

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP  
MAY 10, 2018 – 1PM  
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Melanie Williamson-Butte CD, Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Nate Jagim-Meade W&P, Allyssa Gregory-Forester, Tanse Herrmann-NRCS, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Andrea Westlake-NRCS, Valerie Riter-NRCS, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Matt Stoltenberg-Program Coord., Tiffany Thompson-RC&F, Kim Smeenk-SD Envirothon, Tim Reich-Butte CD and Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD/BFRWP

Absent: Bill Anderson-BFID

Introductions were made around the table.

Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting, following review, Karl moved to approve the minutes, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried

Karl Jensen delivered the Treasurer's Report, Dale moved to approve, Karl seconded, all in favor, motion carried

Kim Smeenk, SD Envirothon Coordinator, shared a handout highlighting the program and results of the 2018 SD State Contest. The team from Milbank will be representing SD in Pocatello, ID in July. Kim is working on more funding sources and different ideas to entice sponsorship, potentially incorporating sponsor packages at different levels of investment. Dates for the 2019 SD competition are TBD.

319 Update – Matt Stoltenberg reviewed the budget and projects that have been obligated and discussed the amendment to the budget. Moving forward more monitoring will be done on Horse Creek as well as the BF River. Other grants being pursued, Cons. Comm. for conversion from open ditch to buried pipe and an NRCS CCG requesting \$71.500 over 3 years to conduct follow up with producers implementing prescribed grazing in Butte, Meade and Lawrence but not limited to watershed. RCPP will probably not move forward until the new farm bill. Cons. Comm. did award the Phragmites Rehab \$5k to complete the project in 2018.

Matt also discussed I&E requests, advertising with Jim Thompson, Range Camp and the Leopold Award, following discussion Karl moved to approve the requests of \$1000 each to JT and Sand County Foundation and \$500 to Range Camp, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was opened-up for discussion from partners. Tanse Herrmann informed the group that MaryBeth Albrechtsen would be taking a position in

Yellowstone until October and that BCR would be finding a replacement in the coming weeks. Tanse also mentioned 4 cover crop demo sites that would potentially make for a great field tour should they get good growth.

Allyssa Gregory reported on the Emerald Ash Borer with updates. She also made note of mortality happening in pronghorn across Butte and Meade Counties, it is due to the consumption of the Japanese Yew plant. Allyssa also shared a resource that is available called [ForestandRange.org](http://ForestandRange.org) that provides learning tools.

Joe Nichols reported on funds that have become available which are CRP based and intended to support water, grass and fencing is needed.

Tiffany Thompson reported on the grant funds available during the spring grant round and there were \$400k in requests and \$144k in available funds.

Nate Jagim discussed the emergence of absinthe wormwood and the listing as a noxious weed. He also noted there would be seasonal training May 15<sup>th</sup> @ Walt Taylor Building in RC.

A brief discussion was held on the 10-year plan and what some of the main resource concerns were and where the focus should be directed.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:45pm

Next meeting: August 16 @ 1pm