

Rosebud Watershed Group Agenda January 16, 2008

Attendees: Scott Egan, Gordon Criswell, Karson Kluver, Nick Golder, Clint McRae, Doug McRae, Dave Davenport, Lance Ashley, Bobbi Vannattan, Laurie Kelley, Dave and Amy Krueger attended the meeting.

Minutes: Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Gordon Criswell seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A current report of the WPA grant expenditures was handed out. There were no comments.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on April 9 at 7 pm in Rosebud. Laurie will call the school to see if we can hold it there.

Nominations and voting for "at large" board members: Doug Davenport, Donny Bailey, John Bailey and Danny Sioux were nominated at the December meeting to fill the one year "at large" board member positions. The group decided to leave nominations open until the next meeting. Donny Bailey planned to speak to Danny Sioux to gauge his interest, but he was unable to attend this meeting and give us a report. Fearing that Danny would not be interested, and reluctant to vote him in if not, Dave Davenport nominated Lance Ashley in Danny's place. Dave made a motion to approve the four nominees and Gordon seconded. The motion carried. The new "at large" members will be Doug McRae, Donny Bailey, John Bailey and Lance Ashley. Their terms begin immediately.

Soil Sampling: According to past meeting minutes, the group agreed to test the USGS sites once a year, in the spring and more often should significant moisture events occur. The group agreed that as long as we are consistent, we should have adequate information for a baseline. Gordon and Scott offered their services for sampling. Discussion was held over when to take the samples. We currently have the most data for spring and fall, so the group agreed to sample in the spring. The exact dates for sampling will be determined at the April 9 meeting.

Dave Davenport suggested that water sampling be done twice per year; spring and fall and recommended adding the mouth of Miller Creek, on Clint McRae's place, as a sampling spot. The group discussed offering a mini-workshop on sampling and then allowing producers to bring in their own water samples for the district to test and it was decided that it was a valuable service that should be offered to the public. Laurie will write an article for the newsletter encouraging landowners to bring in their water for sampling.

Know Your Watershed Tour: The group discussed whether or not to hold a tour in 2008. Scott explained the events of last year. Dave suggested having a gab session on the creek where people could come out and get familiar with the people on the Rosebud. Karson said you could have some slides, at a booth in the park during Colstrip Days. Laurie suggested doing a walking poker run at the park. The group discussed the various options and decided to have a tour of some type. Gordon, Scott, Laurie, Bobbi and Amy Kruger volunteered to be on the planning committee. They will email back and forth to determine a date, location and time for the first planning meeting.

Water Adjudication: In 2007, Rosebud Watershed Group held a water adjudication meeting in Rosebud. At that meeting, agency officials told the group about the changes in water laws in the state of Montana. A group of people from Roberts, MT, who had already been through the process, spoke up during the meeting and told the group about problems they had encountered. They eventually took the state to court over the process. The group discussed inviting the folks from Roberts to the next meeting to talk about their experience and decided to do so. Laurie will look into getting some funding to help pay their travel expenses.

Biological Weed Control: The group discussed doing a demonstration project on biological weed control. The group would pick a location; take pictures, pre-bug, then during and after. Document the size, how many bugs, what time of year and any other pertinent information. Once all the information is gathered, it can be put together and presented to people who express interest in biological weed control. Gordon mentioned that the bug project would take a lot of time and involvement from the group; one or two people cannot do it all. Scott said that he had a patch of thistle that is easily accessible and he would work actively on the project as would several others. Hopefully the end result would be that any landowners who want to do a weed project can get assistance both from the county and from the watershed group. Laurie will contact Jewel Davenport and ask if she is interested in assisting us.

Group Funding Options: The group discussed trying to be more self-supporting. Some of the suggestions were fundraising efforts of various types and dues. A discussion was held and it was decided to form a committee to look into the options. The committee members will be Dave Davenport, Doug McRae, Bobbi Vannattan, Laurie Kelley and Lance Ashley. The group will meet and come up with a plan to present to the whole group in April.

Open Mike: Dave asked about the status of the NC tribe and was told that no one really knows for sure. Scott suggested get involved with the local schools;

maybe do a scholarship for a student sometime in the future. We could generate funding for something like that. If we get the young kids involved in the watershed effort, it will be self-sustaining.

Future Agenda Items:

Have the men from Roberts talk to the group—Scott will contact.
Know Your Watershed Tour committee report.
Funding committee report

Committees Formed and their members:

Know Your Watershed Tour: Gordon Criswell, Scott Egan, Laurie Kelley, Bobbi Vannattan and Amy Kruger.

Funding Committee: Laurie Kelley, Bobbi Vannattan, Dave Davenport, Doug McRae and Lance Ashley.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 pm.