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REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2016

Conference Room, USDA Building
Glasgow, Montana

Jeff Pattison, Chair
Nancy Heins, Vice-Chair
Gene Granada

Ron Garwood
Jody Mason

Mandie Maldonado, District Administrator
Penny Shipp, Assistant Administrator

A quorum being present, Chairman Jeff Pattison called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

SPECIAL GUEST(S)

William Benard and Dean Rogge were present.

310 PERMITS

None to review

MINUTES, TREASURERS' REPORT, BILLS

Ron G. made a *MOTION* to accept the 8 December, 2015 minutes with corrections to the "Milk River Water Association" to be changed to "Milk River Watershed Alliance" under new business and the date of the next regular scheduled meeting from "Thursday, November 12th" changed to "Tuesday, January 12th". Gene seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Jeff made a *MOTION* to accept the December 2015 Treasure's Reports and bank statements. Nancy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Ron G. made a *MOTION* to pay the monthly bills. Gene seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Gene made a motion to pay \$4050.00 towards the balance of the No-Till Drill loan. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Gene also made a motion to put \$500.00 aside for maintenance and services of equipment. There was discussion on how the account would be set up. Would it be internal to quick books or would it be an actual bank account. Nancy seconded to set \$500.00 aside, motion carried unanimously. Looking into the pros and cons of the two options that were discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

December 10, 2015, Dry Prairie Minutes; No action required.

NACD Association Dues. Jeff made a motion to pay \$101.00 to become a Bronze Member. Nancy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Salt Cedar Team Meeting Flyer for 12 January 2016; No action required.

OLD BUSINESS

Gene still waiting to hear back from Dean Rogge, for the information from Garfield County as who they have used in the past to make their signs. Dean requested and email reminder. Still have not heard back from him.

2017 Winter Grazing Seminar Committee consists of Jody, Jeff, Penny, Nancy and Tracy. Jody had been talking to the Cottonwood and could get their meeting room for \$200.00 a day. They would provide staff to set up the room and provide coffee and snacks for the event. She stated that the Cottonwood also agreed to set up the area for the buffet dinner. They will allow us to provide the meat for the meal and their staff will cook the meat along with all sides.

Jody wanted some input on the dates for the seminar. January 17-18 or 24-25, 2017 were suggested. The dates will be selected based on the availability of the speakers for those dates.

Ideas for breakout sessions for the seminar: Transpacific Trade Agreement and Private Property Land Rights

MWRA Update: Jeff recapped the meeting with Doug Stebleton to have a documentary made showing Ag Culture on the Milk River Watershed. A 30 minute documentary for PBS and a 15 minute segment to take to the legislature. Penny suggested that we get a grant writer to assist in the grant writing process to request funding for the project. Nancy will be working on the grant to request a grant writer.

NEW BUSINESS

North 40 Ag received funding to put on Soil Health Panel. They contacted Jody for assistance in finding a location. Jody was able to reserve the basement of the library for the workshop. The workshop will be held on 11 February 2016 at 1-4 pm. Jody made a **MOTION** for the district to donate snacks and refreshments (i.e. cookies and coffee) for the workshop. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Local working group still looking for area resource concerns. Need to establish a date to convene group.

PMC Plot. Nancy stated that the trees for the demonstration plot have been ordered and we need to establish a plan to get the water tank for the demonstration plot.

City/County Committee Meeting. Nancy will be attending the next scheduled meeting. At this time there are no meetings scheduled.

A 223 Grant for Conservation Planning on Grazing Lands was presented and reviewed by the board. This grant is for the purchase of a post pounder that the district will rent. The post pounder will assist producers in fencing their rangelands and benefit production with improved grazing, rehabilitate native grasslands and provide wildlife habitat. Gene made a **MOTION** to approve and submit the grant. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A mini education grant for the 2nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration sponsored by the district was presented and reviewed by the board. The grant will be used to educate students and the community on trees as a natural resource, proper planting and the importance of continuing to replenish this natural resource for years to come. The grant will also be used to fund the purchase of trees native to Montana that will be distributed to 3rd graders (combined grades in smaller schools) and to give to the public during the open house event. Gene made a **MOTION** to approve and submit the grant. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A mini education grant for the 23rd Annual Outdoor Classroom sponsored by the district was presented and reviewed by the board. The grant will be used to purchase stewardship materials based on this year's current theme. Students will be given education booklets and activity sheets appropriate for their age group. Teachers will receive an educator guide, CD and poster. Noxious weed booklets will also be given out for weed education and hands-on identification station, and educational supplies for a hands-on weather storm education station. Gene made a **MOTION** to approve and submit the grant. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A mini education grant for Hinsdale Outdoor Classroom (Native Bee Project) sponsored by Patti Armbrister was presented and reviewed by the board. The project will be constructed at the Valley County Conservation District PMC Plot in Glasgow. The Hinsdale Ag-Ed classes will build a native bee habitat and plant native plants and flowers to encourage native bee population. The project will be used for education for the

community members, visitors and students and will be an ongoing project for the students of Hinsdale. Gene made a **MOTION** to approve and submit the grant. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A grant to request additional administrative operating funds was presented and reviewed by the board. The grant requested additional funding and hours for training, workshops and travel, to the development of the district's annual plan as well as the annual plan for the MRWA, to coordinate and plan the local working group meeting and to convert to bars in quick books. Additional funding was also requested for the purchase of windows 7 professional, a mobile internet device and the monthly cost of internet to update and maintain the districts laptop. Gene made a **MOTION** to approve and submit the grant. Ron G. seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mandie requested to attend the Livestock and water development training that was being put on by the NRCS in Miles City on February 16-18, 2016. She requested that the district pay for travel, lodging and meals. Jeff made a **MOTION** to allow Mandie to go and that travel, lodging and meals be reimbursed. Gene seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Jeff, Nancy and Ron S. have all volunteered to sit in on the hiring board for the new Sage Grouse Initiative Conservationist that will be hired by the SWCMD.

BLM UPDATE

Jody stated that BLM is currently inventorying public routes.

NRCS

Tracy Cumber briefed that there were 3 Prairie Pothole applications submitted and being reviewed, sign up for CRP 49 is going on, grasslands applications still waiting approval, 3 SAFE applications were approved and 23 EQIP applications NRCS is currently working.

No further business to discuss, Jeff adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

The next regular board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 AT 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandie Maldonado
District Administrator

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