

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

270 S. Prospect Street, PO Box 1200, Forsyth, MT 59327

(406) 346-7479

www.rosebudcd.org

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2005—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Jim Rogers

Members Present: Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Jack Knobloch, Steve Lackman and Don Youngbauer attended. Wendy Warren and Dave Davenport were absent.

Others Present: Larry Fox, Grant Petersen and Laurie Kelley attended.

Minutes: Doug made a motion to approve the September 28, 2005 meeting minutes. Don seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Doug made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Steve seconded it. The motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held on January 18th.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: A recent loan applicant asked if he could use rental houses in Forsyth as collateral. The board discussed the issue and established that in accordance with line 6 of the loan application; "Loans will be secured by real estate mortgages on all, or a portion of, **land** owned by the borrower on first and second mortgages and on all land on third mortgages". The board also discussed Rocky Schwagler's suggestion that an environmental release be required for land used as collateral. The board asked Laurie to determine appropriate language and have it available for discussion at the next meeting. The language, once established, will be written into the loan application. The board reviewed the Ken & Nancy Pratt loan application. Steve made a motion to approve the application for \$50,000, Doug seconded and the motion carried. The board asked the administrator to find out if a producer pays down their loan and then borrows it back; will they have to get new title insurance?

310's: Jack updated the group on the Diamond Cross 310's. The bridge 310 was a very good design, in a good location and was approved without modification. It replaces an old foot bridge that was of poor design. The only impact was the center pier. Bridge is 13' above the stream, so height is well within limits. The permit was approved, signed and the 15 day waiting period was waived. The barb design was also discussed and tabled until the next meeting when Phil Wood, Lonnie Wright, Cheryl Harrelson from Steady Stream Hydrology, Inc and FWP can be here. The board discussed the Cartersville Irrigation District permit application. Although it is not a permittable stream in Rosebud Conservation District, the board appreciated them filling out the application.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: The meeting between Montana Salinity Control, Yellowstone Irrigation District and Doug McRae (representing Rosebud CD) was postponed due to bad weather and road closures. It will be rescheduled for February 13th or 15th.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The board discussed the recent watershed meeting; the annual and long range plans being developed, the biological weed control PowerPoint presented by Jewel Davenport, and the need to draw more people to the meetings.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: The meeting was postponed due to extreme cold weather and poor road conditions. It will be rescheduled for early 2006.

YRCDC: Steve Lackman and Don Youngbauer both attended the December 1 meeting in Billings. Don gave an overview of the meeting. He told the board that as a result of the Governor's meeting, held November 18 in Helena; expansion of the YRCDC board was being considered. Don said that in his opinion the railroads should be brought on board. The highway bridge at Livingston is due to be rebuilt in 2008 and there is a railroad bridge right next to it. Both need to be rebuilt using zero backwater technology. Don also said that realtors should be invited to join the group. Homebuilding along the river is known to have cumulative effects on the river channel. Steve mentioned that it is hard enough getting things done with 14 members on the council, it will be even worse with a larger board. Don will attend the next YRCDC meeting if he can rearrange his schedule; if not Steve will go. Steve made a motion to appoint Don as RCD's full time YRCDC member, Don seconded and the motion was approved.

Don updated the group on the Governor's meeting. Liz Galles-Noble, former Upper Yellowstone Task Force coordinator, said that the really hard work has already been done on the lower Yellowstone; mapping, photos etc. Best Management Practices need to be completed now. Don handed out copies of *The Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Final Report*. He felt that the group's findings were agriculture friendly, made good sense and could be of great help to the YRCDC.

Technician Report: Larry has been working with old and new EQIP contracts. He has been assigned to ones that are working with loan program. There are approximately 20 new contracts. Rocky recently put Larry in charge of designing new irrigation projects.

NRCS Report: Grant Peterson filled the board in on NRCS activities. EQIP is in full swing. The cost list was issued first of the month. Ranking has been sent forth but has not been finalized. No money has been allocated yet, everyone is working on getting projects put together. Two dry land farmers came in. They will be doing reduced tillage projects, going from conventional crop rotation to some form of no-till. This will pay \$10 an acre/max 640 acres to farmers who aren't currently doing any no-till.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Planning Assistance Grant: 10,000 dollars has been approved for the Tongue River Watershed Alliance.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: Jim said we need 3 people to form the board of adjustments. When people contact the office and can't or don't want to follow the guidelines of the ordinance, the board will determine whether or not to allow a variance. Steve asked the criteria for membership. Did they have to live in the district? Jim said no. The appointees can't be a supervisor or employee of the DNRC. Suggestions were Bill Wright, Gallatin County, someone from the north part of the state and Jack Knoblach. Jack said he thought his appointment might be seen as a conflict of interest, since it is possible he will be ruling on his neighbor's land. Jim said he would like to see a balanced board because it would alleviate a lot of problems later on. Jim said there is already a board in place for the other 2 land use ordinances in the state. Jim asked the administrator to contact Steve Schmitz and see who is on the existing board.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting and banquet was scheduled for February 26. Laurie will pursue a grant to help with entertainment costs.

Open Mike: The administrator told the board that the computer currently being used by the district technician does not have the capacity to operate new software installed in the recent USDA upgrade. It lags and loses information and doesn't print the maps necessary for district and watershed work. The district has the opportunity to buy a high end computer at a reduced rate from the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. This computer will be serviced by the USDA computer technicians. The administrator will write a grant to cover part of the cost. Steve Lackman made a motion to buy the computer, Doug seconded it and the motion carried.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Dave Davenport, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator