded, all in favor.

Groundwater Project - \$26k is available, City of Belle Fourche has come up with \$6k match, so with the match requirements not being as high as before, more progress can be made to improve the data from the foothills out into the prairie.

Cover Crop CIG – Kent Cooley talked to Matt about setting up some demo sites in the BFID. Kent is thinking of subsidizing the cost of the seed to the farmer. They are requesting a \$75k grant and the farmer's input would be match. A lot of discussion about including dry land in the mix, cover crop works best after small grain in this area due to early harvests. Matt wanted to know if the watershed would be willing to sponsor a project like this. Another reason for cover crop demos, especially in our heavy soils, is the management of the salts in our heavy clays, especially under center pivot irrigation. Clint moved to approve sponsorship of the Cover Crop CIG, Quinn seconded, all in favor.

Envirothon – 3 teams participated in the first SD event. It was reported that the kids were attentive and very intelligent and positive. SD will be sending a team to the International Envirothon in Montana later this year. These are really good natural resource training programs for high school age kids. The team from Mobridge, SD won the state Envirothon this year.

BF Weed Mgmt. Group – Nate Jagim could not attend today's meeting, Clint Pitts will do the updates. Clint noted that the group was going to get quite a bit more restoration done than anticipated this year. Phragmites control efforts have been showing good results without re-growth in most places. In the places that re-growth did occur, it was the result of some of the Phragmites being missed on the first application. Clint recommended that everyone take time to read the latest version of the "Invader", very well done and up to 12 pages over the 8 in the previous edition. Copies will be going to the Conservation District offices.

Dave Ollila is looking for sponsorship for weather station funding. He stated that there is definitely a need for the weather station at Nisland to exist, but there is currently no funding available to run it at this time. For the purposes of the watershed project, it is important to have a continuous record of weather conditions within the watershed, and the historic station at Nisland is the only one we have. Supported weather stations in western SD are very spread out. Dave is recommending and asking the BFRWP to help with the funding now and hopefully more sponsors can be added in the future. They are asking for a \$3000 investment for each weather station and statewide they are trying to put together \$100k for stations statewide. After some discussion on the available funds from the Seg VI I&E budget, the partnership can afford \$3000 this time, but more sponsors need to be found. Quinn moved to approve \$3000 to get the Nisland weather station back online, it is way more important to have that data now with sprinkler irrigation. Motion approved. Dave Ollila made a statement offering the assistance of the Extension Service and the disciplines they can offer to the BFRWP.

Next meeting August 22, 2013 @ 10am First Interstate Bank, Belle Fourche

***Note the time change for this meeting due to schedule conflict at this location.**