

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES  
June 6~7 pm  
USDA Service Center, 270 S. Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327

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7:00 pm:

**Supervisors present:** Jim Rogers, Doug McRae, Dave Davenport, Don Young and Steve Lackman attended the meeting.

**Others present:** Dennis Kenney, Laurie Kelley and Bobbi Vannattan were in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes:** Dave made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Don seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

**Outreach & Education Coordinator's Report:** Conservation Days went splendidly. 115 students, 10 teachers, 4 parents and 10 instructors attended the event. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

**Meeting Schedule:** The next regular meeting will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Loans:** There were no new loan applications

**310's:** There were no new 310 applications, but 3 are in the works. Dennis and Don will be on call for the emergency BN 310, and if any other emergency 310's are submitted, the administrator will contact board members to do site visits.

**Annual Plan Items:**

- July: Host an irrigation tour every other year. This is not our year.
- July: Sponsor a fair booth. The booth is currently being planned.
- August: There are no annual plan items for August.

7:30 pm:

**FVH Collins Co (Prince) Reserved Water:** the application has been sent to DNRC. Dennis Kenney reported that Prince has submitted more information to DNRC. DNRC personnel are helping Bonnie with the application. They are going back into their water reservations to see if they can move some of the old water reservations into the new pivots. The application should be completed by September.

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OLD BUSINESS:

8:00 pm:

**Rosebud Watershed Group:** The Know Your Watershed Poker Run will be held during Colstrip Days. Please plan to attend.

**YRCDC:** Don said that a resolution was passed by the council to control Russian olive and salt cedar. The resolution encourages cities and counties to set aside special management zones along the Yellowstone River to encourage control or eradication of Russian olives. This sets up a pattern for where the council will go in the future. Conservation Districts and extension agencies are going to be asked to stop encouraging the planting of the trees and to no longer sell them. The council wants to make people aware of the problem and then encourage them to participate in stopping their spread. Removal of the two species from Howery Island's 280 acres cost BLM approximately \$500,000. The council doesn't want to make the sportsmen mad, so they will bring in someone to talk to them about substituting another shrub or tree for the two invasive species. Someone from the Bridger Plant Materials Center will be at the next meeting to talk to them about potential substitutions. The group also discussed a resolution for the intake project.

**2007 Area IV Meeting:** The meeting will be held October 4. Preparations continue.

8:30 pm:

**Range Days Scholarships:** Forsyth has agreed to accept three scholarships to Range Days. We are still waiting to hear back from Rosebud and Colstrip is not going to attend. If none of the others accept the scholarships, they will all go to Forsyth.

**NRCS Report:** No one from NRCS was able to attend the meeting.

9:00 pm:

NEW BUSINESS:

**Annual Budget:** The FY 2008 budget was reviewed and adjustments were made. Jim Rogers made a motion to approve the budget as amended and Don Youngbauer seconded the motion. The motion carried. Laurie will send it to the commissioners. The annual budget is attached.

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Jim made a motion to move the balance of the county account to the debit account before the end of the fiscal year. Don seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board asked for a once a year report showing how much money has been collected in no-interest loan account administrative fees. Laurie will see that they receive this prior to the annual budget meeting every year.

**Range Tour:** It was proposed that we conduct a Range Tour this year. Dave suggested having a series of meetings during the winter to jump start the range committee. We might be able to move the meetings around to Colstrip, Birney, Angela, etc and get people interested. Tony Malmberg was suggested as a speaker. The group discussed scheduling an event, sending invitations and coming up with creative ideas to get them in the door. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

**Performance Evaluations:** It was suggested that the employees come up with a new evaluation form to more adequately reflect what needs to be assessed. Steve suggested that we write a paragraph or two about what we think our strong or weak points are and turn them in before we are evaluated next year. That could also help us determine what training is needed to increase productivity within the office.

It was moved by Jim to give Laurie a \$2.00 raise starting on her hire date June 1 and then a 3% COLA on July 1. Don seconded and the motion carried.

Bobbi agreed to work full time. Her new duties will include working for Rocky a few hours a month. But NOT over 20 hours per month. Technical work for the watershed will be added if grant money becomes available. Jim suggested that Bobbi put together a list of items that she will be working on in the coming year. Jim made a motion to raise her rate to \$10.00 an hour Don seconded it. Her raise will take effect on July 1.

**Open Mike Board Members:** The Rosebud Creek monitoring station is not being monitor at this time due to lack of funding. Doug suggested that we find some funds, whether through a grant or budget allocation, to keep the station functioning until money can be appropriated from the legislation. Laurie will contact Tom Pick, John Wheaton, DNRC, and USGS (to determine the cost of running the station) and find out if money is available to keep it running for the year.

The board members suggested asking the public what they are interested in as far as trainings or workshop are concerned. Laurie will write an article for the newsletter and Bobbi will make postcards to hand out at fair.

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Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Future agenda items: There were no agenda items suggested.

11:10 pm: *Adjourn*

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Doug McRae, Chair

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Laurie Kelley, administrator