

ROSEBUD WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
November 29, 2004
Chief Dull Knife Memorial College
Room 205

Attending were:

Philip Knobloch
Kathy Knobloch
Norma Bixby
Clint McRae
Doug McRae
Jack Bailey
Larry Fox
Laurie Kelley
Janna Kincheloe
Jewel Davenport

David Davenport
Daniel D. Watson
Peter B. Taylor
Amanda Battles
Lila Taylor
Watty Taylor
Jim Rogers
Nick Golder
Neil Fehringer

Dave Davenport opened up the meeting with introductions. Nineteen people were present.

The coordinator position was discussed and the group determined that Laurie Kelley, Administrator for the Rosebud Conservation District, would be suitable. She will be paid \$5.00 over her regular wage for the 50 hours per month that she works for the watershed. Laurie will look into other grants to continue the work on the watershed.

The proposed LEP grant budget was looked over and discussed. The need to address the weed problem was brought up, and it was decided to look into doing a producer weed survey in late spring. Larry Fox, RCD Technician, can print off the maps for the survey. There may be money in the grant that can be used for that purpose.

The group recognized a need for producers in the Lame Deer section of Rosebud Creek to join the Rosebud Creek Watershed Partnership (RCWP). Norma Bixby volunteered to contact some shareholders that she feels may become members.

She also said she would contact some people who may be able to come and represent the tribe at the meetings. Consensus was that it is very necessary to include as many people as possible in the decision making process.

The need to govern ourselves was discussed. It was decided to form a steering committee to work out the issue of forming a governing body. Those chosen for the committee were: Jewel Davenport, Watty Taylor, Norma Bixby and Doug McRae.

Others will be included at a later date if they so desire. The steering committee and coordinator will meet on December 13 at 6:30 pm in Lane Deer at the college, room 205.

Neil Fehringer, Agronomic Monitoring and Protection Program (AAMP), did a PowerPoint presentation on the soil monitoring work his group has conducted on the Tongue River. This study was funded for three years by Fidelity Exploration & Production Company, and the group is currently looking for funding to continue the study for another 7 years.

The study was done in a three tier mode:

Tier 1 - Sampling and Crop Recommendations--which assesses crop yield, fertility, EC and SAR in selected fields;

Tier 2 - Soil Sampling--which includes more detailed sampling at depth, and measurement of texture, bulk density, water intake rate, clay mineralogy, and soil classification; and

Tier 3 - Irrigated Crop and Forage Test Plots--which consists of crop and forage test plots employing mixtures of river water and production water.

Neil said that most of the previous studies on the subject of Coal Bed Methane produced water have concentrated on the effects it has on water. Their study is one of the first to focus on how it affects the soil. The test results can be seen on Energy Laboratories website at www.energylab.com and you can access AMPP's website at www.tongueriverampp.com for more information about the group and how the study was conducted.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Larry Fox, RCD technician, told the group that the soil samples for the year had been collected and he is working with Steve VanFossen on accuracy issues. He will break down the results into averages for the upper, middle and lower Rosebud. The information will be available to interested persons at the office or on our website at www.rosebudcd.org . Water samples have been collected as well and they will also be included. The group suggested that water information from other monitoring wells and stations along the watershed be accessed and included as well. Larry will contact John Wheaton to find out where the other wells and sample points are located. All data will be archived at the Rosebud Conservation District office.

All business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Kelley, RCWP Coord