



**Garfield County Conservation District  
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
2:00pm Thursday, February  
USDA Service Center Conference Room**



The meeting was called to order by chairman Monte Billing at 2:30pm.

**Present:** Nathan Saylor, Amanda Lammers, Monte Billing, Dean Rogge, Alan Pluhar, Sue FitzGerald and Mike McKeever.

**Absent:** Travis Browning

**Guests:** Carie Hess, Petroleum County CD Administrator

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Alan made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Nathan seconded and all approved. Motion passed.

**Bills and Financial Statement:** Nathan made a motion to pay the bills. Dean seconded and all approved. Motion passed. See attached bills and financial statement.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports:**

**NRCS-** Sue reported there will be two workshops coming up. The first one is on soil health that will be held in Miles City February 14<sup>th</sup> at Fort Keogh. The second one is on successful ranching and sage grouse country that will be held in Forsyth February 15<sup>th</sup>. Sue has a 30 minute DVD that explains the new Conservation Stewardship Program that is available to producers. A total of 4 applications have been preapproved for CRP. There are 11 CSP applications. A total of \$225,000 is available for EQIP and there was a total of \$250,000 in applications. NRCS will be able to fund most the applications.

**DRWA-** no report

**MRCDC-** Dean reported the council met with the Montana Farmers Union in Greatfalls giving background information on the council. There will be a stakeholder group meeting in Circle February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The council's quarterly meeting will be in Glasgow. The date has not been set at this time.

**MMWG-** Carie gave a brief report for the watershed group. The group is still dealing with water rights issue. They also testified their RRGL last week.

**Old Business:**

1. The fire grant was discussed. Mike visited with the county commissioners regarding who owns the equipment. Documents were passed around stating the county will own the equipment once the grant is exhausted. Mike also

mentioned the county commissioners want to look into funding sources to keep the fire warden hired. Mike mentioned the district could look into expanding the existing grant or possibly apply for a new grant.

**New Business:**

1. At this time the board reappointed Mike and Travis to fill the board vacancy until the next general election. Dean made a motion to reappoint Mike and Travis. Alan seconded and all approved. Motion passed. Mike and Travis will need to sign the oath of office in front of a notary.
2. Election of officers. Nominations were opened for chairman. Mike nominated Monte for chair. Monte accepted. Nominations were closed. Mike made a motion for Monte to be the chairman, Alan seconded, all approved, and motion passed. Nominations were opened for vice-chairman. Mike nominated Dean for vice-chair. Dean accepted. Nominations were closed. Mike made a motion for Dean to be vice-chairman, Alan seconded, all approved, and motion passed. Nominations were opened for treasurer. Alan nominated Mike for treasurer. Mike accepted. Nominations were closed. Alan made a motion for Mike to be treasurer, Nathan seconded, all approved, and motion passed.
3. Amanda and Carie discussed the Montana Youth Range Camp grant application. Some discussion took place where to hold the "fun day". Either Devils Creek or Fort Peck was an idea of interest. Some discussion took place but no decision was made. Amanda brought up that DNRC will provide the transportation and the district will not have to put it in the budget. Monte signed the grant application. Amanda will have it sent to DNRC.
4. The kindergarten class will be planting trees this spring and would like to know if the district will pay for the trees. The total would be ~\$60. Dean made a motion to pay the trees from the educational funds account. Monte seconded and all approved. Motion passed.
5. Amanda passed around the districts inventory list. There are a few items that need to be updated but the district does have a list on file.
6. The board discussed Quickbooks. Monte made a motion to pay Carie mileage and time to help Amanda get quickbooks set up correctly. Alan seconded and all approved. Motion passed.
7. Amanda discussed the administrator and supervisors are bonded through Western State Insurance to handle the districts money. This is an annual fee.
8. Ordering a debit card was discussed. Monte made a motion to have Amanda order the district order a debit card. Nathan seconded and all approved. Motion passed.
9. The bank no longer accepts coupons and check payments for the 941 tax. The district will have to set up an account through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System website. Payments will be taken out of the districts account quarterly.
10. Petroleum County Conservation District would like a letter of support from the Garfield County Conservation District. They are applying for a GLCI grant for two workshops. The first workshop will be held in early May and will focus on current sage grouse issues and how to effectively monitor your

rangelands and why it's important. The second workshop will be held in early June and will focus on fresh theory of sustainability in multigenerational transitions. They are looking for support with posting flyers and mailing lists of interested landowners around this area. Alan made a motion to write a letter of support. Monte seconded and all approved. Motion passed.

11. The board would like to hold an information meeting regarding what conservation districts main function is to the general public. The CD would like to get together with the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. A phone call was made to JoDee Watson, president asking if the district could have a few minutes in the chamber dinner to talk about conservation districts. The board mentioned to JoDee contacting Russell Nemetz with the Northern Ag Network to be the main speaker. Dean said he will find a speaker who could talk about conservation districts. After some brief discussion Dean made a motion to give \$250 to the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. Alan seconded and all approved. Motion passed.
12. The board took the remainder of the meeting writing the Garfield County Conservation District Position Statement for Buffalo.

Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monte seconded and all approved. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

**The next board meeting is tentatively March 3, 2011 at 2pm.**

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Monte Billing, Chairman

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Date

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Amanda Lammers, Administrator

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Date