

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.
QUARTERLY MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2010

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. quarterly council meeting was held October 20, 2010 at the New County Building, Culbertson, MT. Those present were:

Ray Trumpower, Town of Fairview ; Adam Gartner, Dawson County Commissioner; Mickey McCall, Sheridan County Conservation District; Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt County Commissioner; Jason Rittal, Eastern Plains EDC; Jim Shanks, Roosevelt County Commissioner; Dixie Berwick, Towns of Culbertson and Bainville; Stan French, Daniels County Conservation District; Cal Oraw, City of Sidney, Tim Miller, Froid; Linda R. Jones, Glendive City Council; Jerry Jimison, Mayor of Glendive; Scott Morton, USDA, NRCS-Culbertson; Richard Rice, City of Plentywood; Penny Zimmerman, Senator Jon Tester; Cathy Kirkpatrick, Senator Max Baucus; Dennis Bratlin, Sheridan Electric; Laurie Massar, NRCS-Circle; and Bob Nansel, Coordinator- Eastern Plains RC&D.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman, Mickey McCall called the meeting to order and meeting participants introduced themselves.

AGENDA

Cal Oraw made the motion to approve the agenda as distributed. Gary Macdonald seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES AND TREASURERS REPORT

Gary Macdonald made the motion to approve the minutes. Dixie Berwick seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

The fourth quarter Treasurers report was read and reviewed.

Jerry Jimison made the motion to approve the Treasurers report. Gary Macdonald seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Bob reported that he has been completing fiscal year- end reports and data collection work for NRCS including RC&D Annual Assessment, Activity Based Costing (ABC) and preparing the Annual Plan of Work. The Area Plan that the Council approved last meeting is with the NRCS State Office for approval.

Project highlights include: Fairview Bridge/Tunnel erosion control is continuing and will be seeded this fall. Coal Bed Methaneogenesis doctorate research support is being solicited from National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy by Elliott and MSU Microbiology Dept. Sidney Water Users' Renewable Resource grant application will be considered by the next MT Legislature and Bureau of Reclamation has considered the project for funding. CMR Wildlife Refuge Stakeholders have had three meetings and are about to finalize the focus area landscape and purpose definitions. The fourth CMR Refuge meeting is Nov 1 in Malta and will address grazing issues. Yesterday, a Bio-Fuel Summit held in

Havre made use of oil seed analysis completed by EARC with support of EPRC&D. I attended the Energy Open Tour of biomass Cogeneration site and Otter Creek Coalfield from Colstrip.

EDD- Jason Rittal

Jason Rittal, Executive Director of the Eastern Plains EDC gave his update on the activities related to the CRDC region. A progress report was provided outlining ongoing projects.

Of particular note was the North Baker Water and Sewer Project which is progressing toward completion. The project has encountered obstacles related to surface and subsurface water that has caused some additional expense. It does not appear that the project will be completed this fall, but it should be close. The contractor will come back in the spring to complete any portions remaining when the winter shutdown is ordered. Construction and renovation will continue until weather no longer permits.

The EDC has also submitted a proposal to become the Certified Regional Development Corporation as supported by the RC&D. The proposal, if accepted, will allow the EDC to receive funds directly from the state and continue to provide those services that have been contracted through the RC&D.

The EPEDC housing conference is scheduled for October 26th and a flyer was handed out inviting all to attend. The conference will be held at Hungry Joe Hall in Glendive starting at 9:30 am.

Mr. Rittal gave a brief overview of the other projects on the update report. Mr. Rittal thanked the RC&D for its support of the EDC's proposal to the State.

First Time Home Buyer- Aileen Swinney

Had a large class in Miles City this last weekend, classes are being well attended and evaluations are coming back showing participants are interested in what they are learning.

Old Business

Accountants Review and the 2010 budget Okayed

New Business

New and Existing Projects-

Jerry Jimison stated that Glendive is moving ahead with the study on the flood plain. They have moved this up to a primary project. They are working with the Economic Development, City of Glendive and Glasgow. LYIP did a study and told Glendive that the bridge on the Interstate is having an effect on their dike and their dike is no longer certified. The cost for the Flood Plain Study by the Corp of Engineers is \$800,000. Glendive is looking at different options for funding this study, if not will have to look at city and county residents and rural SID's to cover the cost.

Annual Plan of Work-2011

A motion was made to approve the Annual Plan of Work by Cal Oraw. Adam Gartner seconded it. Bob will transfer costs from the 2011 budget when approved. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Circle of Diamonds

Circle of Diamonds is recognition of standard competencies from the National Association of RC&D's. Dixie stated that there were already two RC&D's in the state that have the application complete. There is no fee for the Circle of Diamonds, but Councils need to be a member of the National Association for recognition. NARCDC dues are \$450.00 annually. Eastern Plains has been a member in the past. Consensus was to pay NARCDC dues and apply for Circle of Diamonds.

Soil Health-

Rosebud Conservation District has requested assistance for soil health research, trials and promotion including purchasing a no-till drill and Western SARE funding for cover crop trials. The NRCS Area agronomist would like to assist Eastern Montana farmers run field trials of cover crop cocktails and share information through seminars and tours.

Cal Oraw moved to approve this project and Dixie seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion passed. Bob noted that on Jan 14, 2011 NRCS District Conservationist and a farmer/CD Supervisor from Bismarck will present a seminar on Soil Health at MonDak Ag Days at the new fairground building in Sidney.

Energy Audit Collector

Eastern Plains has been asked to partner with Beartooth RC&D to train a farm energy audit collector. This is required by some farm programs, and rural development. It is possible that the Rural Electric Coop would help cover the cost of the training which is \$250 and travel is \$300.00. They are hoping to have one from each RC&D area.

Dixie Berwick made the motion to add the Energy Audit collector to the project list. Gary Macdonald seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion passed.

MonDak Ag Open

Bob suggested approval of the Ag Open as a project for 2011.

Dennis Bratlin made a motion to approve the Ag Open as a project. Gary Macdonald seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion passed.

Inactive Projects-

The following projects are inactive: Jordan Pool, Jordan VFW Hall, Wibaux Library and the Forsyth Country Club. Bob will continue to monitor funding sources on their behalf. Jerry Jimison moved to remove these as projects. Dixie Berwick seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

2010-2011 Budget

Jason wondered if the BPIC account money could be used for the Food and Ag Development Center. It was agreed to look into this. It was agreed to add travel for Dixie Berwick to attend Montana RC&D Assn. meeting at the MACD Convention in Billings in November.

Adam Gartner made a motion to approve the budget and Gary MacDonald seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion passed.

Reports, Happenings and Issues in RC&D Area

Cathy Kirkpatrick is working with Jason on the flood plain money for Glendive. Penny Zimmerman is also working on the same.

Jerry Jimison would like Linda Jones to take over the spot for Glendive with the RC&D. He is working hard on the flood plain and the waste water treatment plant. There are now stricter regulations on discharging waste water into the Yellowstone River. The cost for a waste water treatment plant is between 3 and 10 million dollars. Wanted to remind everyone about the Housing Conference in Glendive on the 26th of October and that they have parents and kids working together to build a new skateboard park.

Stan French-Daniels County has a new dentist; local radio went digital- fiber optic

Adam Gartner- The lagoon in floodway- water treatment plant? There is movement toward some additional housing as two trailer parks have been bought and they are being worked on. The Mental Health Center is looking good. The meeting on 10-19-2010 was to try and get all of the providers together and to get a Steering Committee going.

Cal Oraw- Sidney is upgrading the sewer lines and working on the water sewer plant.

Ray Trumpower- The housing issues are starting to break some. NCOC – its complicated.

Scott Morton- NRCS Culbertson FO is planning a 150 Watt Irrigation System, 2 design packages.

Mickey McCall- Asked Ray about NCOC.

Laurie Massar- Circle

Dennis Bratlin- Sheridan Electric has a four year work plan, 16.4 million- 23 million for the total plant. They are doubling the plant size, keeping standards up and have hired a contractor for the next four years.

Dixie Berwick- Airport has been remodeled and they now have a 24/7 fueling system. Applications for sewer lagoons lift stations have been received. Work is complete on new building landscaping and the school is being remodeled.

Gary Macdonald- The courthouse has new windows and they are made to look like the original design, and have a new air conditioning system. They have a new pharmacy in Wolf Point and one in Poplar. The Wolf Point airport is just about done and they are looking at November 15 for a completion date. There is a new airport in Poplar, a new walking path in Culbertson, and a new building in Froid where

seniors eat one meal a week and is also a new library. The water treatment plant is on the 3rd stage and there are still housing problems.

Richard Rice- The Pulse plant is up and running, as is a new clothing store. Housing is a big issue as Homeland Security takes up a big portion of housing.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting to be held in Sidney January 19. The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT