

## Rosebud Watershed Group

May 5, 2006~7pm~Diamond Ranch  
Meeting Minutes

**Introduction:** This meeting was held at the Diamond Ranch, followed by a BBQ. The meeting was also attended by a film crew making a documentary about Montana watershed groups.

**Know Your Watershed Day:** Scott Eagan gave an overview of what KYW Day is all about for the newcomers. The date originally chosen for the KYW Day was already taken by another group. If it is decided to have Jim Bauder speak, he is available on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 14 through Saturday, June 17

Wednesday, June 21 through Thursday, June 22

Wednesday, July 12 and July 13

Monday, August 7 through Thursday, August 24

Jim Bauder is a soil specialist from MSU Bozeman. If we choose to use other speakers, the dates are more flexible.

A location also needs to be picked for the KYW Day. Watty Taylor was unable to attend and give us a report on the facilities at the Rosebud Battlefield. Alan Clubfoot and Mark Roundstone (Pow-wow grounds) were not in attendance either, so the group decided to postpone a decision on location until they could give their reports.

Scott suggested a poker run tour. Scott volunteered to be on the planning committee.

**NRCS Presentation by Rocky Schwagler:** Rocky told the group the NRCS can assist stakeholders in conservation planning. EQIP is available and can help stakeholders both financially and technically, but a good conservation plan needs to be provided before financial assistance can be offered. The Conservation Security Program is available for watershed groups. The program pays people for good pasture management. It is not available at this time in this area, but may be coming soon. Maintenance payments are available for stockwater pipeline, fencing, etc. What this means is that producers need to keep good records. CSP is looking at what the stakeholders have done, not at what they want to have done and they have to be able to prove good management practices. The more organized a watershed is, the more likely it is the CSP will come here. Deadline for EQIP is June 1. Rocky brought applications along with him. To get the cost share dollars you have to have a grazing program working. It is about conserving the resources. You can use EQIP money for stockwater development, cross fencing, tree plantings, pasture, hay and range planting, irrigated sights, and land leveling to center pivot. Irrigation is 50% and range practices are 75% cost share. These costs are right now and may change. Cost is based on average cost through the state. Prescribed burn is a cost share practice as is forest thinning. The government is kind of gun shy about setting fires, but there are people who can do this work. If a consultant writes the plan, NRCS will help pay for it under the right circumstances. Cost share can also be cost shared with the Conservation District's no-interest loan program.

**Weed Presentation by Jewel Davenport:** Jewel gave a presentation on the bio-control of weeds.

**Open Mic:** No Comments

**Meeting Adjourned for Barbecue**