

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

270 S. Prospect Street, PO Box 1200, Forsyth, MT 59327

(406) 346-7479

www.rosebudcd.org

JANUARY 18, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT MINUTES

Members Present: Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Don Youngbauer, Dave Davenport, Steve Lackman, Wendy Warren, and Dennis Kenney, associate.

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

Minutes: Jim Rogers made a motion to approve the December 19, 2005 meeting minutes. Steve Lackman seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jim made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Wendy seconded and the motion was approved.

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on February 22.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: The loan guidelines were discussed. Does the district want to allow more than one \$50,000 loan per person? No. Does the district want to allow a revolving loan fund—i.e. if a person pays off part of the \$50,000 can they borrow against it? The current loan guidelines don't prohibit it. Jim said he would like to leave the loan language the way it is. It can be amended if any problems arise. Steve agreed. No action was taken.

310's: The Diamond Cross Ranch 310 permit was discussed. Doug motioned we approve the 310, and Steve seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Montana Salinity will meet with Yellowstone Irrigation District on February 15, coinciding with the CBM Protection Act Meeting. Larry Fox will finalize the arrangements and notify Doug McRae and Jim Rogers, who will also attend.

Rosebud Watershed Group: Rosebud CD has been suggested as a candidate for the 2006 Montana Watershed Stewardship award because of their work with the Rosebud Watershed Group, Tongue River Watershed Alliance, and the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council. After discussion, Jim made a motion to allow Rosebud Watershed Group to submit the district as a candidate for the award. Doug seconded; the motion carried.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: A meeting will be held at the Forsyth Country Club on February 15 from 1 pm – 5 pm. Scott Kaiser will notify all of the conservation districts in the state.

YRCDC: Don thinks that the Governors meeting in November encouraged that group to move forward. He told us about a diagram that was shown of the Yellowstone River channel 50 years ago. This drawing was then superimposed over a picture of the current river channel. He thinks that best management practices have to take the differences between then and now into account.

Don feels that the Upper Yellowstone Final Report is a real step forward. The idea is to educate people in various ways and, once landowners understand how the river works, make it economically feasible for them to do what is right for the river. Don interprets the report to say that it is unrealistic to remove all existing bridges, but that any replacements should be designed and built with the hydrology of the river in mind. The report suggested that "zero backwater technology" be applied to any new bridges and that any new irrigation should be "fish-friendly". This report is very sympathetic to agriculture, and recommends local control over the river. With a map of the river from 50 years ago and one from the present, it shows how the channel moves from side to side over time. There is a ricochet effect from changes to the river banks. If rip-rap is applied, there will be cumulative effects down-river.

He believes there should be a public relations campaign that tells and shows how the river actually works. If people are given good information, they will make good decisions. Rocky said it may be beneficial to take away economic incentives to use land that is in the 50-year channel-change areas. Voluntary conservation easements could be a way to buy property located in this area. It is also possible that funding could be found to help landowners remove unnecessary structures from the river.

Jim thinks that if "let the river do its thing" is the premise that the oversight group has, it will take a long time to get there. Steve said that they will never get there; that if there had been the foresight to dissuade development on the river 80 years ago it would have turned out better, but there wasn't and it is too late now.

Steve reiterated his concern over allowing non-CD members (i.e. real estate developers, industry, etc) to have a vote on the council. Jim agreed, saying that these groups should be sitting outside the council, without a vote but able to voice their opinion. A large board makes it almost impossible to accomplish anything. Don agreed and suggested that these people be added to the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). "Make them a part of the process and thank them for their input", much like the Upper Yellowstone Task Force does.

Don said grant writers should go for grants nationwide to improve conditions on the river. YRCDC needs to bring the Yellowstone River into the minds of conservationists on a national scale so that more grant money becomes available.

Annual Meeting: The board discussed the annual meeting meal options given to us by the Forsyth Country Club. The options were prime rib for

\$15.00 per person, or a choice of two of the following; beef roast, turkey & dressing and ham for \$7.50 per person. Steve made a motion to go with prime rib. There was no second. Steve moved we try to get some kind of a steak dinner for under \$11, or, if not, do the roast beef and ham. Wendy seconded. Motion carried. The meeting will be held on February 26, 5 pm at the Forsyth Country Club.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: The sitting board of adjustments is Sandra Brown, administrator Prairie County, Mike Wendland, supervisor Hill County CD, and Tim Hafla, supervisor Garfield County CD. Jim suggested we ask that they do it for us too. Laurie will call and the board will decide at the next meeting.

Technician Report: Larry told the group he has been busy with Equip planning and ARC GIS training. As for the Rosebud Watershed Group, one more sample needs to be done in a couple of months to finish out the seasonal samples for baseline data. Larry suggested we look into purchasing a Weed Seeker, which senses green and spot sprays, allowing producers to apply to the weeds only and not the whole field. The sprayer can be four-wheeler size or up to 50 feet wide and costs \$1,000 per sensor. It is possible to get up to 70% savings for chemicals so it would pay for itself within 5 years. It is very beneficial for dry land and can also be set up for row cropping. Rocky said that it would be more likely to work on irrigated land since there aren't any really large dry land acreages in the county. Steve said he didn't think the machine would be adjustable enough to rent out because row sizes are so different from field to field, and that when the weather is good for spraying, everyone will want it at the same time. Doug asked if it would be possible to purchase a smaller unit and demo it for a year so that the word would spread. The district could provide it to someone who would keep really good records. Grant said it has been done in Oregon. Jim asked if Laurie could possibly look into a grant for the purchase. Rocky said it is possible to get a Research and Demonstration Initiative Grant. Dennis recommended that Larry contact Al Mereness or Kim Nile and see if they are interested. Larry will contact the producers to see if they want to be involved, and Laurie will look into a grant.

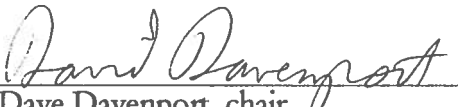
NRCS Report: EQIP—March 3rd is the deadline for range projects. Initial allocation for county funds came in at \$263,000. Last year we were well over \$400,000 total. There is a special EQIP emphasis for Rosebud and Custer County to put in measuring devices and irrigation water management on the Tongue River. There is the potential to fund 72 producers. Rusty Irons, Miles City DC, is heading it up. This will help them get some type of measuring devices on all of the water coming out of the Tongue. This money is specifically for measuring devices. No sprinklers will be funded, but weirs and plumes could be. Rocky passed around the report from NRCS stating how much money is put into the economy as a result of NRCS practices.

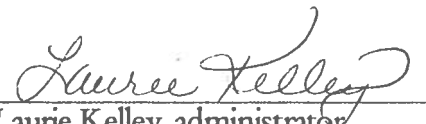
NEW BUSINESS:

RDGP Grant Application: The board reviewed the application for a Reclamation and Development Grant. After looking over the application, it appears we fit well under one of the five available categories: "**Research, demonstrate, or provide technical assistance to promote the wise use of Montana minerals, including efforts to make processing more environmentally compatible**". Don is going to a meeting on the 25th with Jim Bauder and will discuss doing something with MSU. If there is potential for a project with MSU, he will bring back the information, and the board will consider it.

Open Mike: Doug McRae told the group that the Tongue River Watershed Alliance has asked that RCD work with them on their baseline soil sampling. The details still need to be discussed. Doug made a motion to offer services of RCD to Tongue River Watershed Alliance. Jim seconded and the motion carried. Steve Lackman told the group that Hathaway Irrigation Association was having major pump problems. The problem has been aggravated by the low level of the Yellowstone for the last several years. It will cost a lot of money (approximately \$17-19,000 per pump) to repair/replace them. He asked if the irrigation association would be eligible for a conservation loan. Wendy suggested that each landowner put in for a \$50,000 loan using some of their own land as collateral. Wendy also mentioned that the engineering wasn't very well done on the project and needed reworking. Dave asked if that would be considered a conservation project. Wendy gave Pat Riley's phone number to Steve. Pat is looking for some emergency money for engineering for the group.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.


Dave Davenport, chair


Laurie Kelley, administrator

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT

Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Members present were Dave Davenport, Jim Rogers, Doug McRae, Don Youngbauer, Steve Lackman and Wendy Warren. All board members were present.

Others present were Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley, Rocky Schwagler and Grant Petersen.

Minutes: Jim made a motion to accept the minutes, and Doug seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Wendy seconded; motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held on March 22nd.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: There were no new loan applications or payouts.

310's: Burlington Northern Santa Fe sent in a copy of a 404 application for our records. It is for an "unnamed tributary" to the Yellowstone River. No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Larry Fox updated the group on the YID, Montana Salinity meeting on February 15. Montana Salinity cannot really help them. There is a Bentonite bed under the seep, and that is probably causing the problem. They will probably have to find a grant to line the ditch. Dave suggested that some kind of soil amendment might help. If it were a wetlands issue would it be addressed? Rocky approached FWP about the problem before, and they shot it down because it involved cropland as well. Rocky said it is not just a canal problem. A liner won't solve the problem if it is a symptom of something that is going on up above. Dave said there is quite a bit of land that is being disrupted because of the problem. The landowner isn't really complaining because he uses the area for grazing and the cows do well on it. The real concern is the water loss. Rocky suggested seeing if Salinity Control will put some monitoring wells in above the canal and see what is going on there. The ditch has failed a couple of times. The general consensus of the group was to figure out what the groundwater situation is above the ditch. Some of the land is state land. Larry Fox will follow up with Montana Salinity Control and YID.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The Rosebud Watershed Planning Assistance Grant was approved. This grant is to expand the baseline soils data base, providing wages and partial lab rent. It will also cover mailing costs for the next year. The next meeting will be held on March 9 at the Chief Dull Knife College at 7 pm. Debra Zarnt from Montana Watercourse and Michael Kuzara from Cascade Earth Sciences will give presentations.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: There were a few edits made on Steve's original forms, but they were very well done. Jim said the CD's were going to move quickly on this to adopt the procedures. Doug made a motion to recognize that Rosebud Conservation District is affected by CBM and wishes to help create procedures for administering the CBM protection act. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried. Doug made a motion that Jim be our representative. Steve seconded, and the motion carried. Doug will be the alternate.

YRCDC: Don reported that budgeting has been a problem for the council. The budget started at \$800,000 this year, but the final amount allotted was \$200,000. At this rate it will take 30 years to finish all of the scopes of study required. Don suggested that the group look outside of ACE for funding and use private resources to pay for different scopes of work. The Technical Advisory Committee is looking at the Final Report for the Upper Yellowstone Task Force, in hopes that it can help them in their process. Don feels that the purpose of the study is to manage the whole river, and there is probably money available from other funding sources, like the Audubon Society, etc. Rocky said that NRCS has an emergency watershed program that will buy landowners rights to collect disaster payments along rivers. The Wetland Reserve Program does something similar. There were 43 recommendations made by the UYTF, and the first one was that Livingston no longer builds their schools on McLeod Island. According to Don, that is the common sense approach the council needs to take in their Best Management Practices.

Annual Meeting: The meeting will be held on February 26, 5 pm at the Forsyth Country Club.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: The administrator contacted Steve Schmitz and asked if he would speak to the current appeals board members to see if they are willing to sit on the Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board. He will let us know what they decide.

RDGP Grant Application: Don met with Jim Bauder and others at MSU-Bozeman to discuss grant opportunities. He didn't get much support for the idea. Bauder is set up to do research on positive uses for CBM water, not to test potential new technology that will reduce the amount of water that is removed from the aquifers. The Don met with John Wheaton and discovered that he is working with the University of Wyoming to test an extraction system in Wyoming. Don will stay in touch with Wheaton.

Technician Report: Larry reported that he had finished up the RWG soil samples and final report work. He is working on tree orders now and EQIP contracts.

NRCS Report: Rocky requested that the cd buy 6# of Bluestem for Craig Weight's place. Jim made a motion to provide \$500.00 out of the district account for Craig Weight's grass seed, as long as the district is allowed to monitor its growth. Don seconded it and the motion carried. EQIP ranking continues. Contracts will be written as soon as it is all figured out. Grant reported that Impaired Watersheds (TMDL 303 d list) give a person a big edge in EQIP ranking.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eastern Plains RC & D: Jim made a motion to continue support of the Eastern Plains RC & D by sending the sponsorship fee of \$125. Doug seconded, motion carried. Doug and Wendy are interested in joining the RC & D board. Laurie will get information on when and where the meetings are held and let them know.

2006 MACD Dues Invoice: Doug made a motion to approve paying the \$3,493.35 asked for by MACD. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Weed Seeker: The "pros" of using weed seeker technology are that you will use approximately a fifth of the spray of normal application. There will be less chemical getting into the water. "Con's" are it is difficult to make one sprayer work for everyone as all setups are different. It would be beneficial to find a person to test it before we write a grant for it. We could also see if a vendor wants to join in. Jim suggested that it could be part of our Conservation plan. The general consensus was that we need to look into it further. Larry will write a letter to producers and see if there is anyone interested in testing it.

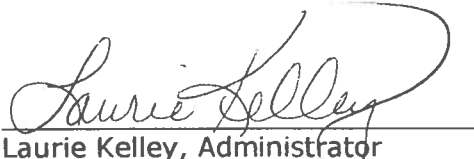
Range Monitoring Workshop: Don, Doug, Wendy and Rocky all spoke in support of holding a workshop of some sort. Jim made a motion to hold a range monitoring workshop in August. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried. The curriculum, speaker, and funding will have to be determined. Charlie Orchard is one of the potential choices. There are others who do the same type of training as well. Rocky said it would be a very good training for the EQIP contract holders. It will help them with the monitoring part of their contracts. Larry will check with MSU extension about getting applicators points for attending. We will try to bring watershed members and the reservation into it; make it into a social event. Rocky offered some of Grant's time to look into different types of trainers and trainings, and what would be the best type of training to fit into what is going on with CSP, etc. Laurie will write a grant to help with funding.

Produced Waters Workshop: Wendy made a motion that the District send Laurie to a CBM Produced Water Workshop which will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado. Doug seconded and the motion carried.

Open Mike: Wendy made a motion that Rosebud Conservation District co-sponsor an irrigation tour with Treasure County this year. Don seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Various places to visit were discussed. Wendy will make arrangements with irrigation companies. Rosebud and Treasure CD's will take care of the lunch. Wendy will work with Rocky to find some good locations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08.


Dave Davenport, Chair


Laurie Kelley, Administrator

**ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT**

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

Others Present: Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley, Grant Petersen and Rocky Schwagler were present.

Minutes: Doug made a motion to approve the February 22, 2006 meeting minutes, Jim seconded and the motion carried.

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

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held April 26.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions about the administrator's report.

Loans: Jim made the motion to approve the Craig Weight loan application pending title insurance, Don seconded and motion carried. Jim made the motion to approve the Emma Weight loan application upon the condition that title insurance is purchased, Don seconded and motion carried.

310's: There were no new 310 applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Larry Fox updated the group on the possibility of putting monitoring wells on the YID. Montana Salinity Control will set up wells, but do not feel it worth their time and effort to come from Conrad for just a few. Rocky said that it was possible that Ken Mackey might need to have wells drilled as a response to DEQ's request for information on his AFO/CAFO. Larry reported that Larry Williams cleaned out the Yellowstone Irrigation District drain recently and a lot of water was drawn off as a result.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The next meeting will be held on April 20th; John Wheaton will be the speaker.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Jim Rogers updated the group on the CBMPA. Keith Bales attended, Steve Schmidt, DNRC, Steve Merritt, MACD and representatives from Rosebud, Treasure, Powder River, Big Horn, Custer, Carbon, Wibaux, Prairie and Carter Conservation District's were in attendance. Jim was appointed chair, and will serve until March of 2007. Laurie is taking care of the secretarial duties for the group and will be paid by DNRC for her hours.

YRCDC: Don reported on YRCDC activities. He said that they are looking at outside sources for funding. Don said that they are trying to develop a management plan for the river. What traditionally has happened is that rivers get developed and then there isn't much you can do about it. The Yellowstone River has not yet been over-developed, which means we can start now and have a better end result. Steve said if the group is able to stop people from building houses on the immediate river bank, it will be effort well spent.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: We are still waiting for word from the sitting board members as to whether they will sit on our board as well.

Green Seeker: Larry told the group that the Green Seeker would not work on row crops. He talked to Greg and Steve Lackman about it and determined it wasn't feasible. The district ordered a set of glasses that are supposed to indicate plant stress. They will be loaned out to producers so we can tell if they are an effective means of determining plant stress.

Eastern Plains RC & D: RC & D meets every three months in different locations; the last one was in Baker. They meet once a year in Helena. The current push is for ethanol.

2006 MACD Dues Invoice: MACD has been sent a check for \$3,468.35 for our 2006 dues.

Range Monitoring Workshop: Wayne Burleson will do the workshop for \$1,000 plus travel and meal costs. It will be held on Saturday, August 19th at Dave Davenport's place. Lectures will be held in the garage and then the pasture walk will be on the ranch. MSU-Extension will provide our range monitoring books. We will pre-register people, so that the instructor will have an idea of how many students we will have.

Technician Report: The technician report was covered in the green seeker section.

NRCS Report: Grant Petersen will be leaving the office in June. He is being transferred to Great Falls; his first day there will be June 25th. NRCS will be getting Michelle Gorder, who is coming here from Deer Lodge. EQIP is well underway; 1 dry land, 1 AFO/CAFO, 3 grazing, and 2 irrigation projects will be done. Wayne Milmine is one of the EQIP guys, he is wondering about the loan program. Part of the land is in Rosebud and most of it is in Custer CD

and he has indicated an interest in getting a no-interest loan through RCD. The loan guidelines specify that loans will only be available to finance conservation practices on agricultural land within the boundaries of the Rosebud Conservation District. It will be necessary to figure out the percentage of the project that is in RCD, and then fund on the amount within the district only. It is possible that RCD could annex the land that is in Custer County into Rosebud CD, if it is not already in the Custer Conservation District. The administrator will look into the situation. The Ag waste issue is starting to be problematic. Jim suggested taking a resolution to the MACD convention. Don will bring this up at a MACD board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Capacity Building Grant: Doug made a motion to apply for a grant if they are available this year and Steve seconded. The motion carried.

Comp Time: Doug made a motion to pay out Laurie's 38 hours of comp time, Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Open Mike Board Members: A soil drill has being offered to RCD at no cost. Steve made a motion that Dave call and offer the owner up to 600 dollars to bring it to us. If he won't deliver it, we will make plans to pick it up ourselves. Don seconded the motion and the motion carried. Don told the group about the Coal Bed Methane Reclamation Symposium in Ucross. It was well attended and very interesting.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm.

Dave Davenport, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator

Rosebud Conservation District
April 26, 2006
Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Grant Petersen, Larry Fox and Rocky Schwagler attended the meeting.

Minutes: Jim Rogers pointed out that the minutes from the previous meeting had an error. "**Treasurer's Report:** Jim made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried." The minutes should have read "Jim made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Doug seconded the motion and the motion carried." Don made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Jim seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: The Bill and Deb Anderson loan application was discussed. Rocky said that the pivot would provide significant water savings. NRCS will cost share with them on the project. Jim made a motion to approve the loan and Doug seconded. The motion carried.

Doug suggested that we add a section in the application where producers described the conservation benefits the practice they were putting into place will provide. Since the loan is specifically for conservation practices it would be wise to include a narrative of this type. It might also increase awareness of the importance of conservation planning. Rocky volunteered to help us put something together for the loan application.

310's: There were no new 310 applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Nothing new has occurred on this project.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The group is planning a "Know Your Watershed Event" with Montana Watercourse; the date is yet to be determined. There will be a barbecue at Davenports on May 5. The crew that is filming the watershed group documentary will be in town that May 3-May 6 and will be attending so that they can interview members.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Jim told the attendees that the committee had finished the draft procedures and they were now ready to go to an attorney for review. There is money in the Coal Bed Methane Protection Act fund to pay legal fees; but it is necessary for a CD to be the employer. Doug moved that Rosebud Conservation District hire an attorney using funds from the Coal Bed Methane Protection Act. Don seconded the motion and it carried.

YRCDC: Don reported that the YRCDC is going to develop a public relations program. He is going to meet with Debbie Zarnt, Montana Watercourse, on Friday to discuss strategy for this effort.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: We are running out of time and need to put together a board as soon as possible. Laurie will call Steve Schmitz one more time to see if he has heard from the sitting board and if not, we will put together our own board with the approval of DNRC.

Eastern Plains RC & D: No one present was able to take this position, it will be offered to Wendy and Steve at the next meeting.

Range Monitoring Workshop: Wayne Burleson has asked that we consider changing dates for the workshop. The original date was set for the 19th of August and he would prefer the 26th. The workshop will be held at the Diamond Ranch. We will have sack lunches and a barbecue for dinner.

Capacity Building Grant: The grant is not being offered this year. The board agreed to budget \$6,600 to hire Christine and Megan for the summer. Christine will work 40 hours a week for 12 weeks and Megan will work 15 hours for the CD, and continue her work with the TRWA. They will both receive \$8.00 an hour for their CD work. Christine will help out in the office,, work on the loan program and do range monitoring. Megan will work primarily on the loan program history and helping Laurie put together a loan program brochure.

Soil Auger: Jim Rogers picked up the auger in Helena. Doug made a motion to pay Jim \$300, Don seconded the motion and it carried. Don made a motion to send the donor a receipt for \$4,000 for charitable contribution so he can use it for tax purposes. Doug seconded the motion and it carried.

Technician Report: The tree orders will be here the 10th of May. They will be available for pickup on the 11th and 12th. They will be located at the west end of the fairgrounds.

NRCS Report: EQIP deadline is June 1 this year. Rocky asked the group to get the word out to everyone they know. He will attend the Rosebud Watershed Group meeting on May 5 to talk about the program and hand out applications. He told the group that we wouldn't be doing anything for Conservation Days this year because the office was so short handed. Next year, Larry will contact instructors in early January to reserve them for 2007. Doug brought up the CAFO problem again and it was decided that if R-Calf or MCA do not take on the issue, the board will draft a resolution to take to the MACD Spring Board meeting on June 8 and 9th. Laurie and Rocky will research the subject.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Budget: The board will consider the annual budget at the next board meeting. Some of the things that need to be included this year are soil auger retrofitting, audit, lab rent and employee raises. Jim suggested that the annual plan also be discussed at the next meeting. Laurie will print off copies of the last plan and send it out in the board packets.

310 Workshop: The board discussed the possibility of holding a 310 workshop with Big Horn CD and DNRC. Don suggested including the YRCDC members, Treasure, Custer, Powder River and any other districts that are interested. Doug made a motion to hold a 310 workshop and Don seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Custer County Fair: Custer CD asked if Rosebud CD would like to co-sponsor a booth at the Custer County Fair this year. Assuming there are no date conflicts, the board left it up to the discretion of the administrator.

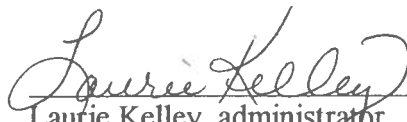
Open Mike: Don told the group that he met a rancher for the Ucross, Wyoming area who would like to give the board a tour of the damage that CBM water has done to their ranch. Don would like to arrange a tour to be held in the next couple of weeks. Laurie will handle the details. Dave, Don, Laurie and Doug expressed interest in attending. Tentative date was set for Sunday May 7. Dave suggested getting the Chief of the Northern Cheyenne's to join us on the tour. He will stop by and visit with him about it.

Doug brought in a Grassland Guide and made a motion that the district purchase 10 of them to give out to people who are applying for no-interest loans. Don seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.


David Davenport, chair


Laurie Kelley, administrator

**ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT**

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

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Michele Gorder, Rocky Schwagler and Grant Petersen attended the meeting.

Minutes: Jim Rogers made a motion to approve the April 26, 2006 meeting minutes and Don seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

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

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: The Wade Cole loan application was discussed. The board is willing to fund the loan if First State Bank will subordinate to the district. The subordination is required because 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". Laurie will set up a meeting with Wade and Steve Lackman to discuss the matter.

The board reviewed the loan program brochure. They decided that the total dollar amount that has been run through the program should be added to the brochure in order to show how much money has been put into the local economy.

310's: There were no new 310 applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

YID: Nothing new has occurred on this project.

Rosebud Watershed Group: A meeting/barbecue was held at the Diamond Ranch on May 5. It was well attended and a lot of fun. Several group members were filmed for a documentary.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Copies of the draft procedures were handed out to the board members for their review. The timeline for the Act is as follows:

- *May 23rd*: Mail draft to CMBPA committee members.
- *May 29th - June 2nd*: CBMPA committee members to phone their approval on draft to Laurie Kelly.
- *June 5th*: Steve Bullock to release draft for review.
- *June 12th*: Close of review period.
- *June 13th - June 25th*: Compile comments from review and suggest changes for draft.
- *June 26th*: CBMPA Committee meeting in Forsyth.
- *June 27th - July 31st*: CD's approve draft.
- *August 1st*: Procedure submitted to DNRC for final approval.

YRCDC: Don spoke with members of the Upper Yellowstone Task Force. He said the Force was successful because they worked on the issues until everyone felt they had gotten their chance to speak. Don stated that people need to feel they are being listened to on the YRCDC. The CD staff is putting together all of the minutes from past task force meetings, so Don can research what made those meetings successful.

Don is calling people to ask for their consent on the sociological and avian studies. Don also has a list of 20 people that he wants to speak with; they will try to determine BMPs.

Setbacks were also discussed. They should be figured per reach of the river, rather than one setback covering the entire length of the river. The riverbank varies from one area to another, and setbacks should be set accordingly. Otherwise, people can appeal and if they win, everything will fall apart. The whole plan needs to make sense. Zoning might be necessary to discourage people from building on the rivers edge or within the 100 year flood zone.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: Steve Schmitz reported that he has been working on the board of adjustments situation. Mike Wendland, Sandra Brown and Tim Hafla have agreed to serve on the board of adjustments if Mary Sexton appoints them. Steve is hoping that she will make the appointments soon. Laurie will get a profile of each of the people on the list to determine if they will meet the district's needs. If not, the board will make their own appointments.

Eastern Plains RC & D: Doug agreed to sit on the board. Laurie will report this to Eastern Plain RC & D.

Range Monitoring Workshop: Larry was not at the meeting.

Annual Budget: The following changes were made:

Wages were a little low—they were increased

Insurance policy—went with MACD and \$50 flex

Dues: budgeted \$4,000—pay until that's gone.

Lab rent: The board proposed to have Larry set up "for fee" soil sampling to help pay for the lab; it needs to pay for itself. RWG pays \$100 a month for lab space.

Jim made a motion to approve the FY 2007, Wendy seconded, and the motion carried. Laurie will send a copy of the proposed budget to the Rosebud County Commissioners.

310 Workshop: Laurie is working with Gloria Menke to put together the workshop. You will have more information at the next meeting. Kevin Dawes, from the Big Timber area, would be a good resource for this workshop.

Technician Report: Larry was not at the meeting.

NRCS Report: Rocky introduced Michelle Gorder, the new Soil Conservationist. She arrived in the office the first week in June. She worked in Deer Lodge for 2 years before coming to Forsyth. Michelle is a graduate of Dickinson State University.

Rocky is short on grazing applications and encouraged the group to mention it to anyone they feel would be interested.

Dave asked about prescribed burns; he is interested in doing it on his place. Jim recommended Judd Hammond-fuels specialist for the Forest Service. Burns are highly regulated by humidity of the air, humidity of the fuel, wind speed and direction, and other factors. Rocky says the liability is very high for this type of activity. There is so much more fuel out there than there used to be. It's an unnatural situation.

There is a biomass meeting at Fort Keogh on June 29 at 1:00, which Rocky will be attending. Others may be interested.

Craig Weight's grass planning went well. Nine acres were planted with warm season grasses mixed with legumes and seeded with a grass drill. The planting was on good ground, so it should grow well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NACD Quota: Jim made a motion to pay \$500 to NACD, Doug seconded and the motion carried.

Local Work Group: Dave White requested that the local work group turn in their recommendations by June 23, 2006. The work group will meet Tuesday the 6th of June at 7:30. The CD staff will send out meeting notices.

Annual Plan of Operations: The board reviewed the 2006 annual plan. Some adjustments and additions were made. Annual plan items will be listed on each month's meeting agenda.

Open Mike Board Members: The irrigation tour was discussed. It is Treasure's turn to host, but Rosebud CD will help with the arrangements. The following were suggested for tour sites and topics:

- Larsen's beets, cross fencing and cows
- Dallas Steiger has automatic moisture indicators buried at different levels throughout the field and a pretty neat pump system.
- Icopini's lateral
- Pasture mix, canal linings, sod ditches, and other types of technology would also be good to include.

Link the tour to the loan programs in both districts. Late August or early September would be good dates.

Jim Rogers drafted an AFO/CAFO resolution for Don to take to the MACD Spring Board Meeting on June 8.

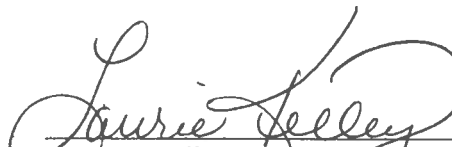
Laurie and Rocky will write a letter about AFO/CAFO for Doug to take to:

1. Eric Moore—affiliate of Stockgrowers in Miles City
2. Carol Watts—Administrator Custer County Conservation District
3. Farm Bureau in Bozeman

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:20.


Dave Davenport, chair


Laurie Kelley, administrator

**ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
JULY 26, 2006—7 PM—USDA OFFICE—FORSYTH, MT**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15, by Dave Davenport, Rosebud CD chair.

Members Present: Wendy Warren, Jim Rogers, Doug McRae, Don Youngbauer and Dave Davenport attended the meeting. Steve Lackman was absent.

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Rosebud CD, Larry Fox, Rosebud CD, Rocky Schwagler, NRCS, and Dan Watson, Rosebud County Commissioner attended the meeting.

Minutes: Doug made a motion to approve the May 24, 2006 meeting minutes and Wendy seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim moved to accept the June treasurer's report, Doug seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on August 23.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Loans: Steve Lackman met with Wade Cole, but was unable to attend the meeting to give a report. The Catherine and Bernard Hansen loan application was discussed. They are adding 3 side rolls to their operation and adding pasture and Hayland planting. Jim Rogers moved to approve the loan for \$50,000 and Doug seconded. The motion carried. The project will improve 106 acres on their 3,960 acre ranch. They are offering us a 1st mortgage. The board asked that a line or separate sheet be added to the loan application to indicate the projects association with the EQIP program. The administrator will put something together.

310's: Hansen's have submitted a 310 application. It is for a pumping facility along the Yellowstone River. The application has been sent to Fish Wildlife and Parks and they signed off on it. Wendy made a motion to approve the application and Don seconded. The motion carried. Tongue River Electric sent in seven 310 applications for work on the Tongue River. They will be using existing crossings and will only be going across one time. They are going to rebuild an existing 3/0 power line. They will cross the Tongue River seven times in Rosebud CD and twice in Big Horn CD. They will use existing ranch crossings and no vegetation will be disturbed. Doug made a motion to approve all seven 310 applications without inspection and Jim Rogers seconded. The motion carried.

July Annual Plan Items:

- ♦ Begin planning for irrigation tour—Judy from Treasure CD called Wendy and suggested Frank Borman and Don Bottrell as stops on the tour. Bottrell has a

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: The board will reviewed and discussed the "Standards for Emergency Loss of Water Supply Compensation Claim Procedure under the Coal Bed Methane Protection Program". Doug made the motion to adopt "Rosebud CD approves the standards for..... And Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave suggested putting together a resolution to the effect that DNRC will pay all costs associated with an audit resulting from the CBMPA money passing through our accounts. MOU with DNRC.

YRCDC: Don went to Ft Benton to a meeting. Went on a boating trip with Vicki Marquis and the Missouri River.... 18 ft canoe and started talking to Jason Wexler with the office of management and budget. YRCDC point was that all of these studies are unfinished and they need to be finished before a major event occurs on the river. The studies should come from the government. Don sat next to him and talked to him the whole way. Now he needs to get an email out to him to refresh his memory as to why this needs to be done. The studies are really interesting—socioeconomic is important because you need to see where the people are coming from. Topographic maps are a good tool to determine set-backs (from a hundred year viewpoint—because we aren't getting better absorption, we are getting worse. Things are changing for the worse.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: The board has been appointed by Mary Sexton. It is our understanding that they still need to be approved by Rosebud Conservation District. Jim Rogers made a motion to approve the candidates, Don seconded the motion and the motion carried. Send letter to Mary Sexton

The members are:

- ♦ Michael Wendland, Hill County Conservation District supervisor and NACD board member for Montana.
- ♦ Sandra Brown, Prairie County Conservation District supervisor and administrator.
- ♦ Tim Haffla, Garfield County Conservation District supervisor.

Range Monitoring Workshop: See August plan items.

310 Workshop: Laurie and Gloria Menke are putting together the workshop. Please pick some dates that will work for you and let Laurie know.

AFO/CAFO Resolution: The resolution and a letter regarding it were in your packets from the last meeting which was cancelled. Don read the resolution at the MACD spring board meeting and said it was well recieved, in fact one of the attendees stood up and clapped when he was done.

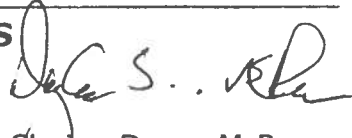
Technician Report: We sold over 1300 in trees and they were marked up by 10% shipping. We made \$175 and that covered our cost. The tree prices were lowered because the profit margin was too high before and he wanted it to be a service. There has already been interest in the program for next year. Check on the ND link to see if it works. Larry has been working on EQIP and loan program projects together. He has

potential for this, but the players need to be gathered together. There is a consulting firm being paid to take the lead on that. It is in the early stages and will take two years or more to put together. "find a use for the by-product of tree growing and thinning process, make tree growing more productive". Where they go in and do a thinning project, it is a management technique for the trees. Mark Roundstone—see if the slash piles were making a breeding habitat for the Japanese Beetle. **Email Mark and see what that was about.**

Adjourn:

*Please note the various reading materials on the table.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2006



Supervisors in Attendance: Jim Rogers—Vice Chair, Doug McRae—Supervisor, Wendy Warren—Supervisor, Steve Lackman—Supervisor and Don Youngbauer—Supervisor.

In Attendance: Rocky Schwagler—DC NRCS, Laurie Kelley—Administrator and Dennis Kenney—Associate Supervisor.

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

Loans: There were no new loan applications.

310's: Daryl Luther applied for a permit to put in two culverts on Rosebud Creek. The board expressed concern over the size of the culverts, suggesting that they may need to be larger to handle flood events. The board also felt a hydrology study might be necessary, because Rocky did not feel that NRCS was qualified to design the project. The board agreed to table the application until more information was submitted by the landowner and Fish Wildlife and Parks could comment. The administrator will send a letter to the landowner.

Annual Plan: The items for the months of August and September include the Range Monitoring Workshop, which was postponed due to fire danger and the Irrigation Tour which will be held on September 18.

Rosebud Watershed Group: The next meeting will be held on September 7, at 7 pm in Lame Deer, room 205 of the Chief Dull Knife College. Doug Martens will be on hand to discuss the biomass project and brief the group about current fire conditions. Soil and water sampling will also be discussed.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: Jim reported that DNRC is looking over the proposed guidelines and should have their decision soon. DNRC has still not paid the district for their efforts on the guidelines. Laurie will contact the other districts to see if their costs have been reimbursed. If they have not yet received payment, she will request copies of their vouchers and submit everything to the DNRC. A copy will be sent to Jim Rogers.

YRCDC: Don reported that the last meeting was a teleconference. The studies are going well, and the big push now is for money. The council has requested a one time million dollar appropriation for the studies; of that amount they will probably get \$650,000.

Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board: The administrator sent a letter to Mary Sexton approving the Land Use Ordinance Appeals Board.

310 Workshop: The board agreed that early December or mid-late January would be best for the workshop. The administrator will contact Big Horn CD with this information.

Resolutions: The AFO/CAFO Resolution has been sent to Stillwater CD so it can be discussed at the area meeting. The irrigation resolution has been sent to Pat Riley, DNRC, and others for review.

Technician Report: Larry was not in attendance.

NRCS Report: The special EQIP fire signup runs until October 2. The program offers \$11 per acre flat fee for deferring grazing until October of 2007. There has not been a lot of interest yet. ECP will be available to replace fences, etc and that will probably be more widely utilized.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of CD Officers: Jim nominated Doug as chair and Steve seconded the motion. The motion carried. Wendy nominated Steve as vice-chair and Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried. Don nominated Wendy as secretary and Doug seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Range School: The group all expressed interest in attending the school in Judith Basin County, but none could attend.

Montana Watershed Coordination Council Workshop: Laurie, Megan and Don will attend the workshop near Livingston, September 11-13. No one else was able to attend.

Rosebud Treasure Irrigation Tour: The tour will be held on September 18, departing from the Hysham USDA center at 8:30 am. Wendy will be attending the tour and others expressed interest. They will notify the administrator if they will be attending.

Area IV Meeting: Don and Laurie will attend the meeting, which will be held on October 3 in Columbus. Don will present the resolutions.

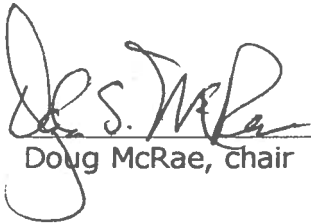
BSPPA Training: The board discussed having the administrator attend the training in Whitefish. Doug made a motion to send Laurie to the training and Don seconded. The motion carried. The administrator will try to find another administrator to travel with.

MACD State Convention: Don and Laurie will attend the convention in Great Falls, November 7-9.

Open Mike Board Members: Don asked if the board was going to tackle the Prairie Dog issue. He strongly feels that something needs to be done about it. The group will look into a course of action to take.

Public Comment: Dennis Kenney asked about Prince's water reservation. They can't get water now and will need to trench to their pump site. It is in an old overflow channel. They can produce cement, but not wash gravel. They will put in a 310/404 permit.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.



Doug McRae, chair

Laurie Kelley, administrator

September 20, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Laurie Kelley, Rocky Schwagler and Darrel Luther were in attendance.

Minutes: Steve made a motion to approve the August 23, 2006 meeting minutes and Don seconded. The motion carried.

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

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2006.

Loans: The board considered the Bottrell Family loan application. They asked for \$50,000 to convert an existing flood irrigation operation to a center pivot system. Steve made a motion to approve the loan pending the clarification of the total acreage being used as collateral. Jim seconded and the motion carried.

310's:

Darell Luther: Darell presented a revised application to the board. The application included a hydrological study that was prepared using data from USGS site number 06295259, which is near Colstrip, MT. The board asked why flow data from the Colstrip gauging station was used rather than data from the mouth as they felt the flow from that station would more accurately reflect what could be expected at the project site. Mr. Luther said he felt the data used in the study was adequate for this project. The board agreed to send the application to Fish Wildlife & Parks and USACE for their recommendations. Laurie will forward FWP and USACE's comments to the board members. Steve made a motion that Rosebud Conservation District approve the 310 application pending Fish Wildlife and Parks and US Army Corp of Engineers approval of an 8 foot or larger culver, per design. If FWP and /or ACE have concerns, the board will then vote via phone whether or not to approve the project.

Bottrell Family Investments: Bottrell's submitted an application for a 310 permit. The application is for an irrigation redesign. They propose to move a pumping station on the Yellowstone River because the current site can no longer provide adequate volume to sustain irrigation needs and will not serve the new design. Fish, Wildlife and Parks signed off on the

project. Steve made a motion to declare the irrigation redesign a project and Don seconded it. The motion carried. Steve made a motion to approve the project, pending USACE's approval. Jim seconded the motion and it carried.

Annual Plan Items:

- ◆ September
Irrigation tour was held on September 18.
- ◆ October
Don will attend the Rosebud Weed District meeting on September 27.
Laurie will invite the weed coordinator to the November 15 meeting.
- ◆ November
No items.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rosebud Watershed Group: John Wheaton will be the featured speaker at the next meeting. The date has not yet been determined.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: DNRC finished reviewing the guidelines and sent back their suggestions. These included adding a definition section, requiring a notary, adding the word "private" before lessee on page 2, inserting substantial into the ranking criteria and asking for a list of agencies that have been contacted. Most of the other changes were stylistic. Jim suggested we not require a notary, leave the word private out, insert the word substantial and ask for a list of agencies that have been notified. The board agreed. Laurie will make the changes and forward to Jim for approval. He will send it on to Steve Bullock and Steve Schmitz.

YRCDC: Don Youngbauer was elected chair of the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council board.

310 Workshop: We plan to hold the training in January. Don said that Fridays are good for him; Monday's are good for Jim. Laurie and Gloria will work together to determine a date that works for the majority of our board members.

Resolutions: The irrigation resolution will not be ready for the area meeting. The experts that were reviewing it did not finish in time. Don will present the AFO/CAFO resolution at the area meeting.

Area IV Meeting: Don and Laurie will attend.

MACD State Convention: Don and Laurie will attend. Steve and Doug will attend if their schedules permit.

Technician Report: Larry was not at the meeting but left word with Laurie as to his recent activities. About one-fourth of his time was spent on district

projects and the rest of his time was spent helping NRCS. He worked with Jim O'Donnell on stockwater pipelines for Wayne Milmine and Lyle Peterson on Grave Yard Creek.

NRCS Report: Rocky reported that NRCS is still in the signup period for fire mitigation money. The program allows for \$11 an acre on 2,500 acres maximum. The money is for deferring grazing until October 2007 and for fixing fence. There is ECP money available through Farm Service to replace newer fences. The staff has been working on pipelines and irrigation. They are getting ready for the next round of EQIP applications.

NEW BUSINESS:

Initiative 154: RCD was asked to join a coalition that has formed to stop I-154 from passing. Discussion was held and it was decided that no action will be taken because Great Falls District Judge Dirk Sandefur threw out I-154 due to: "fraud and procedural non-compliance perpetrated by paid, out of state, migrant signature gatherers."

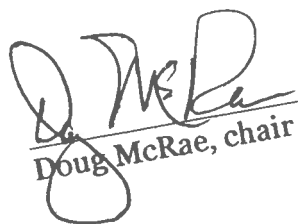
Open Mike Board Members:

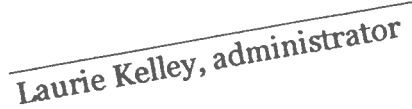
Conservation Award: Nominations for the conservation award for 2006 were: Dallas Steiger for efficient irrigation and Kellen Moan for wildlife habitat. Steve made a motion to give Dallas the award for 2006 and Kellen the award for 2007. Jim Rogers seconded the motion and it carried. Steve Lackman will contact Dallas to see if he will accept.

Agenda: Chair Doug McRae suggested putting times on agenda items, saying that they would not have to be strictly followed, just used as a reference point. The goal would be to be finished with official business by 9 pm, allowing time after for discussion. Don made a motion to associate times with agenda items and Jim seconded. The motion carried. Laurie will do so on the next agenda, with input from Doug.

DEQ: Doug McRae brought the board's attention to DEQ's new approach to completing TMDL's. There will be 8 priority planning areas as a result of a lawsuit.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.


Doug McRae, chair


Laurie Kelley, administrator

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2006~7 pm
USDA Service Center, 270 S. Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327

Supervisors present: Wendy Warren, Doug McRae, Jim Rogers, Dave Davenport and Don Youngbauer were present. Steve Lackman was absent.

Others present: Larry Fox, Laurie Kelley and Rocky Schwagler were present.

7:00 pm:

Minutes: Jim made a motion to approve the September 20, 2006 meeting minutes and Don seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Administrator's Report: There were no questions.

Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be held on January 3rd.

7:10 pm:

Loans: Ken and Nancy Pratt applied for a \$20,000 no-interest loan. Because they already have a \$50,000 loan with the district and the maximum loan amount is \$50,000, they are not eligible. Rocky explained that they were not able to get a crop in this year because the project took longer than anticipated. The board asked the administrator to remind them that their payments can be deferred for a year. Jim made a motion to defer loan payments for a year if the Pratt's send the district a letter requesting it. If they decide to defer, a phone vote will be taken. Dave seconded the motion and it carried. The board discussed amending the guidelines to make them clearer but decided against it because to do so would open us up to legal interpretation. The guidelines were left as is.

310's:

Application #06-09 Darrel Luther: At the September 20, 2006 board meeting, the following motion was put on the floor "Rosebud Conservation District will approve application #06-09, pending Fish Wildlife and Parks and US Army Corp of Engineers approval of an 8 foot or larger culver, per design. If FWP and /or USACE have concerns, the board will vote via phone whether or not to approve the project." Upon review of the application, FWP had concerns and the USACE denied the application. A phone vote was taken on October 20. The decision was 5-1 *against* approving the 310 permit. The administrator sent a letter on October 23, 2006, notifying Mr. Luther that his application was denied. The applicant did not respond within the 15 days allowed by law, so he will have to re-apply if he wishes to pursue the project.

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
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Application # 06-12 Pavex Corporation: Pavex Corporation submitted an application for a new pump site location and new land owner river access for a property split on the Tongue River. The site is located near Ashland, Mt at the SE ¼, NE ¼, NW ¼, Section 3, Township 2 South, Range 44 East in Rosebud County. Kurt Baumgartner and Alan See are the adjacent landowners. No wetland will be disturbed. The USACE has already signed off on the project and we are waiting for word from FWP. Jim made a motion to approve the 310 as long as FWP does not have any concerns. Don seconded the motion and it carried.

Reserved Water Use Application:

Application RW-Rs-021 YL: Bottrell Family Investments has applied for reserved water to be drawn from the Yellowstone River. **They are requesting 126.9 acre feet. The application will be sent to Duane Claypool, DNRC, who will work with the applicant in compiling the detailed development plan for submission to the CD board. Approximately 3-4 weeks before the District meeting at which the applicant is to be reviewed, Duane will send a legal notice to place in the local paper as well as a list of entities to send it to. It must be placed in the paper and sent out a minimum of 15 days before the meeting, longer if possible. After the detailed plan is complete, submitted to the CD board and approved, it will be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for final approval. Duane will be responsible for this process. The applicant should not start the project until final approval is received. Once the plan is approved, a copy of the development plan will be mailed to the district and the administrator will send it to the applicant and keep a copy in the district office.

**Rosebud CD only allows 2 acre ft per acre of land, this application is for nearly 2.5 acre ft per acre of land.

Annual Plan Items:

- November:
No items
- December:
No items

7:50 pm: OLD BUSINESS:

Rosebud Watershed Group: John Wheaton will be the featured speaker at the next meeting. He will do a mini-workshop on measuring springs and wells. Shanny Spang, tribal CBM coordinator, will also be there to update the group on

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
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tribal coal development activities and Banning Starr, DEQ will be there to talk about TMDL's.

Discussion:

Don Y: What exactly is a TMDL?

Jim R: Certain streams are on the 303(d) list, which means they may be impaired. A TMDL is done to determine if the stream should stay on the impaired list. The TMDL looks at water, macroinvertebrates, fisheries health, whether or not the water is safe to swim in or not, river morphology, etc. If these aren't functioning fully then they are put on the TMDL impaired list. From Lame Deer testing station to mouth it hasn't been tested yet.

Don Y: Are they trying to get at erosion rates?

Dave D: Not really.

Jim R: For many of the streams on the list, including Rosebud Creek, Ag was the reason for the degradation and it was manure (organics), not topsoil.

Don Y: I keep thinking this is a way to get at erosion. Robert Ray, DEQ, said most of his impairments are for sediment. Somehow in this whole deal we need to reflect the amount of topsoil that is being lost.

Dave D: I think they need to do an EIS before they can do the TMDL.

Don Y: An average of 5 tons an acre per year is being lost; and only one ton is replaced.

Rocky: It takes 500 years to make an inch of topsoil on the plains.

Coal Bed Methane Protection Act: nothing new to report.

YRCDC: Don Youngbauer told the group that the meeting will be held tomorrow in Miles City at Ft Keogh. Roger Muggli will speak and also give a tour of the T & Y irrigation diversion and the fish passage which is under construction. Dave Schwartz and Warren Kellogg wrote a \$335,000 EPA grant to finish the mapping. The council's approach to setbacks will be to do the science and then define a channel hazard migration zone. Each individual county can decide whether or not to allow building in the zone, and insurance companies will know where the zone is.

Nicole McClain has been hired as coordinator. Nichole obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology in 1999. She served as a volunteer and trustee for three and half years at a local museum, launched her own cultural resource consulting firm, Yellow Rock Research; and in 2001, developed the first Historic Preservation Office in Livingston. Since 2004, she has served as Coordinator of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin watershed group. Her hiring will tie the two ends of the river together.

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
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In other news, Don went to the November 15, TAC meeting. YRCDC put in for a 1.2 million, USACE funding and will probably get half of that. Laurie Kelley wrote the pre-proposal for a NFWF weed grant for YRCDC. There was a joint meeting with the Missouri River Council at convention. There is potential for a partnership with them.

310 Workshop: The workshop will be held in late January or February. Information will be sent out later.

MACD State Convention: Don reported that Rosebud CD took first place in the state newsletter contest and also won the 2006 MACD President's Award for conservation achievement. The AFO/CAFO resolution passed overwhelmingly.

Conservation Achievement Award/Annual Banquet: Steve spoke to Dallas Steiger about accepting the 2006 award and he has agreed. The banquet will be on March 4.

8:20 pm:

Technician Report: Larry reported that most of his work has been with NRCS on EQIP stuff. There will not be any EQIP trees this year because of the timing of the programs.

NRCS Report: Rocky reported that EQIP ranking is finished. They don't have their budget yet so they don't know how much funding they are getting. Hopefully it will be settled pretty quick as there are some really good projects out there that need to be committed to. Jim R. asked about CSP money and Rocky said that the Judith watershed, out of Stanford, was the only watershed in Montana that will get money this year. Rocky reported that Becky's job has been advertised and she will be working until the 26th of November. Larry has applied to replace her.

8:40 pm: NEW BUSINESS

NACD: Dave made a motion to pay \$500 to NACD for our yearly quota, Wendy seconded and the motion carried.

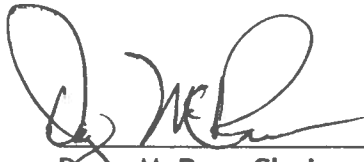
Area IV Meeting 2007: Laurie told the board that the 2007 Area IV meeting will be hosted by Rosebud CD, so we need to be thinking of a place to hold it. There has to be a meeting room and food available. It would be helpful to have a conservation practice to view or some type of activity planned that will take us outside. Some of the districts come from quite a distance so it would be helpful to have access to motels. Ideas offered were: the Forsyth Country Club or the Jersey Lilly in Ingomar. It has been held at the country club

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
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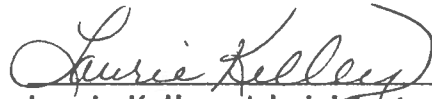
before and it turned out well, but it would be nice to do something different and there isn't a conservation practice nearby to view. The Jersey Lilly has great food and a room in the back that we could use. There is some type of lodging for the people who come from afar, and if it's not available we could car-pool from Forsyth. We need to determine an outside activity, but it is possible we could arrange for some type of geological outing or a wagon ride. The board will discuss it again at the next meeting.

Open Mike Board Members: Don: would like Laurie to look for a grant to determine the feasibility of doing a closed system coal bed methane extraction. He read of the idea in an article entitled "Coal Bed Methane in China". The board had no objections. Laurie will work on it as time permits.

9:25 pm: Meeting Adjourn



Doug McRae, Chair



Laurie Kelley, Administrator

