

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING AGENDA  
May 2~7 pm  
USDA Service Center, 270 S. Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327

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7:00 pm:

**Supervisors present:** Jim Rogers, Dave Davenport, Doug McRae and Don Youngbauer were present. Wendy Warren and Steve Lackman were unable to attend. A quorum was present.

**Others present:** Laurie Kelley, Bobbi Vannattan, Dennis Kenney, Rocky Schwagler, and Wayne Denowh were present.

**Meeting Minutes:** Jim made a motion to accept the minutes, Dave seconded and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** No one brought their copies, so the report was tabled.

**Administrator's Report:** There were no comments.

**Meeting Schedule:** The next regular meeting date will be held on May 30 or June 6. We will discuss the budget.

**Loans:** Alan Mereness submitted an application to borrow \$50,000 for a center pivot. The loan collateral does not meet the minimum criteria required by the loan guidelines. If he were to offer a second on the entire place it would be feasible. Laurie will draft a letter to Mr. Mereness. No action was taken.

**310's:** There were no new 310 applications.

7:30 pm:

**FVH Collins Co (Prince) Reserved Water:** Wayne brought information to the board on the pivots. Jim made a motion to send the application on to DNRC for their review, Dave seconded and the motion carried. Laurie will forward the information to Duane Claypool, DNRC.

Application RW-Rs-021 YL: Bottrell Family Investments: The application was approved.

**Annual Plan:**

- March:
  - No specific items
- April:
  - Distribute Annual Status Report to users (Laurie Kelley)

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- Through on-going communications with the Irrigation District Boards determine if canal seepage continues to cause saline problems (Jim Rogers, Steve Lackman)
- If saline is a problem, cooperate with boards to resolve the problems (Jim Rogers, Steve Lackman)
- Feature newsletter, newspaper and website articles explaining the benefits of new technology and/or feature articles on producers implementing innovative practices. ( RCD Board, Laurie Kelley) April newsletter will feature an article on the Annual Banquet including information on the Steiger operation. The website already has this information.
- Promote conducting actual TMDL studies on the district's waterways. (RCD Board, Laurie Kelley)
- Use newsletter, newspaper, radio, website and organize tours of project areas as a means to update and inform the public of water quality issues. (RCD Board, Laurie Kelley) The Know Your Watershed Tour will feature a water monitoring stop.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

8:00 pm:

**Rosebud Watershed Group:** The next meeting will be held on May 22 at the Rosebud School. Keith Kerbel and Carol Brown, DNRC, will talk to the group about water rights. A committee was formed to plan the upcoming Know Your Watershed Tour. It will be held on the Saturday of Colstrip Days (June 23). There will be a booth at the park and a poker run in the afternoon. There will be five poker run stops. Different subjects will be covered at each stop. The topics will be; definition of a watershed, weeds, history of the area, water monitoring and the PPL ponds. The Tongue River Watershed will be invited as well.

**YRCDC:** Don reported that it's time the group started making some decisions. In his opinion, the perfect issue to address is the Russian olive problem. They put out so many seeds that can be carried by water, by water fowl, by wind, by so many methods that they are impossible to control. They need to develop a management plan to deal with it. They need to get the issues out front. They were given 1.2 million dollars and they have to put together a plan. Something has to come out of it.

**310 Workshop:** Doug reported that we should be more thorough with our 310's. There is legal council available through DNRC and there is a liability issue whenever we do a 310. More detail is needed in the application and a

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more thorough review should be done. There were several changes made recently and one was that the high water mark now includes the bank and the area adjacent to it. There is no declaration of project now, you accept it or do not accept it. As soon as you send it to FWP it is considered accepted, but not approved. The timeline starts then.

**2007 Area IV Meeting:** The Jersey Lilly has been reserved. According to Laurie Zeller, we will be able to get insurance through our current provider at a minimal cost for any outings we do during the event. It will be held October 4.

**Intern:** None will be hired.

**8:30 pm:**

**Review and Revise Annual Plan:** The plan was reviewed and approved.

**NRCS Report:**

**Review NRCS M.O.U.:** This is the agreement between the district and the NRCS. NRCS pays the rent and allows for our space. Training is open to the district if there is space available. We agree that the resource inventories NRCS does are a part of the privacy act, but individual information is not open to the public. A lot of information, especially social security numbers and tax ID's are to be kept in the strictest of confidence. The computer security agreement states that we can't load any software that isn't approved by IT services.

**Regular Report:** NRCS has been busy installing practices, mostly irrigation right now. The GLCI grant has been set up. There is a Carbon Sequestration program on the NRCS website that can calculate carbon savings. Warm season grasses on irrigated ground will sequester the most carbon. The root system is 8-10 feet on them. There may be some sort of payment available for savings. It can be traded somewhere. Farmer's Union is pushing for it.

They ended up with 20 EQIP contracts between Treasure and Rosebud County, \$789,000 total. Dave Davenport said he is interested in doing a controlled burn on the Diamond Ranch.

**9:00 pm:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MACD Newsletter:** The board agreed that the MACD newsletter is a worthwhile tool.

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**Don's Trip to Washington DC:** Steve Schmitz and Ray Beck have been going to DC for 15 years. They have developed relationships with the DC people, but nothing like those that have been built up by those people in neighboring states. We are at a disadvantage because we are so far away from DC. They spoke with the head of the Forest Service, who was from Missoula. They talked to them about developing a healthy cottonwood forest along the Yellowstone. He seemed very interested. The reason MACD goes to Washington is to focus attention onto issues that are important to Montana's conservation districts. It is a way for the people in Washington to get an idea what is going on in the real world. They are too busy trying to manage to see what they are managing. The governor wants to put a Montana office in DC, so that the issues Montana is facing can be brought to the legislator's attention.

**Open Mike Board Members:** Range Days is in Conrad this year. Dave made a motion to sponsor 9 scholarships to Range Days, 3 from each chapter. Don seconded. Motion carried. George Simmons is the Forsyth FFA advisor, Jewel Davenport is the Colstrip FFA advisor and we will need to determine the Rosebud advisor. Bobbi will contact the schools.

Dave suggested the district hold a Range Tour. One was planned for last year but due to the extreme fire danger, it was cancelled. The group agreed that it was a good idea. They agreed that it's good to get out on other people's places and take a look around.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Future agenda items:** The board would like to discuss Range Tour.

**10:25 pm:**

Dave, made a motion to adjourn, Jim seconded it. Meeting was adjourned.