

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
DECEMBER 6, 2018 – 1PM
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1:05pm

Present: Jennifer Lutze-Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Bryan Becker-NRCS, Matt Gottlob-Pheasants Forever, Allyssa Gregory-SD Dept Ag Forester, Krista Ehlert-SDSU Ext., Tate Lantz-NRCS, Dave Ollila-SDSU Ext., Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Nathan Jagim-Meade W&P, Mitch Iverson-BLM, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Jeff Rathbun-BFID, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Justin Krajewski-RESPEC, Kim Smeenk-SD Envirothon, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Tim Reich-Butte CD and Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD/BFRWP

Introductions were made around the table

Jeff Rathbun is the new manager for the BFID, replacing Bill Anderson. Tim explained the partnership and the representation on the board. Tim made the appointment to the board, Dale seconded.

Minutes were emailed and copies available, Dale moved to approve the minutes, Jeff seconded, all in favor, motion carried

Treasurer's report was presented, Jeff moved to approve, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried

Kim Smeenk gave an update on the SD Envirothon. SD State Competition will be April 29-30 at Outdoor Campus West, Rapid City. Kim reported on secured funding and the 319 proposal that will be reviewed on Dec. 10th in Pierre with the Task Force. She also shared some of the new educational materials she had found and that road shows were moving forward. Nate Jagim suggested Weed & Pest Commission as a funding source, if weed information was included in the educational packets.

I & E budget was reviewed, and discussion held regarding upcoming events to invest the remaining funds. Cammack's, Vale Ag, Range Camp, JT Ads and Connor SRM Tour were listed.

Justin Krajewski thanked everyone that coordinated the DENR/EPA tour in October. Justin then reviewed the remaining budget for Segment 8 and everything is on track. The Segment 9 presentation was reviewed by the group and some discussion on the new priority areas, adding a water quality station and increasing the range/riparian areas. Adjustments will have to be made in the ranking sheet to accommodate the new priorities, at this time there are 10 potential project requests for Segment 9.

Conservation Commission awarded \$15k for conversion of open ditch to buried pipe. Yvette will make sure to get the applications from Matt S. and follow up with interested producers after the first of the year, when monies are available.

Partner Agencies –

Allyssa Gregory – talked a little bit about replacement species for Green Ash (due to EAB), mentioning Siberian Larch, which is a deciduous conifer, losing its needles in the winter, but there is some concern with use in shelterbelts. Allyssa also mentioned a West River conference coming up in the spring and suggested having a booth at this event which is to be held in either Custer or Rapid City.

Krista Ehlert further described her position with SDSU, she is a professor at the West River Ag Center, she has focus on ecologically based management and will be leading youth activity. Dave Ollila followed up by discussing some of the projects he is working on and the dates for the 2019 Range Camp are June 4-6.

Joe Nichols reported on the last few projects he is finishing by year end and some budget information.

Tate Lantz – reported on the NRCS strategic plan, staffing increases, CSP acres increased in SD and Farm Bill items. Tate also noted that a new NRCS Chief had been appointed.

Justin Boerboom – reported that NRCS is in a holding pattern with planning and that Dec. 21 was the batching period deadline for applications. He also mentioned that the soil health message is getting out there and he is having more conversations about no-till.

Nate Jagim – reported on the Meade Co Weed & Pest projects they had been working on, installing the boot brush stations with noxious weed info. to help combat invasive grass species being transported into public use areas. This has become a problem in WY, the stations are being placed at trail heads, walk in areas and other public use areas. Nate also reported Butte Co had been working on a leafy spurge project along the BF River as well as some follow up on the Phragmites project.

Mitch – BLM has done inventory monitoring on 75 plots (veg/soil conditions) and working on grazing lease renewals and finding some rangeland/riparian health issues in some areas. Mitch also reported on the DOT Mitigation dollars that are available and discussion whether this is a solution for riparian issues and assist with stabilization issues and what would be allowed to account for deteriorating dams/ponds. Justin joined in and suggested a partnership and submitting a riparian based RCPP.

Jeff Rathbun reported on the activities of the BFID, November 30 was the shut down on the ditches, they try to maintain 80% in the reservoir thru the winter season and that they are tying up some of the short projects typically done in spring/fall seasons.

Next meeting March 7, 2019 @ 1pm

*Note – Jan. 30, 2019 – via email - Karl Jensen moved to contribute \$1000 to the Leopold Conservation Award, Tim Reich seconded, all in favor, motion carried