



Blaine County Conservation District



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*District Meeting / USDA Building Chinook, MT
September 22, 2015*

PRESENT: Gary Unruh, Bruce Anderson, Kurt Hansen, Shannon Sattleen, Danny Pratt (DC NRCS) and Ben Hauptman (MSU Extension). Chair, Gary Unruh opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Bruce Anderson motioned and Kurt Hansen seconded the motion to approve the August 2015 meeting minutes as distributed. The Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shannon Sattleen

Expenditures for the month of August 2015 are as follows: In Fund #2310 Soil Conservation, expenditures were: Salaries of \$2,297.52, Office Supplies of \$0.00, Dues of \$0.00, and Travel expenditure of \$216.30. For a Total of \$2,513.82 spent. Fund #2313 Balance of \$2,000. In Fund 2314 Administrative Grant #2314 the account balance is \$9,700 and administrative salary will start to be used in September. In Fund #2141 Weed Management Grant, no expenditures. Kurt Hansen moved and Bruce Anderson seconded the motion to pay all bills and approve the August 2015 financial report as reviewed.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT (DC NRCS)

Danny Pratt

Danny Pratt, Blaine County District Conservationist report: Danny stated that the NRCS office has been busy preparing for the end of the fiscal year which is September 30th. Greg Jergeson spoke to him during a Business After-Hours event in Chinook and said that he is interested in holding a Blaine County Conservation District supervisor position. The board discussed and Shannon suggested that we should replace inactive Todd Malsam as the city of Chinook urban supervisor. The board verbally supported the appointment. Shannon will contact the Chinook city council and ask them to terminate Todd Malsam as their urban representative and provide a formal recommendation to the BCCD for appointment.

Danny noted that he has been approved to attend the MACD Area III meeting in Ft. Benton on September 29, 2015 and have submitted my name for attendance to the state MACD Convention to be held in Missoula from November 17-19, 2015.

Danny received a legislative update detailing the state of conservation funding – it is being reduced but there is strong support from conservation lobbying groups. The Fish & Wildlife Service stated that the sage grouse do not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act due to conservation work by government organizations and private landowners. Kyle Tackett is detailed as the new Sage Grouse Initiative leader for Montana.

Ducks Unlimited submitted a proposal for the Regional Conservationist Partnership Program that has been pre-approved. They are looking to get additional conservation on the ground to protect migratory waterfowl habitat. There is a new program, CRP-Grasslands, that is getting interest in the county. There has been little information distributed to NRCS or FSA staff, but we will get the word out when NRCS/FSA know how to proceed.

361282

361282 MISCFILE Pages: 3
STATE OF MONTANA BLAINE COUNTY
RECORDED: 10/21/2015 2:40 KOI: MINUTES
SANDRA L. BOARDMAN CLERK AND RECORDER
FEE: \$0.00 BY: *Lauren Lee Riggs*
TO: BLAINE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Danny discussed priorities for the next planning year. NRCS values the partnership with the Blaine County Conservation District and would like input concerning where we direct technical assistance efforts. Danny discussed regional and land use approaches to prioritizing technical assistance requests and the board approved a revolving land use prioritization with irrigated lands in 2016, grazing land in 2017, crop land in 2018, and then repeating itself into the future. NRCS will use this information as we prioritize conservation planning requests.

Announcements: Jen Kenk resigned her position as the Hill County CD Administrator. Her position is now being advertised and we should know in the next couple of weeks who her replacement will be.

BILLS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Area III meeting –MACD Area III meeting is Tues, September 29th, in Fort Benton to be held in the Museum of the Northern Great Plains/ Montana Ag Center. Registration will be at 8:30 with the business meeting starting at 9:00. Those who plan to attend are Gary, Kurt, Shannon and Danny.

MRCDC – Bruce gave a review of the last Quarterly meeting that he attended in the Fort Peck and Jordan area August 25th and 26th. Highlighted events included loading up 30 folks into boats gathered at the Devil's Creek Recreation Area at Fort Peck Lake on August 25th to tour a unique, cooperative effort to combat the invasive tree, saltcedar. After a 30 minute ride on a rare glass-like surface of Fort Peck, the boats landed at the mouth of Seven Blackfoot Creek, providing tour attendees with a first-hand look at the extent of saltcedar infestation and the challenges imposed by the rugged terrain. The challenge, the 56,000 acre drainage encompasses both public and private ownerships, steep terrain, and very limited road access. A project was proposed at a meeting of the Montana Saltcedar Team to promote strategic, cooperative management of saltcedar along the Missouri and Musselshell Rivers in Montana. During the first meeting, the group identified the Seven Blackfoot Creek area in Garfield County as a key area for managing saltcedar on the south shore of Fort Peck Lake. The group has since spent nearly a year organizing partners, obtaining funding, and developing a treatment plan that includes the full array of landowners with the goal of controlling saltcedar in the entire watershed. The treatment plan is a cooperative effort between the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Garfield County Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), private landowners, and the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC). Treatments have been applied to the private land near the head of the drainage, and will continue with applications on BLM, US FWS, and US ACOE land scheduled for summer of 2016. Herbicide treatments will be applied with helicopter, UTV spray rigs, and backpack sprayers as dictated by the terrain and infestation density.

Pest Management Tour– Reminder: MSU Pest Management tour in Chinook will be located at Wallner Hall, October 5th, starting at 8:30 a.m. Private/ commercial/ Government applicator credits will be available. Lunch is on your own. Contact Ben Hauptman at 357-3200 for more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

BC Water Reservation 10 yr Report– Shannon distributed copies of the Blaine County Conservation District Missouri River basin water reservation report for the boards review and comment. After review Kurt Hansen motioned and Bruce Anderson seconded to agree with the contents of the Missouri River BCCD water reservation 10 year report. Motion passed. Shannon will send the signed document to Ann Kulczyk

of the DNRC Glasgow FO for processing. Shannon will invite Ann to attend a future meeting to visit with the board regarding the water reservation process.

MACD Convention – The MACD Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Missoula, November 17th through 20th. So far Bruce, Kurt, Gary (?) have expressed interest in attending the event. Danny has been given permission to attend as well. We will be receiving more information at the Area III meeting. Shannon has already reserved 4 rooms. Bruce stated that MRCDC will be picking up a portion of his expenses at the convention. Shannon has applied to DNRC to receive a scholarship to help with the cost of one supervisor that attends the convention.

Public Comment: None

CORRESPONDENCE: DNRC & MACD “The Montana Conservationist.”

Bruce Anderson moved and Kurt Hansen seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**

Submitted by:



Shannon Sattleen

BCCD Administrative Assistant