

**ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2005—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT**

Members Present: Dave, Don, Doug, Jim, Steve

Others Present: Larry, Grant, Rocky, Laurie

Minutes: Jim brought up a mistake on the minutes. Under the CBM Methane protection act, Richard Opper is mistakenly listed as David Opper and we need to split this into two meetings. One meeting will deal with the act; and the other to see how we are going to interface with the state agencies on the land use ordinance. Jim moved to accept the minutes as amended. Doug seconded. Motion carried.

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

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting date is October 26, but the administrator will be attending the First Western Wetlands Conference in Denver during that time so the group agreed to hold it on November 9 at 7 pm in the conservation office.

Administrator's Report: No comments

Loans: A motion to raise the loan limit to \$60,000 was made and seconded at the last meeting. After discussion the motion was tabled. The motion was brought to a vote and defeated. The group discussed raising the loan limit to \$50,000, allowing the lessee to combine multiple projects. Don said to allow 2 or 3 loans with a combined limit of \$50,000. Doug said to leave the language alone but up the limit to \$50,000. If a person wants to take out a second loan, it will be up to the discretion of the board. Steve made a motion to leave the loan language the same except for raising the loan max to \$50,000. Doug seconded. Motion carried.

Kim Nile would like to pay off his loan balance, which is \$5,760.00 and take out another loan or carry two loans if the board approves. Steve put a motion on the floor to approve the loan pending a letter from Farm Credit saying that they will subordinate their loan to give RCD a first on the land being offered or any equitable way to secure the loan amount, guaranteed access to said land and commitment for title insurance. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurie will call Kim in the morning to tell him what the board decided. She will refer any questions to Steve Lackman.

310's: There are 3 new 310 permits. Diamond Cross has two projects, one for bank stabilization and one for a bridge. After discussion, the Jim made a

motion to declare the Diamond Cross bridge application a project. Doug second and the motion carried. Jim made a motion to declare the Diamond Cross barb application a project and Doug seconded it. The motion was approved. Range Telephone presented plans to bore under the Tongue River and Otter Creek. The banks will not be disturbed as they will be directionally boring from high water mark to high water mark. Doug made a motion to declare that The Range Telephone application was not a project. Jim seconded the motion and it carried. Laurie will notify the applicants.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Laurie has been in contact with Montana Salinity and YID. We are making some progress in arranging a meeting between the two groups so they can come up with a work plan.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The coordinator attended an excellent training the week of September 12. It was extremely informative and a very good chance to network. An outline of the event was given to board members and also emailed to the Rosebud Watershed Group board members. The group discussed possible dates for the next meeting and decided that either Sunday, October 30 or Sunday, the 6th of November will work for the board. Laurie will contact the RWG board members and finalize a date.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: We are still trying to schedule a meeting to discuss the act. Laurie is working with Steve Schmitz, DNRC, to schedule a meeting. We also need to schedule a meeting with DEQ, Keith Kerbel (DNRC water rites bureau) or Jack Stoltz, Richard Oppen, or someone familiar with MPDES discharge permits and Tom Richmond to schedule a meeting to help determine how Rosebud CD is going to interface with the state agencies and state statutes on the land use ordinance.

YRCDC: Dave Davenport attended the September meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 10th of November. Who will be able to attend? Steve Lackman will attend the meeting unless he is still harvesting beets, then we will look for a substitute. Custer County Conservation District sent an evaluation form for Stan Danielson, YRCDC coordinator. The group discussed it and filled it out. It will be sent to CCCD.

Technician Report: Handed out. No questions.

NRCS Report: Rocky went over the EQIP contracts that had been awarded this time around. The total amount awarded for Rosebud County was \$568,000. EQIP contracts were granted as follows: *Newell Philbrick,*

extending a pipeline, adding a well and splitting an area into 4 pastures for grazing rotation. *Bob Adams* will be adding more pipelines. *Craig Weight* will be adding gated pipelines and surge valves in place of open ditches. Most of the land will be converted back to irrigated pasture, in place of the current corn crop. This plan will eradicate the erosion problem that currently exists on the place. There will be a test plot of warm season grass for irrigated pasture. *Eli Spannagel* will be doing a well with a couple of pipelines and a fence, which will increase his management capabilities. *Kenneth Pratt* will be adding a pump, buried mainline, and converting two fields into side-roll, from flood irrigation. *Kim Nile* was awarded a ground and surface contract. He will be adding buried mainline to feed flood irrigation and a pivot. A pump and structure for water will be added. This project will be closely monitored for water savings. *Daniel Valdez* is adding stock water pipelines, fencing and prescribed grazing. *William Woods* will be developing a spring, well and a solar system on an existing well. *Bill and Gina Asey* will be adding structures for water storage, buried mainline, pivot, more buried mainline and pump, a livestock windbreak, and a filter strip.

A local workgroup meeting needs to be scheduled, but Rocky wants to wait until he has more information. The guidelines leave more room to target specific area, like a watershed, instead of just targeting practices. He passed out information for the board to read so they can prepare for the meeting. It needs to be held before November 1, 2005. He told the group that weeds or an irrigation district may be more fundable this year.

He also mentioned the AFO/CAFO meeting that will be held on October 12, at the Forsyth Country Club at 7 pm. It is a 2 hour informational meeting that will let stakeholders know that the funding is out there to help them prepare for the December 31, 2006 deadline. After that time, if they are not in compliance, they will be ineligible for cost share.

Rocky also mentioned that EQIP signup for 2006 money ends November 1, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS:

River Network: While attending the watershed coordinator's training, Laurie became aware of an extremely valuable partnering resource. The River Network is a national organization that helps to identify watershed problems, resources and effective solutions. It helps provide personalized assistance to help develop sustainable organizations. They share information on tools and strategies for river conservation with a focus on the clean water act. They also facilitate networking and information sharing among the river conservation community. They have access to some otherwise unavailable grant resources and will help with research or customized consultations. The cost to become a partner is \$100.00 per year. Would the board like to join

the partnership? Don made a motion to join, Doug seconded it and the motion carried.

MACD Convention: The 2005 MACD Convention will be held November 15 through November 17 in Helena this year. Don Youngbauer has agreed to attend the convention. Laurie will put in for travel expenses for him through the DNRC. Steve Lackman may also attend.

Laurie and Stephanie Fox will attend together and share driving and room costs again this year. The grant accounting, Bureau of Mines and Geology partnering opportunity and QuickBooks training will be especially beneficial.

Open Mike:

The resolution sent to MACD was slightly amended to so that the debit credit issue isn't pursued until the YRDC study is finished.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.

David Davenport, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator