



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Local Common Sense Conservation

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Jay King – *Chairman*, **Brenda Brady**, *Vice-Chairman & MSCA*, **Ralph Corbett** – *Urban Supervisor*, **Rodney Rowton** – *Rural Supervisor*, **Laura Kiehl** – *Treasurer & MRCDC*, **Nathan Descheemaeker** – *Supervisor*, **Diane Ahlgren** – *Associate Supervisor, MWC & MSGOT*

February 23, 2023

Call to order: Chairman Jay King called the regular meeting of the Petroleum County Conservation District to order at 5:03pm. Those present were Jay King, Brenda Brady, Ralph Corbett, Laura Kiehl and Diane Ahlgren. Others in attendance were Brent Smith, CEMIST; Reba Ahlgren, District Conservationist; Evert Brady, water user; Vince & Lana Murnion, water users; Steve Murray, water user; Katie Lund, PCCD Fiscal Manager; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Veronica Grigaltchik, DNRC and Cody Ream, MSU Extension attended virtually. Nate Descheemaeker and Rodney Rowton were absent.

Approval of Minutes: Ralph moved to approve the January 26th, 2023 regular meeting minutes as corrected; Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: Moved the Irrigation Grant discussion from new business. Brenda stated the grant is for up to \$30K and could be used for project planning. Jay asked the water users what they thought about applying for the grant. Vince Murnion stated that they just have a rock diversion right now so would like to get something engineered for a better diversion. There are 2 diversions – one is just old wood that keeps falling apart. The water users are in favor of applying for the Irrigation Grant and will get Trish project info/history to get a rough draft of the grant put together before the next board meeting. Ralph moved for Trish to go forward with the Irrigation Grant; Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Partner Reports:

MRCDC: Laura K. gave an update on the MRCDC Quarterly Meeting. They planned on having an in person meeting in Lewistown but voted to have it virtually due to the weather. The River Rendezvous planning is underway and they planning committee is looking at ways to fund the event. The R.R. event will be June 21st with the MRCDC quarterly meeting that evening; the next day will be the CMR CWG meeting. The next CMR WG meeting will be in Lewistown March 16th in Lewistown with the topic *Grasslands Health*. Laura also gave a Fort Peck Test Flow update.

MWC: Jay gave an update on the MWC Coordinator position. They are having interviews in Roundup March 7th, 10am-2pm, and have four applicants. The CD Board is encouraged to attend if they would like to.

MSGOT: Diane stated that Therese Hartman has the figures from the CD and Evert Brady's contract is out for public comment. There has been some acreage shuffled and the acres approved will be a little less but will be covered by that fee. They might have to redo the Schultz contract.

MSU Extension: Cody Ream stated there will be a applicators class in Lewistown March 21st (recalibrations of sprayers) for 6 credits. There is also a Calving Workshop in Lewistown February 27th from 3-5pm. MSU extension has agreed to help the CD with a Gardening Workshop this spring. They also agree to put on an applicators class this spring. The CD will need to send him a complete agenda 30 days in advance and April would be the earliest he could get it in. Brenda Murry would be willing to help. The CD will look into possible grants for the classes/workshops.

DNRC: Veronica stated to go ahead and apply for the education mini grant for the applicators class, gardening workshop and Ladies Day on the Range. They all need to be applied for separately. Currently the amount you can apply for is up to \$2000 but they are hoping to raise it to \$5000. They are meeting Monday and they might have quite a bit of funding available. At first Veronica was told they were postponing the Administrative Grant, but they decided they shouldn't so it will be opened up on March 1st for applications. It will be the same application as last year. She suggested to work on the Administrative Grant at our March CD board meeting. Veronica discussed the changes in CD insurance since MACO will no longer be providing insurance.

NRCS: Reba stated that they attended the Soil Health Symposium in Billings early February; approximately 420 attendees. The Soil Health Symposium is debating on keeping it to 2 long days in Billings or going back to spreading it over an entire week across the state, and people can attend a smaller one-day workshop closest to them. There was a statewide All Employees Meeting in Great Falls mid-February. NRCS is accepting applications for EQIP, CSP and ACEP – the funding for this cycle comes through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and supports agriculture and forest landowners participating in voluntary conservation programs implementing climate-smart practices. The application deadline for this funding cycle is March 17, 2023. There was a RCPP bundling meeting with NRCS and other partners on Feb 1st. Ranking deadlines are now March 3rd and March 10th. Due to the IRA money coming in and workload, NRCS is hiring a clerk/administrative position for most NRCS work units. It was advertised and closed February 6th. The position will probably be based in Stanford or Lewistown, but they will come over to Winnett and help periodically.

Pheasants Forever: No Report.

Winnett ACES: Brenda mentioned that the Succession Stories event was postponed until sometime in March. They also had a Calving Workshop February 20th, put on by Rebecca Woodford, at the PCCC in Winnett; had around 20 attendees. Jay mentioned that Laura Nowlin had asked if Trish could attend the Conservation Committee meetings or have a designated board member. Between Trish, Laura and Brenda there will be representation.

CEMIST: The CEMIST DNRC Amendment was approved and signed by Jay King on February 16th. Trish will be submitting the request for reimbursement. CEMIST monthly meeting will be next week, February 27th. Winter fair was attended by Brent and Trish volunteered her time to help staff the CEMIST booth. Attendance was down due to the weather. CEMIST staffed a booth at the MATE show in Billings also. On April 25 1-3 in Stanford, CEMIST will be hosting an Eastern Heath Snail public information meeting. Late spring/early summer Feral pig info tour on the highline. June 8th Miles City – AIS monitoring training for Administrators and other FWP partners. Later in June there will also be an AIS monitoring training in Harlowton or Two Dot for the public.

BLM: No Report.

Supervisor Reports:

Brenda Brady: Brenda visited with Clay Barnett and he seemed interested in the Urban Supervisor Board position. She will inquire with him again.

Laura Kiehl: No Report.

Ralph Corbett: Talked to George Cave and Ralph invited him to the PCCD Board meeting but he was having surgery and couldn't attend.

Jay King: Kalin Hoge doesn't have the no-till drill in his shop yet but will soon, when the weather is nicer. Jay also asked Kalin if he would consider being on the CD Board and he might be interested.

Diane Ahlgren: Spent the last two days interviewing interns. They had 13 applications; one applicant is from Harvard doing agricultural history. Stacy Barta has funding for four applicants but she is short on host families. If anyone knows of anyone that would be interested in hosting an intern for two week should let Diane or Stacy know by the first week of March.

Rodney Rowton: No Report.

Nate Descheemaeker: No Report.

Old Business:

- A. **Annual Work Plan:** Ralph moved to approve the annual work plan; Brenda seconded. Motion passed.
- B. **CD Handbook Changes:** Looked over the Holiday Pay verbiage changes in the CD handbook from Katie. Ralph moved to make changes to the holiday section in the CD handbook on how holiday pay is allotted; Brenda seconded. Motion passed.
- C. **Workshops (Applicators Class & Gardening/MSU Extension):** Discussed in the MSU extension update.
- D. **310 Updates:** All looked over the new 310 applications. There were two Midrivers and one for Tim and Sarah Browning. Ralph moved to accept the Midrivers 310 applications but no actions need to be taken since they are non-perineal streams; Laura seconded. Motion passed. Brenda moved to approve the Browning 310 application upon receipt of Garfield County's signed and approved signature page; Laura seconded. Motion passed.
- E. **CEMIST DNRC Grant Amendment:** Jay King signed the CEMIST amendment on February 16th and the invoice was signed during the CEMIST update.

New Business:

- A. **Irrigation Grant (McDonald Creek Diversion Project):** Discussed prior in the meeting during public comment. Trish was asked to have a rough draft for the Irrigation Grant application by the next March Board meeting.
- B. **NRCS MOU:** Reba went over the NRCS MOU.

- C. **Civil Rights Checklist:** Reba went over the Civil Rights Checklist and it was signed. Ralph moved to approve the NRCS MOU and Civil Rights Checklist; Laura seconded. Motion passed.
- D. **Rolling Rivers Trailer:** Trish passed around the Rolling Rivers Trailer paperwork for review. Trish will visit with Lance Olson (PCCC) about a Kid's Day with the Rolling Rivers Trailer and other educational stations.
- E. **2023 CD Funding Survey:** This was discussed and a rough draft put together in the prior meeting. Trish will get it to Katie to fill in the questions that she needs to provide numbers for.
- F. **NRCS temporary use of PCCD Internet:** Brenda moved to allow the NRCS to use the PCCD Internet; Ralph seconded. Motion passed.
- G. **Zoom Membership for CEMIST/PCCD:** Ralph moved to get a zoom account for CEMIST/PCCD; Brenda seconded. Motion passed.
- H. **CEMIST additional hours for Administrator:** Ralph moved to table this topic to Old Business at the next board meeting; Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Administrative:

- A. **Grant Updates:** Trish stated that she needs help to get the grant info sheets updated and Katie mentioned that Laura will be coming in sometime to help Katie and Laura get all the grant reports/files organized and caught up and up to date for going forward.
- B. **District Updates:** The Board went over the administrator monthly update sheet. Jay asked about the Area 1 meeting and Trish stated it would be held at the Community Center on September 27th. Planning is still taking place for the meeting and Trish will be visiting with Becca once her time frees up from Legislative Session activities about what the MACD is wanting at the meeting. Jay mentioned that the board would like Trish to prioritize grants and meeting minutes. Brenda and Laura stated that the meeting minutes can be shortened into "brief discussion" and motions, not every detail.

Financial:

- A. **Petroleum CD:** Ralph moved to remove Carie Hess and add Katherine Lund (Katie Lund) as a signer to all the accounts; Brenda seconded. Ralph moved to remove Nate Descheemaeker as a signer to all accounts; Brenda seconded. Motion passed. Ralph moved to pay PCCD unpaid bills; Laura seconded. Motion passed.
- B. **Missouri River CD Council:** Ralph moved to pay MRCDC unpaid bills; Brenda Seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Brenda moved to sign the stream gaging agreement; Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements:

- A. Next Board meeting: Thursday, March 30, 2023 (ACES Office)

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Jay King, Chairman

Trish J. Smith, District Administrator