

**Tongue River Watershed Alliance  
Ashland School  
June 16, 2005**

**Minutes**

Attending were:

Jerry Lunde	John Hamilton
Art Hayes	Charlie Gephardt
Les Hirsch	Charlie Bumgardner
Mike Blum	Mark Bloxham
Ronald Hauso	John A Wilkinson
Kyle W Shaw	Jim Rogers
Gabriel Morgan	Allen Clubfoot
Brad Schmitz	Vic Riggs
Bill Musgrave	Laurie Kelley
Megan Sweedland	Warren Kellogg

The meeting was called to order by acting coordinator, Laurie Kelley, at 7:10 pm.

Warren Kellogg, NRCS Watershed Specialist, facilitated the meeting.

The first order of business was to determine a ***name*** for the organization. The consensus was to keep it simple, so two names were selected and put to a vote: Tongue River Watershed Group and Tongue River Watershed Alliance. Two votes were cast for Tongue River Watershed Group and the rest voted for Alliance. The group will officially be called Tongue River Watershed Alliance.

The second order of business was to determine a set of ***operating guidelines***. Art Hayes outlined how the committee went about writing the guidelines and their reasoning for setting them up as they had. He told the attendees that the committee had used Rosebud Watershed Group's guidelines as a template and had adapted them to better suit the needs of the Tongue River group.

Changes made to the draft operational guidelines submitted by the committee were:

- 1) Change name to Tongue River Watershed Alliance.
- 2) Allow one vote per membership

3) Board of Directors will be selected from the general membership, but they must have a land and/or a vested interest in the watershed.

4) Members must be at meeting to vote.

Laurie will revise the by-laws and have copies available at the next meeting.

John said the group needed to get people fired up, make them realize that people need to be involved in what happens to their watershed. Jerry said that urban people need to know why we are forming the group. They need to understand why the group is so concerned about water quality and how it affects them. Charlie suggested that an interim board from among the attending members serve until the Board has been officially elected. The group would be able to deal with any pressing issues that arise and Brad suggested having the committee spearhead a community outreach effort. The attendees overwhelmingly supported this idea. Jerry Lunde, Mike Blum, John Wilkinson, Allen Clubfoot and Kyle Shaw volunteered for the committee. The group will act as an interim board until August 15, and then it will be dissolved.

It was discussed and determined that the committee would:

Work with Rosebud Conservation District (RCD) on outreach:

Radio spots—Miles City, Forsyth, Sheridan, WY

TV—Tribal TV

Print—possibly: Agri-News, Miles City Star, Independent Press, Broadus Newspaper, Prairie Star, Hardin Journal, Tradewind, Farm and Ranch Weekly

Put together a list of names for the Board

Help RCD with a Watershed Planning Assistance grant for expenses associated with organizing the group

The next general membership meeting will be held on August 9 at the Ashland School.

The third order of business was to **discuss** the education grant and baseline data. Laurie told the group that the pre-proposal had been sent in. The grant itself was explained and letters of support for the grant were handed out. A discussion was held to determine what the attendees felt the money should be spent on if the grant was approved. The list included models on river loss on the lower Tongue, salinity sources, public outreach-watershed group role and purpose, and noxious weeds within the high water mark and how to control

them. Information on water quality for Ag, recreation, domestic use and economics and soil modeling were also mentioned as possible uses for the grant money.

The baseline data summary was passed out and a discussion was held. Several people asked for copies of the material available and Laurie will do so as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.