

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.
QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2008

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. quarterly council meeting was held on October 22, 2008, at The Senior Center in Culbertson, MT. Those present were Dixie Berwick (Town of Culbertson), Dick Iversen (RC&D Coordinator), Sarah Herman (RC&D Administrative Assistant), Ginny Archdale (Town of Wibaux), Jason Rittal (Eastern Plains EDD), Jim Shanks (Roosevelt County), Gary Macdonald (Roosevelt County), Nicole Zimmerman (BPIC), Ray Trumpower (City of Fairview), Monica Haaland (Daniels County), Willie Barnard (Daniels CD) and Khrystye Earle (RC&D).

Chairman Dixie Berwick called the meeting to order and meeting participants introduced themselves. Since there wasn't a quorum no business could be conducted. **The agenda was reviewed.**

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes were reviewed. The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Dick Iversen told the group that Nicole Zimmerman will be leaving us at the end of October and it is funded through the State. Dick talked about the 2008 Ag Open and that he encouraged people to come and participate. Dick took Chuck Stadick on a potato tour around eastern Montana. Fort Kipp Irrigation Project is chugging along and they have hired a firm to get all of their easements going. There will be a Montana State Association Meeting in Billings on either November 12th or 13th and they would like a coordinator, chairman and vice chairman to go.

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT: Jason Rittal talked about the CRDC meeting that he went to in Helena. He learned that the State of Montana will be receiving \$19.6 million from the bail out bill. He asked the group how they would like the money to be spent and who would give it out. Jason talked about the previous CRDC reports and that they are not where they should be so he will be working on coming up with a plan to make the reports better. Jason then gave a brief summary of what he has been working on in each county:

DAWSON COUNTY- RLF application- Jason and one board member will be sitting on the board to grant the loans. Glendive and Miles City are working together to get something figured out for the Flood Plain that seems to be getting bigger and causing a lot of problems for both towns.

TERRY- Cameron Gallery- has purchased the building and cleaning up, they are working on a new business plan also.

WIBAUX- waiting to hear about the water/sewer grant that they had put in for.

CARTER- Working to find grants for the court house- currently the library is in the basement, and the food bank is in the closet. They also are needing a community center.

Wind Energy- Need money for counties to purchase equipment to get data and then sell to big companies. The RC&D needs to have wind rights and info incase landowners need them, someone suggested that we put a link on our websites that will link them to some reliable information for the landowners to read. **Brownfield Grant-** working on application and looking for possible buildings to include in their grant. Let us know if you have any buildings in your county that you would like help with.

HOUSING EDUCATION ASSISTANT: Khrystye Earle discussed briefly what she does at her first time homebuyer class. Khrystye explains the home buying process, how to stay out of foreclosure, how to budget, what to expect during a home inspection and how to know your credit score. Khrystye also tells you your legal rights from creditors, realtors, and bankers. Khrystye likes to teach the classes to make people aware of the help out there.

BIO-PRODUCTS INNOVATION CENTER: Nicole Zimmerman told the group that this meeting would be her last and that she will now be working at the Plevna School as the clerk. She has enjoyed this job and will help train the new employee as much as she can. Lately she has been working with

the Beaver Creek Brewery in Wibaux. They make their own beer, bread and even root beer. The brewery is open Thursday- Sunday from 4-8pm. Nicole is also working on the Organic Growers Meeting that will be held on October 30th from 11-2 with lunch being provided.

OLD BUSINESS: Ag Open- This year was the first year that we have changed the menu. We made finger steaks and fries and got great reviews. We will definitely try it again next year, and everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the fun.

Fort Kipp Irrigation Project- Dick Iversen discussed this earlier in his report.

NEW BUSINESS: Ray Trumpower- Has recently went to the NCOC conference where there was a lunch speaker from Australia that was very interesting. Ray gave us a brief history of the NCOC, he stated it was formed in 1996. Currently they have 1 million tons of carbon ready to be sold but they are waiting for credits to go up, right now they are at \$1.70-1.80. They will wait till March and if they don't go up they will sell them anyways. You can check out the NCOC at their website- www.ncoc.us.

STI Grand Opening-Safflower Technology Incorporated, Fairview Montana. They have received a grant for infrastructure, vehicle, and working capital, they have 5 new full time positions. Mike Bergman is the president and it was started in 2002. Soon they will have a new plant up and running that will clean and bag soy beans, peas and lentils.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 23, 2009- 2nd Annual State of the Community at the St. Matthews Church, Sidney, MT

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on January 21 at 9:30 am in Sidney. Place to be announced.

After lunch there was a tour of Dry Prairie Rural Water given by Clint Jacobs.