ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
406-346-7479

MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2005 MEETING

Members Present: Wendy Warren, Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Dave Davenport

Others Present: Rocky Schwagler, Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley, Kendall Van Dyke, Tom Acey, Art Hayes

Dave Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conservation office.
Don Youngbauer and Steve Lackman were absent.

MINUTES: Doug McRae made the motion to accept the December 8, 2004 regular meeting minutes. Jim Rogers seconded the motion and it passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Davenport said that the money for administration fees on the no-interest loans need to be removed from the loan account and put into the district account. The administrator was unaware that it needed to be put there and will do so immediately. The administration fee for the Rosebud 319 grant was discussed. The board discussed putting it in the district account. Wendy made the motion to deposit it in district account and Jim seconded. Motion passed. Jim Rogers moved to accept the treasurer's report with corrections, Doug McRae seconded and the motion passed.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The next meeting will be held February 23, 2005.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: No questions were asked.

LOANS:
Greg Lackman: Still waiting on activity

310:

OLD BUSINESS:

LAND USE ORDINANCE: Jim Rogers made a motion for a final vote on the land use ordinance. Doug McRae seconded the motion. Motion passed, resolution was signed. Laurie will send copies to DNRC, DEQ and the Rosebud County Clerk and Recorder.

ROSEBUD WATERSHED: The by-laws that had been drawn up by the Steering Committee, Watty Taylor, Doug McRae, Jewel Davenport and Allen Clubfoot, were discussed and approved at the January 12, 2005 meeting.

INTERNS: The NRCS Capacity Funds Grant for 2005 was discussed.

COAL BED METHANE PROTECTION ACT: Laurie updated the board on the emails she sent out to Powder River, Big Horn, Prairie and Custer concerning Steve Schmitz's (DNRC) proposed meeting to discuss regulations for emergency damage funding. The only responding CD so far has been Custer. Carol Watts, Custer CD Administrator, said her board will discuss it at their next meeting.

NRCS REPORT: Rocky reported on EQIP allocations. The board recommendations were 'tweaked' so that only 35% went to irrigation, an extra 5% was put into dryland crop. Rocky said that a screening tool has been approved for ranking. Range applications will receive 70 points, some from prescribed grazing, irrigated applications will receive 85 points, some from irrigation management. Applications are being wrapped up. According to Rocky, it was one of the busiest falls on record. Rocky also reported that the Conservation Security Program is in effect in Custer County. It is an entitlement program based on past practices. In order for payment to be made, documentation must be kept. If it's done correctly, there can be a good payoff.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: Larry gave the board a soil sample update. He also gave a verbal report to the board about the grazing seminar he attended in North Dakota.

NEW BUSINESS:

FAIR: The board approved the administrator's idea for fair. It will be a water theme; how important it is to protect our water, watershed group formation and growth and responsible CBM development. The Rolling Rivers Trailer has been requested as well as a display from Agroforestry.

CBM FAIR: The board decided not to have a booth at the CBM Fair in Gillette

EASTERN PLAINS R & D: The board discussed continuing sponsorship. Jim motioned to continue paying the $100.00 sponsorship fee, Doug seconded the motion and it passed. Doug is interested in being a voting representative, Laurie will check on what that entails.

NACD: The board discussed paying the NACD quota payment of $500.00. Jim made a motion to pay it, Wendy seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS WORKSHOP: The board discussed Laurie going to the workshop in Bozeman April 4-7. Cost is $700.00 to attend and travel expenses. Jim made a motion to pay half and approach the watershed group for the other half. Wendy seconded and the motion passed.

OATH OF OFFICE: Tabled until next meeting. Laurie will see if she can find notary to attend the meeting. Wendy, Dave and Jim need to be sworn.

ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS: The plan was reviewed at the meeting and approved. The board discussed the long range plan, and it was decided to go over it at the next meeting.

CMB WORKSHOP: The board discussed advertising for the upcoming CBM Workshop. Jim made a motion to spend $250.00 on advertising. Wendy seconded the motion and it passed. The board suggested that the administrator contact Jerry Lunde, Dave Schmitz and Corey Swenson for ideas on where/how to advertise.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ART HAYES-TONGUE RIVER WATER USERS: Art came to the board asking for assistance finding money for monitoring devices to be used along the Tongue River. According to the1914 decree, The landowner meeting in Miles City was discussed. Art Hayes brought up the need to have a landowner only meeting where shareholders could get together and discuss watershed issues. The board agreed and suggested that Rosebud, Tongue and Powder CD's get together as a group and invite their interested landowners. Art said he would put the wheels in motion and get back to Laurie.

BECKY RUSDAL: Doug McRae suggested that $500.00 be donated to the Becky Rusdal Medical Fund. Becky, former RCD technician, has been inundated with medical bills as a result of a tumor on her pituitary gland. The tumor, the largest ever seen in Billings, couldn't all be removed surgically so Becky had to travel to Boulder CO for very high tech, high cost radiation treatments. Jim Rogers made a motion to donate $500.00 to the fund, Doug seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CARTERSVILLE IRRIGATION: YRCDC has asked that the RCD find out how the Cartersville Irrigators feel about putting in a fish by-pass at the dam in Forsyth. A portion of the Fisheries Scope of Work in the Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Study includes studying the issues associated with the barriers to fish migration on the Yellowstone River. Recognizing that previous work has been done to look at fish passage options for the Cartersville Dam, this dam was included within the Fisheries Scope of Work as a candidate for more detailed research. The board discussed the issue and concluded that if they approached the irrigators about putting in a by-pass, there had to be something in it for the irrigators as well. The dam is in need of work, as is the ditch. There are grants available for work on the dam and ditch and if the irrigators approve, the administrator will look into getting funding for the work. Tom Acey volunteered to discuss it with the irrigators and get a feel for how best it would be to approach them on the issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

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Dave Davenport, Chairman

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
406-346-7479

MINUTES OF February 23, 2005 MEETING

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

Others Present: Rocky Schwagler, Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley, Jerry Lunde, Steve Schmitz, Dennis Philippe

Dave Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conservation office.

OATH OF OFFICE: Cathy Fleming, First Bank of Forsyth, swore in Dave Davenport, Jim Rogers and Wendy Warren.

MINUTES: Doug McRae made the motion to accept the January 12, 2005 regular meeting minutes. Jim Rogers seconded the motion and it passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The board discussed which account to put the $1,867.21 administration fee from the Tongue River grant. Jim made the motion to put it into the District account, Doug seconded and the motion passed. Jim made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Doug seconded and the motion was approved.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The next meeting will be held March 23, 2005.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: No questions were asked.

LOANS:

Greg Lackman: Loan has been dispersed. We are waiting for a security information sheet for Patterson.

310: Wyoming Sawmills 310 was approved without inspection. Laurie will send out an approval letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

ROSEBUD WATERSHED: The board picked two dates for potential watershed meetings. March 14 and March 21. Laurie will get in touch with the steering committee to determine which day works best for everyone. Dave mentioned that he had visited with a distributor for Monty's Plant food at the MATE show in Billings. He feels that it might be of interest to the watershed membership. He will get the information to Laurie so she can try to schedule the event. Dave asked if we had heard anything from the Northern Cheyenne tribe concerning their board member. We have not. Laurie will call again to ask for their input. Steve Schmitz told the group that the FSA is mapping the whole state using low level infa-red and that might be helpful for us in our weed study.

FAIR: Larry will get a design and cost estimates together for a water feature he may be making for the county fair.

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS WORKSHOP: The board discussed possible grants for Laurie to work on while she is in grant writing school in Bozeman in April. Possibilities were a cooperative undertaking with Fidelity on a CBM produced water irrigation project and Rosebud Watershed weeds. The board decided to discuss it further at the next meeting.

CBM WORKSHOP: Jim and Doug will be attending the workshop. Don would like to but has to leave town to attend a funeral.

CARTERSVILLE IRRIGATION & YRCDC: The board discussed the proposed fish by-pass and also made plans to have a board member attend each YRCDC meeting from now on. It will be on a rotating basis. Steve Schmitz said it was in the district's best interest for a representative to be present at the meetings as the study, in order to be truly a cumulative effects study, needed input from all of the districts on the river.

DEQ: The letter concerning TMDL's was discussed. Everyone agreed that EIS's were being done without enough information and only an actual TMDL study could provide it. The situation needs to be addressed in the very near future as it appears that the Tongue is already being compromised. The board discussed inviting David Opper, the new head of the DEQ, to the area to discuss the situation. Laurie will look into it.

NRCS REPORT: Rocky reported that 45 EQIP applications had been received for the initial allocation. He told the group that construction had continued all winter long and he is very busy. He asked about the capacity funds grant and Steve Schmitz told him that because it is a legislative year, money won't be available until it is voted on late in the session. He will find out the status of the district's application and if it is approved, the board wants to hire interns and pay them out of the money the district has budgeted for their portion of the costs. This will help NRCS and also give us a better chance of finding upper level range students.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: Larry reported on the discrepancy between Energy Labs soil testing reports and those that he has gotten using the HACH kit. He has done a lot of research on the results and spoken to numerous soil scientists. They have discovered that the HACH kit was developed for eastern states and the lime in our soil reacts with their solution, causing the results to differ from Energy Labs results. Energy Labs uses a saturated paste which brings the elements into equilibrium, thereby negating the effect of the lime in the soil. Steve VanFossen, NRCS, has ordered an electronic sodium probe that we will be able to use most of the time. Larry will retest one sample from each of the current USGS sites. Larry also told the board about the Ag seminar he attended in Billings.

NEW BUSINESS:

TRACK FILLER: Steve will bring the information to the next meeting. Laurie will look into contacting irrigators to see whether they would be willing to rent the unit.

BLM: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was considered. Dave and Doug attended the public scoping meeting in Ashland. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a cooperating agency. One of the advantages appeared to be that the board will get the opportunity to participate in the Resource Management Plan (RMP), thereby allowing the group to have early knowledge of BLM activities. Dennis Philippe told the group that asking to be included in the Consistency Review Process as it relates to us would give us the right to preview, and comment upon, proposed BLM activities without signing the MOU. Jim Rogers made a motion to ask the BLM to be included in the Consistency Review Process rather than sign the Memorandum of Understand. Doug McRae seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurie will write a letter to the BLM asking to be included in the Consistency Review Process.

MACD: The board discussed paying the MACD dues for 2005. The total amount paid last year was $2,704.41, the amount asked for this year is $3,376.65. Jim Rogers made a motion to pay MACD dues in the amount of $3,000.00. Doug McRae seconded the motion. The motion carried. Laurie will send a check to MACD for $3,000.00.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TONGUE RIVER: The board discussed assisting the residents of the Tongue River watershed in their efforts to form a watershed group. Due to industrial activity already in progress, any baseline information that is gathered is already skewed, but this will only increase as time passes, so it is imperative that the data is compiled as soon as possible. Laurie will speak to Art Hayes, Tongue River Water Users to set up a meeting between the water users and Powder River, Custer County and Rosebud Conservation Districts.

CONSERVATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Dennis Philippe gave a brief synopsis of the CRM program which concentrates on conflict resolution and bringing people together to avoid litigation. Dennis has facilitated recent meetings between the landowners of Hanging Woman Creek and the BLM. He proposed doing a one day training session which would be open to interested persons from the Tongue, Powder River and Rosebud Watersheds. The board will take it under advisement.

DNRC: Steve Schmitz discussed the Coal Bed Methane Protection Act with the board members. He told them that the board of directors for MACD will organize a meeting with the south east conservation districts so that rules can be set up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Dave Davenport, Chair

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

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
406-346-7479

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 28, 2005

Members Present: Doug McRae, Dave Davenport, Jim Rogers, Don Youngbauer, Wendy Warren

Others Present: Rocky Schwagler, Laurie Kelley

Called to order by Dave Davenport at 7:10 pm

Intern Interviews: Christine Corbin and Tina Hirsch were interviewed and selected for the Range Intern positions for the summer of 2005. Laurie will call and offer them the positions at $8.00 per hour with no benefits. Megan Sweedland has agreed to return for the summer as well. Her wage will also be $8.00 an hour with no benefits.

Budget: The board members went over the current budget and planned next the budget for FY 2006. Jim Rogers motioned to spend $2,500 for a soil probe, $3,000 for lab rent, $500 for county fair booths and pay $5,700 for intern wages out of the Conservation District checking account. Doug McRae seconded and the motion carried. Doug McRae made a motion to put $18.000 into the no-interest loan account in June, as long as the funds are available. Wendy Warren seconded the motion and it passed. The proposed 2006 budget is attached.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 pm.

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Rosebud Conservation District Chair

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2005 MEETING

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

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Larry Fox, Rocky Schwagler.

Minutes: Motion to approve the April 20, 2005 regular meeting minutes was made by Doug McRae and seconded by Jim Rogers. Motion was approved. Doug McRae made a motion to approve the April 27, 2005 special meeting minutes. Jim Rogers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on June 22, 2005.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions asked.

Loans: No new activity to report.

310: No new applications to review.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: The board discussed continuing their efforts to help the YID with their salinity problem. Laurie will continue putting together the information for Montana Salinity Control and send it to them for analysis.

ROSEBUD WATERSHED: The board discussed current watershed events.

TRACK FILLER: The board discussed the postcard surveys. The lack of response was disheartening, but the board determined that there was enough interest to warrant purchasing a filler of some type and the group was quite interested in the brochure brought in by Harold Sorenson. The Oteco filler was determined to be inadequate for the district's needs, so after a thorough discussion of the merits and detriments of the Rut Hog and the Levelmaster, it was decided to physically inspect the two machines. Steve will go to Sorenson's and look at the one he has. He already looked at the Rut Hog in Miles City and other members will try to get to Miles City to see it as well. A motion was made by Jim Rogers to allocate $6,000 for a filler and trailer. The motion was seconded by Doug McRae and it passed. The board will decide which filler to buy at the next board meeting.

HACH PROBE: The probe should arrive the week of June 1.

INTERNS: Rocky gave the board an update on intern activity. He said that it was a little early to be out in the field because the plants weren't developed enough to identify. The weather hasn't cooperated either. Laurie is keeping them busy when they aren't able to be out in the field.

CBM TEST FIELD MEETING: The board reviewed the report. There were no questions.

NRCS REPORT: Rocky reported that he had been working on EQIP. The staff has been designing pipelines and trying to stay ahead of Rod Lee. Many of the plans require high density plastic which only has to be trenched to 3 feet and can be drained for the most part, so it doesn't freeze. Grant Peterson has been in Baker for 3 weeks doing range assessments.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: There were no questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSERVATION PLOT: The plan submitted by district employees for a conservation plot was discussed. Becky Rusdal has volunteered to let the District use her lot across from the office for the plot, which would contain buffalo grass and other native plants. It would also be possible to incorporate bat and bird houses produced by the 4-H club or FFA. The plot would be used to showcase conservation practices on a small scale. There would be very little cost involved and district employees would be doing the work. Doug McRae made a motion to approve the conservation plot, Jim Rogers seconded it and the motion passed.

BRIDGER PLANT MATERIAL CENTER TOUR: The board discussed sending the administrator, technician and interns to the June 30th tour. It was agreed that they should attend the tour. Jim, Steve and Dave would also like to attend. Doug may go, if time allows. Laurie will contact Don and Wendy to see if they would like to go as well. Laurie will look into asking the range committee to attend and rent a bus for the trip. If cost is prohibitive, members will carpool.

TONGUE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP: Jim Rogers made a motion to continue assisting the Tongue River group until their by-laws are in place and a board is determined. Steve seconded and the motion carried.

SPRING BOARD MEETING: The administrator told the board that she would rather not attend the meeting as her schedule is too full right now. None of the other board members could get away to attend.

4-H FAIR AWARDS: The district had been asked to sponsor fair awards as they had done in the past. The total cost would be $120.00. Doug McRae made a motion to sponsor the awards, Jim Rogers seconded and the motion passed.

GPS: Rocky told the board that the district should buy their own GPS. The cost will be between $300 and $400. With all of the activity going on now, it would be very helpful to have another in the office. Steve Lackman made a motion to purchase a GPS unit, Doug McRae seconded the motion and it carried. The group discussed holding or attending a training workshop. Larry Fox and Laurie Kelley will look into it.

OPEN MIKE: Jim Rogers told the group that the rules for the Coal Bed Methane Protection Act need to be developed. He asked Laurie to send copies of the Land Use

Ordinance to Tom Richmond, Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, Keith Kerbel, Montana Water Rights Bureau and David Opper, DEQ, along with a letter inviting interaction between our respective agencies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

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David Davenport, chair

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Laurie Kelley, administrator

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Minutes of the June 22, 2005 Meeting

Members present: Steve Lackman, Dave Davenport, Doug McRae, Don Youngbauer, Jim Rogers

Others present: Larry Fox, Tina Hirsch, Christine Corbin, Megan Sweedland, Rocky Schwagler, Laurie Kelley

Minutes: Motion to approve the May 25, 2005 meeting minutes?
1/ Doug 2/ Steve Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve treasurer's report. 1/ Steve
2/ Doug Motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: July 27, 2005

Administrator's Report: No questions

Loans: Steve made a motion to authorize putting $10,000 into the loan account, unless some unexpected expenses come up and leave $4,000 in the general acct, Don seconded, motion carried.

310's: No new activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: The material has been sent to Montana Salinity Control.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The second planning meeting will be held on June 28 at 7 pm in the Conservation Office.

Track Filler: The filler has been delivered to the welding shop for modification.

HACH Probe: The probe has been received and Larry has been trained in its use.

Bridger Plant Materials Center Tour: Dave and Jewel Davenport, Tina Hirsch, Christine Corbin, Laurie Kelley, Jim Rogers and Megan Sweedland will be attending the tour. Dave will ask Jewel to check with her students to see if any of them would like to attend. Laurie will notify CCCD that there will be approximately 10 people attending from Rosebud Conservation District.

GPS: Larry is looking into GPS training. The extension service has offered training in the past and it might be worth looking into having them provide us with the training.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Letters and copies of the ordinance have been sent to Opper, Richmond and Kerbel for their consideration. We are still waiting for word from them on potential meeting dates and locations.

INTERN REPORTS: Intern reports were handed out. Dave asked Tina if it might be possible to do a pasture nutrient runoff test on a prairie dog town. She said she had the information available and would work on the project when weather conditions permit.

NRCS REPORT: Grant Petersen is here as range conservationist. He hasn't spent much time in Forsyth because he's been working on CSP in Ekalaka. He will be helping Christine and Tina with the range inventories soon. Dave Pratt would like to attend a meeting and give a presentation on the CSP program. It can be a good record keeping practice for ranches, because it teaches producers to keep good records over a long period of time. Eventually, the program will "hit" here. NRCS employees are busy working on EQIP. The money is allocated: $580,000 in total cost share for 14 contracts. 1 is a ground and surface water fund project, which is for water quality projects like decommissioning water wells and irrigation practices, and 4 are Indian-earmarked funds. The district received $400,000 in general county funds. They are about to start another signup. All of this is very time consuming. For the board's information, there is a conference July 20-21 in Pocatello, Idaho on using GPS and satellite imagery. There is no cost to the district to attend, other than travel expenses. Alan Savory and Steve Cote will be there.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: Larry reported that he has been working on the watershed soil samples. He is testing for EC, temperature, pH, and an estimated SAR. He will be done this week. He has been helping Rocky with pipelines, etc. He is going to NRCS training at the Bridger Plant Materials Center in July. Larry brought an Ag law workshop to the board's attention. Dave suggested that Larry try to get a few of the speakers to come here to give a workshop. Doug mentioned that some of the speakers will be there just to give their opinion, and he should be sure to try to get the ones that will give real legal advice. Larry will determine which ones would be most useful to us and contact them to see if they will do a workshop here.

NEW BUSINESS:

Corp of Engineers: Allan Steinley, Corps of Engineers will be speaking about the SMP at the landowner meeting tonight.

Range Days: Laurie has sent $250 to the school for Range Days.

Open Mike:
NPRC CBM Petition: The board discussed the coal bed methane petition put forth by Northern Plains Resource Council and other petitioners. It would require water to be either re-injected or treated. Doug mentioned that the petition was compatible with our land use ordinance. Don said that we need to focus more on extraction methods that would remove little or no water during production. The board decided to have Laurie send a letter to the Board of Environmental Review that suggests they initiate a rule requiring re-injection or treatment because it falls in line with the recently passed Land Use Ordinance and could possibly alleviate the bonding that is necessary for impoundments in our district.

LOANS: Combining no-interest conservation practice loan payments—Steve mentioned that it might be a good idea to ask people if they would like to combine their loans and made a motion to allow people with loans to make one annual payment on the average of the dates of their installment(s). Don seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurie will send a form out to be signed and returned by the lessee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49pm. A landowner meeting to discuss the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council corridor study and the Army Corp of Engineers Stream Mitigation Process was held immediately following.

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Dave Davenport, Chair

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
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Minutes of the June 22, 2005 Meeting

Members present: Steve Lackman, Dave Davenport, Doug McRae, Don Youngbauer, Jim Rogers

Others present: Larry Fox, Tina Hirsch, Christine Corbin, Megan Sweedland, Rocky Schwagler, Laurie Kelley

Minutes: Motion to approve the May 25, 2005 meeting minutes?
1/ Doug 2/ Steve Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve treasurer's report. 1/ Steve
2/ Doug Motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: July 27, 2005

Administrator's Report: No questions

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310's: No new activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: The material has been sent to Montana Salinity Control.

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Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Letters and copies of the ordinance have been sent to Opper, Richmond and Kerbel for their consideration. We are still waiting for word from them on potential meeting dates and locations.

INTERN REPORTS: Intern reports were handed out. Dave asked Tina if it might be possible to do a pasture nutrient runoff test on a prairie dog town. She said she had the information available and would work on the project when weather conditions permit.

NRCS REPORT: Grant Petersen is here as range conservationist. He hasn't spent much time in Forsyth because he's been working on CSP in Ekalaka. He will be helping Christine and Tina with the range inventories soon. Dave Pratt would like to attend a meeting and give a presentation on the CSP program. It can be a good record keeping practice for ranches, because it teaches producers to keep good records over a long period of time. Eventually, the program will "hit" here. NRCS employees are busy working on EQIP. The money is allocated: $580,000 in total cost share for 14 contracts. 1 is a ground and surface water fund project, which is for water quality projects like decommissioning water wells and irrigation practices, and 4 are Indian-earmarked funds. The district received $400,000 in general county funds. They are about to start another signup. All of this is very time consuming. For the board's information, there is a conference July 20-21 in Pocatello, Idaho on using GPS and satellite imagery. There is no cost to the district to attend, other than travel expenses. Alan Savory and Steve Cote will be there.

TECHNICIAN REPORT: Larry reported that he has been working on the watershed soil samples. He is testing for EC, temperature, pH, and an estimated SAR. He will be done this week. He has been helping Rocky with pipelines, etc. He is going to NRCS training at the Bridger Plant Materials Center in July. Larry brought an Ag law workshop to the board's attention. Dave suggested that Larry try to get a few of the speakers to come here to give a workshop. Doug mentioned that some of the speakers will be there just to give their opinion, and he should be sure to try to get the ones that will give real legal advice. Larry will determine which ones would be most useful to us and contact them to see if they will do a workshop here.

NEW BUSINESS:

Corp of Engineers: Allan Steinley, Corps of Engineers will be speaking about the SMP at the landowner meeting tonight.

Range Days: Laurie has sent $250 to the school for Range Days.

Open Mike:
NPRC CBM Petition: The board discussed the coal bed methane petition put forth by Northern Plains Resource Council and other petitioners. It would require water to be either re-injected or treated. Doug mentioned that the petition was compatible with our land use ordinance. Don said that we need to focus more on extraction methods that would remove little or no water during production. The board decided to have Laurie send a letter to the Board of Environmental Review that suggests they initiate a rule requiring re-injection or treatment because it falls in line with the recently passed Land Use Ordinance and could possibly alleviate the bonding that is necessary for impoundments in our district.

LOANS: Combining no-interest conservation practice loan payments—Steve mentioned that it might be a good idea to ask people if they would like to combine their loans and made a motion to allow people with loans to make one annual payment on the average of the dates of their installment(s). Don seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurie will send a form out to be signed and returned by the lessee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49pm. A landowner meeting to discuss the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council corridor study and the Army Corp of Engineers Stream Mitigation Process was held immediately following.

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Dave Davenport, Chair Laurie Kelley, administrator

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 1200
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327
406-346-7479

Minutes of the August 24, 2005 Meeting

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

Others Present: David Pratt, Holger Jensen, Laurie Kelley, Megan Sweedland, Rocky Schwagler

Minutes: Jim made a motion to approve the minutes and Steve seconded it. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Steve seconded it. The motion passed.

Meeting Schedule: The next regular board meeting will be held on September 28.

CSP presentation by David Pratt, NRCS:

Rocky introduced Holger Jensen who is the new range con in Miles City, replacing Rusty Irons.

Dave gave a brief overview of the Conservation Security Program, which is new with the 2002 farm bill. He feels some of our producers will fit into the program nicely.

The CSP program is a new initiative aimed at rewarding producers who have good conservation practices. This is a big change, since NRCS/government programs usually focus on cost sharing; this program rewards producers if they have maintained good conservation programs.

CSP will not take land out of agricultural production; it is not an easement program. CSP does have limits on cost share practices. Most of the money is intended to reward people who maintain management/conservation practices.

In 2005, 11 of 92 watersheds in Montana were eligible. The program is offered on a watershed basis and all watersheds will eventually be eligible. CSP easily adapts to funding changes. It is anticipated in MT that each watershed will be offered for participation once every 8 years. Support staff will move into and out of the watersheds being served as the need arises. In 2004 the Lower Yellowstone watershed was 1 of 18 watersheds offered nationwide and was shared with North Dakota.

The land has to be used for agriculture within the priority watershed. It must be privately owned or tribal lands and must be in compliance with HEL/wetland provisions. Again, the program is targeted toward people who are doing a good job of conservation. Ag-land is eligible, as is cropland, pasture, range land. Ineligible lands include those already in conservation reserve, wetlands reserve or grasslands reserve programs. Recently converted cropland, forest or public land is also ineligible.

Applicant must have an active interest in the operation, control the land for the life of contract, share risks and be entitled to share profits/crops/livestock, and must meet conservation requirements for their tier. Individuals are only entitled to one payment per year for the length of the contract (5 or so years).

There are 3 tiers, which all carry equal weight:

1/ protect soil and water quality on part of your operation.

2/ protect soil and water quality and locally identified resource-wildlife habitat on all of your operation.

3/protect all natural resources concerns on all of your operation.

Payments have 4 components:

1/ Stewardship payment—annual payment based on conservation treatment and 2001 land use rental rates.

2/ Existing practice—annual payment for maintenance, they are 25% of the stewardship practice payment.

3/ New practice—one time cost share for additional practices—50% cost share, 65% limited resource and beginning farmers.

4/ Enhancement—for exceptional conservation effort based on the activity cost and net benefits. This is where most of the money comes from.

CSP provides financial incentive to producers to not only continue good conservation practices, but to improve their conservation techniques, as well.

CSP requires good recordkeeping by the producer. A self-assessment test is taken by the producer, followed by an interview with NRCS. The producer completes the necessary documentation and NRCS will determine eligibility and tier placement. A second interview will be held to finalize the application.

Laurie will see if Jim Cain, Wibaux CD chairman, can come here to talk about his experience with the CSP program.

Information is available at www.mt.nrcs.uda.gov/programs.

By December 31, 2006, EPA/DEQ requirements must be met for AFO/CAFOs. NRCS is available to provide technical assistance. NRCS has been providing assistance related to AFO/CAFO, but are concerned that producers needing help to meet the deadline are not yet aware that they need to comply or might not come in for help. Some producers may not know if they have an AFO or CAFO. Livestock feeding operations which discharge into the waters of MT need to meet the EPA/DEQ standards. In an effort to make producers aware of technical assistance available for AFO/CAFOs, NRCS is planning on holding local informational meetings. Dave asked if the district would like to co-sponsor an AFO/CAFO workshop on October 12 at 7 pm. Tom Pick and other specialists will be brought in for the informational meetings. Tom Pick will be in the area the week of October 11, so the meetings will begin on that date in Billings. The board agreed to co-sponsor the event. Laurie will check with the Golf Course, Stevenson and Sons, and Tom's Lounge as to meeting room availability and then email Dave Pratt with a location.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions or comments.

Loans: On August 16, we received approval from the DNRC to combine no-interest loan payments pending borrower's approval. Laurie will send out authorization forms with each loan payment notice, beginning the first of January. The group discussed raising the loan limit above the current limit of $35,000. They also discussed allowing more than one loan at a time. Wendy made a motion to up the loan limit to $60,000. Don seconded the motion. Dave said that if someone defaults on a loan, we are out almost twice as much. Dave would prefer allowing them to take out two loans. Steve felt that it would be better for producers to take out a larger loan to finish a program. He feels that there should be a cap on the loan amount. He wants to add an amendment to allow someone with a $35,000 loan to take out the additional amount up to the max. Don asked Rocky what kind of projects they were doing for EQIP and how much money was needed to provide enough money for them to do the projects. He said there are several people interested in getting no-interest loans at this time. Jim asked whether we should put the cap at 10% of the loan fund availability and adjust it as the loan fund goes down. Steve said it might get complicated that way, as it will be constantly changing. Dave suggested $50,000 as the maximum. Steve suggested $50,000 as the maximum of the 2 loans. Jim stated that the loan guidelines will need to be brought out and reworked to reflect the changes. Jim read line 6 of the loan guidelines—3rd mortgage info. Steve moved to table the motion until we can contact MACD. Don seconded it, all approved. Steve asked that Laurie speak to Jackie at the bank about how it works if someone comes in to get another loan and we are already in second. Will we be third to ourselves?

310's: No new activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: All of the paperwork has been submitted to YID. They would like to know a good time to set up a meeting. Laurie will contact Harlan Steiger or Dennis VanHemelryk.

Rosebud Watershed Group: A second planning meeting was held on July 5, 2005. Five major issues were identified: the need for soil and water tests, water rights, weeds, prairie dog control and conservation education along the watershed. Rocky has a computer program that he will use to organize these issues into a watershed plan. The LEP grant budget was discussed and amendments proposed. Laurie presented the revisions to LEP and they were approved; a copy of the approval is in your packets. The group plans to meet in late September at Davenport's place. A short meeting will be followed by soil sampling and a pot luck dinner.

Track Filler: The filler has been modified and a price needs to be determined for its rental. Steve made a motion to charge $10 per tower for one day usage, $100 per day, or $200 per week for the track filler. Jim seconded. The motion was carried. Rocky made the suggestion that the district test out the filler; videotape it being used on a pipeline and on a pivot track. Laurie will write up with a rental agreement that states that they will use it in a responsible manner.

Laurie will have Larry find and install reflective tape, slow moving vehicle sign, and top speed 40 mph sign on filler.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: We have heard back from Tom Richmond, Luther Waterland and Keith Kerbel about potential meeting dates to discuss rules for the CBM Protection Act. The district is working with Steve Schmidt, DNRC, and should have a final meeting date set in the near future. We are still waiting to hear back from Richard Opper about a separate meeting to discuss how the district will interface with the state agencies concerning the land use ordinance.

Intern Report: The report was handed out. There were no questions.

Technician Report: The report was handed out. There were no questions.

NRCS Report: Rocky is writing one more EQIP contract. They have been doing a bunch of surveys for next year's EQIP.

NEW BUSINESS:

NACD: NACD sent a quota notice; they are asking for a minimum of $225 more. Do you wish to pay it? No action taken.

Conservationist of the Year: Rocky presented a list of all the active producers for the group to review for potential Conservationist of the Year. There are other producers who aren't involved in programs who should be considered, as well. Hirsch's and Helen's are a possibility. Rocky recommended Genie May Garfield's (Davenport) place or Youngbauer's place. Wendy made a motion to award it to Youngbauer's, Steve seconded and the motion carried.

CBM Meeting: Don Youngbauer has set up a meeting at MSU-Bozeman to discuss coal bed methane. They will meet with Mike Valesky, Natural Resources Advisor to the governor on September 22 in Helena and MSU-Bozeman on September 23. Laurie will ask Mary North-Abbott to attend the meetings. Jim Rogers will attend the meeting in Bozeman; Doug may attend one of the meetings.

Simple IRA: The board re-affirmed their February 2004 decision to provide a 3% match on a simple IRA if the employee also contributes 3%. If the employee makes no contribution, the district will put in 2%.meeting minutes approved a 3% match on a simple IRA if the employee also contributed 3%. If there was no contribution, the district will put in 2%.

Capacity Building Grant: Megan has been offered a position with the Tongue River Watershed Alliance and will be working 20 hours per week for them when the WPA grant is approved, so she won't be available to the district.

Tongue River Watershed Alliance: The last meeting was held in Ashland on August 9. Laurie facilitated and there was a good turnout. The operating guidelines were approved and a board of directors was elected. The next meeting will be held in Ashland at the public school on September 6 at 7 pm.

Open Mike:

Prairie Dogs: Jim suggested putting up raptor posts for prairie dog control because they are such a large problem in Rosebud CD. Dave said he fed a lot along the edge of a prairie dog town and it halted the movement. The board all agreed that we need to do something about the problem.

Area Meeting Resolution: Dave feels that districts should have some input into the development of a process on the Stream bank Mitigation Process debit and credit system. Jim thinks that it will totally eliminate work on the river the way it is written right now. Jim thinks that the rules should be written down and followed, but he also thinks that they want the Yellowstone to be free flowing; get rid of barbs, diversion dams, etc. Steve said it was just another way to "tax" people. It used to be free to work on the river, now it costs you. Jim says the process is too confusing and arbitrary. The board decided to author a resolution to present to the Area IV meeting in Joliet on September 20, 2005:

Resolution for Inclusion in Determining Debits & Credits for the Army Corp of Engineers Stream Mitigation Process

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers stream mitigation process plans to assign debits and credits for activities affecting waterways; and

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts are on the ground in local areas; and

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts issue 310 permits and are an integral part of conservation practices on riparian areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Conservation Districts are involved in determining what constitutes credits and debits in regards to the Army Corps' stream mitigation process.

Dave will present the resolution at the Area IV meeting. Jim made a motion for Dave to take this resolution to the area meeting, Don seconded. Motion carried.

Irrigation Tour: Wendy reminded the group of the upcoming irrigation tour and asked that everyone try to attend.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 pm.

Dave Davenport, chair	Laurie Kelley, administrator

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 Opper, 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 YRCDC study is finished.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.

David Davenport, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
270 S. Prospect Street, PO Box 1200, Forsyth, MT 59327
(406) 346-7479
www.rosebudcd.org

MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2005—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Jim Rogers

Members Present: Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Jack Knobloch, Steve Lackman and Don Youngbauer attended. Wendy Warren and Dave Davenport were absent.

Others Present: Larry Fox, Grant Petersen and Laurie Kelley attended.

Minutes: Doug made a motion to approve the September 28, 2005 meeting minutes. Don seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Doug made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Steve seconded it. The motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held on January 18th.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: A recent loan applicant asked if he could use rental houses in Forsyth as collateral. The board discussed the issue and established that in accordance with line 6 of the loan application; "Loans will be secured by real estate mortgages on all, or a portion of, ***land*** owned by the borrower on first and second mortgages and on all land on third mortgages". The board also discussed Rocky Schwagler's suggestion that an environmental release be required for land used as collateral. The board asked Laurie to determine appropriate language and have it available for discussion at the next meeting. The language, once established, will be written into the loan application. The board reviewed the Ken & Nancy Pratt loan application. Steve made a motion to approve the application for $50,000, Doug seconded and the motion carried. The board asked the administrator to find out if a producer pays down their loan and then borrows it back; will they have to get new title insurance?

310's: Jack updated the group on the Diamond Cross 310's. The bridge 310 was a very good design, in a good location and was approved without modification. It replaces an old foot bridge that was of poor design. The only impact was the center pier. Bridge is 13' above the stream, so height is well within limits. The permit was approved, signed and the 15 day waiting period was waived. The barb design was also discussed and tabled until the next meeting when Phil Wood, Lonnie Wright, Cheryl Harrelson from Steady Stream Hydrology, Inc and FWP can be here. The board discussed the Cartersville Irrigation District permit application. Although it is not a permittable stream in Rosebud Conservation District, the board appreciated them filling out the application.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: The meeting between Montana Salinity Control, Yellowstone Irrigation District and Doug McRae (representing Rosebud CD) was postponed due to bad weather and road closures. It will be rescheduled for February 13th or 15th.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The board discussed the recent watershed meeting; the annual and long range plans being developed, the biological weed control PowerPoint presented by Jewel Davenport, and the need to draw more people to the meetings.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: The meeting was postponed due to extreme cold weather and poor road conditions. It will be rescheduled for early 2006.

YRCDC: Steve Lackman and Don Youngbauer both attended the December 1 meeting in Billings. Don gave an overview of the meeting. He told the board that as a result of the Governor's meeting, held November 18 in Helena; expansion of the YRCDC board was being considered. Don said that in his opinion the railroads should be brought on board. The highway bridge at Livingston is due to be rebuilt in 2008 and there is a railroad bridge right next to it. Both need to be rebuilt using zero backwater technology. Don also said that realtors should be invited to join the group. Homebuilding along the river is known to have cumulative effects on the river channel. Steve mentioned that it is hard enough getting things done with 14 members on the council, it will be even worse with a larger board. Don will attend the next YRCDC meeting if he can rearrange his schedule; if not Steve will go. Steve made a motion to appoint Don as RCD's full time YRCDC member, Don seconded and the motion was approved.

Don updated the group on the Governor's meeting. Liz Galles-Noble, former Upper Yellowstone Task Force coordinator, said that the really hard work has already been done on the lower Yellowstone; mapping, photos etc. Best Management Practices need to be completed now. Don handed out copies of ***The Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Final Report***. He felt that the group's findings were agriculture friendly, made good sense and could be of great help to the YRCDC.

Technician Report: Larry has been working with old and new EQIP contracts. He has been assigned to ones that are working with loan program. There are approximately 20 new contracts. Rocky recently put Larry in charge of designing new irrigation projects.

NRCS Report: Grant Peterson filled the board in on NRCS activities. EQIP is in full swing. The cost list was issued first of the month. Ranking has been sent forth but has not been finalized. No money has been allocated yet, everyone is working on getting projects put together. Two dry land farmers came in. They will be doing reduced tillage projects, going from conventional crop rotation to some form of no-till. This will pay $10 an acre/max 640 acres to farmers who aren't currently doing any no-till.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Planning Assistance Grant: 10,000 dollars has been approved for the Tongue River Watershed Alliance.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: Jim said we need 3 people to form the board of adjustments. When people contact the office and can't or don't want to follow the guidelines of the ordinance, the board will determine whether or not to allow a variance. Steve asked the criteria for membership. Did they have to live in the district? Jim said no. The appointees can't be a supervisor or employee of the DNRC. Suggestions were Bill Wright, Gallatin County, someone from the north part of the state and Jack Knoblach. Jack said he thought his appointment might be seen as a conflict of interest, since it is possible he will be ruling on his neighbor's land. Jim said he would like to see a balanced board because it would alleviate a lot of problems later on. Jim said there is already a board in place for the other 2 land use ordinances in the state. Jim asked the administrator to contact Steve Schmitz and see who is on the existing board.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting and banquet was scheduled for February 26. Laurie will pursue a grant to help with entertainment costs.

Open Mike: The administrator told the board that the computer currently being used by the district technician does not have the capacity to operate new software installed in the recent USDA upgrade. It lags and loses information and doesn't print the maps necessary for district and watershed work. The district has the opportunity to buy a high end computer at a reduced rate from the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. This computer will be serviced by the USDA computer technicians. The administrator will write a grant to cover part of the cost. Steve Lackman made a motion to buy the computer, Doug seconded it and the motion carried.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

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Dave Davenport, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator