

**ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT**

Members Present: Doug McRae, Dave Davenport, Jim Rogers, Don Youngbauer and Wendy Warren were present.

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Michele Gorder, Rocky Schwagler and Grant Petersen attended the meeting.

Minutes: Jim Rogers made a motion to approve the April 26, 2006 meeting minutes and Don seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on June 28.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: The Wade Cole loan application was discussed. The board is willing to fund the loan if First State Bank will subordinate to the district. The subordination is required because 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". Laurie will set up a meeting with Wade and Steve Lackman to discuss the matter.

The board reviewed the loan program brochure. They decided that the total dollar amount that has been run through the program should be added to the brochure in order to show how much money has been put into the local economy.

310's: There are no new 310 applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Nothing new has occurred on this project.

Rosebud Watershed Group: A meeting/barbecue was held at the Diamond Ranch on May 5. It was well attended and a lot of fun. Several group members were filmed for a documentary.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Copies of the draft procedures were handed out to the board members for their review. The timeline for the Act is as follows:

- *May 23rd*: Mail draft to CMBPA committee members.

- *May 29th - June 2nd*: CBMPA committee members to phone their approval on draft to Laurie Kelly.
- *June 5th*: Steve Bullock to release draft for review.
- *June 12th*: Close of review period.
- *June 13th - June 25th*: Compile comments from review and suggest changes for draft.
- *June 26th*: CBMPA Committee meeting in Forsyth.
- *June 27th - July 31st*: CD's approve draft.
- *August 1st*: Procedure submitted to DNRC for final approval.

YRCDC: Don spoke with members of the Upper Yellowstone Task Force. He said the Force was successful because they worked on the issues until everyone felt they had gotten their chance to speak. Don stated that people need to feel they are being listened to on the YRCDC. The CD staff is putting together all of the minutes from past task force meetings, so Don can research what made those meetings successful.

Don is calling people to ask for their consent on the sociological and avian studies. Don also has a list of 20 people that he wants to speak with; they will try to determine BMPs.

Setbacks were also discussed. They should be figured per reach of the river, rather than one setback covering the entire length of the river. The riverbank varies from one area to another, and setbacks should be set accordingly. Otherwise, people can appeal and if they win, everything will fall apart. The whole plan needs to make sense. Zoning might be necessary to discourage people from building on the rivers edge or within the 100 year flood zone.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: Steve Schmitz reported that he has been working on the board of adjustments situation. Mike Wendland, Sandra Brown and Tim Hafla have agreed to serve on the board of adjustments if Mary Sexton appoints them. Steve is hoping that she will make the appointments soon. Laurie will get a profile of each of the people on the list to determine if they will meet the district's needs. If not, the board will make their own appointments.

Eastern Plains RC & D: Doug agreed to sit on the board. Laurie will report this to Eastern Plain RC & D.

Range Monitoring Workshop: Larry was not at the meeting.

Annual Budget: The following changes were made:

Wages were a little low

Insurance policy—went with MACD and \$50 flex

Dues: budgeted \$4,000—pay until that's gone.

Lab rent: Have Larry set up "for fee" soil sampling to help pay for the lab; it needs to pay for itself. RWG pays \$100 a month for lab space.

Jim made a motion to approve, Wendy seconded, and the motion carried.

310 Workshop: Laurie is working with Gloria Menke to put together the workshop. You will have more information at the next meeting. Kevin Dawes, from the Big Timber area, would be a good resource for this workshop.

Technician Report: Larry was not at the meeting.

NRCS Report: Rocky introduced Michelle Gorder, the new Soil Conservationist. She arrived in the office the first week in June. She worked in Deer Lodge for 2 years before coming to Forsyth. Michelle is a graduate of Dickinson State University.

Rocky is short on grazing applications and encouraged the group to mention it to anyone they feel would be interested.

Dave asked about prescribed burns; he is interested in doing it on his place. Jim recommended Judd Hammond-fuels specialist for the Forest Service. Burns are highly regulated by humidity of the air, humidity of the fuel, wind speed and direction, and other factors. Rocky says the liability is very high for this type of activity. There is so much more fuel out there than there used to be. It's an unnatural situation.

There is a biomass meeting at Fort Keogh on June 29 at 1:00, which Rocky will be attending. Others may be interested.

Craig Weight's grass planning went well. Nine acres were planted with warm season grasses mixed with legumes and seeded with a grass drill. The planting was on good ground, so it should grow well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NACD Quota: Jim made a motion to pay \$500 to NACD, Doug seconded and the motion carried.

Local Work Group: Dave White requested that the local work group turn in their recommendations by June 23, 2006. The work group will meet Tuesday the 6th of June at 7:30. The CD staff will send out meeting notices.

Annual Plan of Operations: The board reviewed the 2006 annual plan. Some adjustments and additions were made. Annual plan items will be listed on each month's meeting agenda.

Open Mike Board Members: The irrigation tour was discussed. It is Treasure's turn to host, but Rosebud CD will help with the arrangements. The following were suggested for tour sites and topics:

- Larsen's beets, cross fencing and cows
- Dallas Steiger has automatic moisture indicators buried at different levels throughout the field and a pretty neat pump system.
- Icopini's lateral
- Pasture mix, canal linings, sod ditches, and other types of technology would also be good to include.

Link the tour to the loan programs in both districts. Late August or early September would be good dates.

Jim Rogers drafted an AFO/CAFO resolution for Don to take to the MACD Spring Board Meeting on June 8.

Laurie and Rocky will write a letter about AFO/CAFO for Doug to take to:

1. Eric Moore—affiliate of Stockgrowers in Miles City
2. Carol Watts—Administrator Custer County Conservation District
3. Scott - lobbyist at state office of Farm Bureau in Bozeman

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

*Please note the various reading materials on the table.