

## **Rosebud Watershed Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**March 14, 2005**

Members attending:

1. Dave Davenport
2. Jewel Davenport
3. Doug McRae
4. Scott Egan
5. Mark Roundstone
6. Amy Adler
7. Jim Rogers
9. Daniel Watson
8. Clint McRae
10. Marge Eagleman
11. Gabriel Morgan
12. Don Youngbauer
13. Don Bailey
14. Larry Fox
15. Laurie Kelley

By-Laws: The need to change the by-laws to go from six to seven board members was discussed. Jim Rogers made the motion to change the directorship number from 6 to seven. Scott Egan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Subcommittee report on board appointments: The steering committee, consisting of; Jewel Davenport and Doug McRae (Watty Taylor was absent), told the group that their candidate list included Scott Egan, Jewel Davenport, Doug McRae, Mark Roundstone, Shawn Fredricks, Jerry Jones, Watty Taylor and Donny Bailey. Per the by-laws, one member from the upper, middle and lower will be chosen, as will two "at large" members. The other two last two "at large" members will be elected later. Mark Roundstone was elected to represent the middle, Watty Taylor was elected to represent the upper watershed, and Scott Egan was chosen to represent the lower watershed. Term length was discussed. Daniel Watson made the motion that the upper, middle, and lower representatives serve 2 year terms. Amy Adler seconded the motion, and it carried. Three "at large" members were nominated: Doug McRae, Donny Bailey and

Jewel Davenport. Donny turned down the nomination, citing his many other obligations. Donny made the motion that Doug and Jewel be voted in for two "at large" positions, Jim Rogers seconded, and the motion passed. They will serve 1 year terms. The other two "at large" members will be determined in the future. Mark mentioned two members of the Crow tribe that might be interested in joining the board. He will contact both of them and bring that information to the next meeting.

Grant Report: The group went over the accounting information and a report of what has been done so far on the grant goals and objectives. Soil samples have been taken and analyzed, as have some water samples. Pictures are available that correspond with the samples. Data on soils, water and weeds that has been previously gathered by other agencies is being compiled and will be added as well. Larry Fox, technician, mentioned that NRIS (Natural Resource Information System) has a huge amount of information on weeds, soil and water.

Dave Davenport asked the group what form they would like the data to be available in, such as book, CD, or on the website. Book? CD? Website? Jim Rogers explained that the HACH results and Energy Lab results aren't meshing due to the difference in test types. The HACH test is sufficient for mapping trends, but Energy Lab tests will hold up in court, and are best used for management planning. Clint McRae asked how often tests should be sent to Energy Labs, and the group consensus was that it should be done at least once a year over a ten year period for legal purposes. Jewel Davenport suggested doing samples of the four sites associated with the USGS monitoring sites twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall to get a better representation of what is going on in the watershed. Scott Egan asked that a copy of the grant and by-laws be sent to all of the directors. The coordinator will do that before the board meeting, which will be held on the 28th of March at 7pm in Lame Deer.

Stakeholder Survey: Surveys to be done by landowners were discussed. These "self surveys" could include water; (type of water source, depth, quality, quantity, location, water-rights), soil (crop, field size, use, location, if sampled or not, irrigated, or sub irrigated), and weeds; (location, acres affected, and control program if applicable). Larry will work with Amy to print off landowner maps from Arc View so that the stake holders can do self surveys, and Laurie will mail them out. She will include a noxious weed booklet and contact information for soil, water and weed questions. Amy will contact the weed districts for the reservation and Big Horn County to get whatever information they have so we can fill in the blank spots. These maps need to be done and ready to send to the producers before May 1. Jim Rogers brought up the need for outreach training to teach the landowners how to fill out the maps and encourage them to follow through with the self survey. Amy Adler suggested having outreach meetings between neighbors throughout the watershed. The meetings could also be used to educate the landowners about the importance of watershed groups.

Amy Adler: Amy Adler of the, Rosebud Weed Department presented a map and her thoughts on surveying weeds in the watershed. According to Amy, it would best be done on a section by section basis. She said it is already possible to overlay existing information on Leafy Spurge, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Knapweed and White Top onto a map of the watershed. This information was gathered in a program conducted 5 years ago and is already in the NRIS system. Salt Cedar information will soon be added. She would like to sit down with every producer on the watershed and go over a map of their place so that the weed district has a better understanding of the weed situation in the watershed. According to Amy, the weeds that should be inventoried are: Leafy Spurge, Russian Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, White Top, Dalmatian Toadflax, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Hounds Tongue, Salt Cedar, and Poison Hemlock.

Open Mike: Clint McRae brought up concerns about development of CBM that is beginning to occur at the headwaters of the stream. According to John Wheaton, CBM produced water goes into the aquifer and daylight 50 miles downstream. It is his opinion that more monitoring sites need to be set up to keep track of changes in water quality. Mark Roundstone mentioned

that CBM development depletes the aquifers, and he is concerned about the quality of the water left in the aquifer. Coal bed methane legislation hasn't done very well in the legislature this year, although several good bills for regulation have been presented, according to Don Bailey. Don Youngbauer mentioned that technology is becoming available that will limit the negative impacts on the resources. Dave Davenport suggested that a group of people should get together and go to Billings to meet with the Oil and Gas Board. Doug McRae suggested inviting our local representative to the meeting, and Dave responded that he thought a bus load showing up would have more impact. It was suggested that Joan Stahl and Tom Richmond be invited to a meeting so that they understand that they understand how important it is to work with the watershed group. The administrator will send an invitation to both of them.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:00.