

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JANUARY 19, 2017
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK – 1PM
BELLE FOURCHE, SD
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Kim Smeenck-SD Envirothon, Justin Boerboom-NRCS, Dave Ollila-SDSU Ext., Cory Neuharth-BLM/SDFO, Nate Jagim-Meade Weed, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Bill Anderson-BFID, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Valerie Riter-NRCS, Mitch Iverson-BLM, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Kevin Hodge-NRCS and Yvette Kirkman

Introductions were made around the table, a few new faces were present.

Minutes were emailed out, Karl Jensen moved to approve, Bill Anderson seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Karl Jensen delivered the treasurer's report, which was extensive from not having a meeting since July, several cost-share projects were completed, 2 tours and a few other outreach projects were included, Dale Lundgren move to approve and pay bills as presented, Bill Anderson seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Kim Smeenck, SD Envirothon Coordinator, gave an update on the progress of the SD Envirothon program. As of meeting time 15 teams have expressed interest in participating, tests have been written & some are in progress, workshops will be held via DDN during Feb/March and the state contest is scheduled for April 2-3 in Oacoma. Discussion was held on the delay of payments for the coordinator, Karl made a motion to allow up to \$7500 of unassigned funds to be used to keep coordinator payments current, Bill seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Segment 7 Budget Review – Segment 7 will come to an end June 30 and Matt gave an overview of what funds are remaining. Matt stated that the audit would be coming up, promo items need replenished, tours and advertising opportunities would be coming up, requiring a shift in funds from one project to another. Karl moved to re-align funds to accommodate upcoming expenditures and invest the remaining dollars, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Segment 8 will have an emphasis on monitoring and an additional monitoring site will be located on Indian Creek. Current sites will continue to be monitored. Matt discussed some funding opportunities and Tim added that Homestake is a potential source of funding. Homestake is looking for projects in the Cheyenne and Belle Fourche River Watersheds that address natural resource issues.

Nate Jagim noted that there would be a conservation leaders meeting on Jan. 27th and he may learn more about the Homestake funds, he also stated that the Weed & Pest Commission Annual meeting will be held in Huron Feb. 20-22 and that he would be submitting an application for the final phase of the phragmites project.

David Ollila informed the group of the dates for Range Camp, he and Tate Lantz are hoping for more participation, since the 2016 event was cancelled due to lack of interest. The camp will be geared toward professionals and youth. It was noted that the rain fall simulator is available for presentations.

Karl Jensen reported on the Western Governors Conference, and commented on how well our groups work together for multiple use.

Mitch Iverson, BLM, reported that they would again be doing riparian plantings on Battle Creek/Indian Creek. BLM is also researching the high salinity of a series of dams. Mitch also mentioned a project/funding source with the SD-DOT, involving wetland/riparian areas and the re-establishment of vegetation on impacted areas.

Next Meeting – April 20th @ 1pm