

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
406-346-7479

MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2005 MEETING

Members Present: Dave Davenport, Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Steve Lackman
Absent were Don Youngbauer and Wendy Warren

Others Present: Rocky Schwagler, Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley

The meeting was called to order by Dave Davenport at 7:20.

Minutes: Jim made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Doug seconded.
Motion approved.

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

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on May 25, 2005.

Administrator's Report: No questions were asked.

Loans: Pamela Patterson's loan was approved by phone survey on 3-3-05.

310: The Wyoming Sawmills 310 permit was formally signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Doug met with the Yellowstone Irrigation District on April 7. He reported that they are very interested in working with the district and Montana Salinity Control on the ditch problem. There may be some landowner resistance, but they feel they can overcome it. The ditch has slipped in the past and they are trying polymer lining this year, but are interested in doing more. They will provide some of their own funding. Rocky said the soil may be pretty salty naturally and we should send someone out there to check the soil conditions. There is also a drain that gets plugged up which might be causing some of the salt buildup. Laurie will contact Salinity Control to set up a meeting with YID.

ROSEBUD WATERSHED: The board was informed about the upcoming planning meeting. It will be held May 17 in the Forsyth USDA office. Rocky and Larry will help the group organize the group's thoughts and ideas for long and short term watershed goals. Dave suggested the group consider addressing the prairie dog problem and getting the range land in shape. Jim said the weed problem is a symptom of the real problem which is the poor condition of the rangeland. Rocky said all of these issues can be addressed in the 9 step watershed plan. Often a group will jump to the action items and not have an overall goal. Jim said we should have an overview of what we want the watershed to be look like in 50 years. Doug McRae suggested having Mickey Stewart come in to talk about range health.

CARTERSVILLE IRRIGATION: Several RCD members attended the fish by-pass meeting with Cartersville Irrigation District and Fish Wildlife and Parks. The meeting went as expected. The board won't offer any further assistance unless they are asked.

TRACK FILLER: Steve brought the track filler video tape. Custer County is buying a "border dike" type track filler. The one that we are considering has a 10 cu yard hopper that runs on hydraulics, and can be pulled behind a pickup. Cost for the filler is \$8385. Steve suggested calling some of the people who have bought one of these machines to determine if they are worth the money. Laurie will contact Rosebud County irrigators and tell them we are considering buying the machine and ask if they would be willing to rent it from us. The board watched the tape and tabled further discussion until we get a substantial number of replies.

BLM MOU LETTER: The letter rejecting the M.O.U. was reviewed, approved and signed. Laurie will mail the letter to the district office with a copy to the state office.

CRM WORKSHOP: Plans for a workshop were tabled until fall.

INTERN POSITIONS: The applications were reviewed. Laurie will call to see if they can be there Saturday, April 23 at 4pm so they can be interviewed after the Tongue River Watershed discussion. If not, she will schedule interviews for Thursday April 28 at 7 pm.

NRCS REPORT: Rocky reported that they are moving ahead on EQIP contracts and there is some money available for prescribed burning. There is a fire meeting at 6:30, May 12 in Birney to discuss it. Rocky said there is a Stockmanship workshop at Fort Keogh in October. Larry has reserved 3 spots at \$425.00 each. Steve made a motion to pay Larry's fee for the workshop and sponsor 50% of the cost for the other two spot. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried. Laurie will put an article in the next two newsletters offering the cost share.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: There were no questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

NATIONAL WATERSHED COALITION: The board decided not to join the coalition.

HACH PROBE: The board discussed selling the first HACH kit we bought and using the proceeds toward the purchase of a more appropriate one. Jim Hafer has been approached about buying it and he is very interested. The board will discuss purchasing the probe with the Rosebud Watershed Group at the next meeting.

CBM TEST FIELD MEETING: The board discussed the upcoming meeting. Don, Laurie and Larry are going for sure and Jim may be able to attend as well.

OTHER BUSINESS: The board discussed the Tongue River group. Laurie will help the group with mailings, meetings and grant writing until they are able to function on their own.

OPEN MIKE: Nothing

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06

Dave Davenport, Chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator