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724 West 3rd Street,
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REGULAR MEETING
October 3, 2019

Chairman Roy Neal called the regular district meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the USDA building in Hardin. Additional supervisors present were Steve Schanaman, Dan Kern, Kent Murdock, and Phillip Miller. Also present were Maria Hopkins, District Administrator, Molly Masters with MSU Extension, and Seanna Torske with NRCS.

Following discussion Dan K. motioned, seconded by Steve, to dispense with the reading of the September 5th, 2019 meeting minutes and approve the minutes as mailed. Motion carried – unanimous.

Due to changing the fiscal year from calendar year to July 1st to June 30th the state required a signature showing this. Steve motioned, seconded by Kent to approve and sign the change. Motion carried – unanimous.

Maria presented the treasurer's report. The checking account has \$26,882.72; the county account as of 9/30/2019 has \$17,708.36. The following bills were presented:

MT Dept Revenue	\$ 187.00	September 2019 State Withholding
Maria Hopkins	\$ 213.34	Mileage and Expense Reimbursement
Cincinnati Insurance Company	\$ 70.00	Liability Insurance Premium
Roy Neal	\$ 35.96	Area IV Meeting Mileage
Jerry Lunde	\$ 88.16	Area IV Meeting Mileage
Steve Schanaman	\$ 15.08	Area IV Meeting Mileage
United Methodist Women	\$ 320.00	Area IV Meeting Catering
Unemployment Insurance Contribution Bureau	\$ 29.67	2nd Qtr. 2019 Premium
US Treasury	\$ 3,332.25	2nd Qtr. 2019 FICA
Seanna Torske	\$ 60.00	Grass Class Workshop Lunch
Payroll	\$ 5,856.37	September 2019 Wage

Following discussion, Dan K. motioned, seconded by Steve, to approve the report and pay the bills presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Scott Bockness presented the current chemical cost-share list and proposed adding Esplanade 200SC to the list in the future. The county budget is still being finalized, but when it is ready Scott will present it. No action taken.

On November 6th at 9 am, MSU Extension will be hosting a workshop and field tour on Ventenata. The district has funds available from the 223 grants to cover any speaker fees, van rental charges, and printing costing. Molly will let us know what funds are needed. No action taken.

The watercraft inspection station continues to run smoothly and will close October 26th. Due to the cold weather, the station has moved from the Garrison Stoker Resort's shed to the restaurant so inspectors can stay warm. There is a meeting in Billings on October 16th at the FWP Region 5 Office to discuss the future of the Saint Xavier and Fort Smith stations. Phillip indicated that he would like to attend. In addition, the AIS Summit will be held in Helena on December 4th to 5th. Due to the meeting being on the first Thursday of the month. The Regular December Board meeting will be rescheduled to the 12th so Maria can attend the Summit. No action taken.

The district needs Wildlife Ramps. Roy will contact Ty Neal with Lodge Grass FFA about getting some built. Tabled until next meeting.

The Big Horn Conservation District hosted this year's MACD Area IV meeting on September 16th. The meeting went very well. Thank you cards were passed out to sign for the Methodist Women and Carter Miklovich for the wonderful lunch.

MACD Convection will be held November 18th to 21st in Kalispell, MT. Steve, Dan K, Phillip, and Maria will attend. Phillip motioned, seconded by Steve to sign the MACD Convention Travel Reimbursement form. Motion carried – unanimous.

In addition, other administrators recommended adding the convention travel cost to the additional administrative grant that we submitted last month. Dan motioned, seconded by Kent to approve and sign the grant for resubmitting. Motion carried – unanimous.

There were no new Conservation Compliance Plans to present. No action taken.

Maria was contacted by Joe Otto, historian with the Soil and Water Conservation Society on September 25th. He was in search of a photo of Hugh Hammond Bennet from 1947 that he believed we have on record. We do and will be able to provide him digital copies for his historic exhibit. The district will be recognized on a national level at the museum for the photo. No action taken.

Tom Watson, NRCS State Conservationist is encouraging districts to nominate landowners for the NACD Soil Health Champions award. After discussion Kent motioned, seconded by Phillip to nominate Living Root Farms and Alex Smith for the award. Motion carried – unanimous.

On October 29th at 1 pm a soil health workshop will be held at the MSU Extension Office. This workshop will close out our current Soil Health Initiative 223 grant and we will pass out copies of Gabe Brown’s book from the mini-grant. The remaining funds to the Soil Health Initiative where originally budget for van rentals for a fieldtrip of the planted cover crops. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions a field tour would not be possible. Dan K motioned seconded by Steve to use the remaining funds to cover the workshop’s speaker fee and close out the grant after the workshop. Motion carried – unanimous.

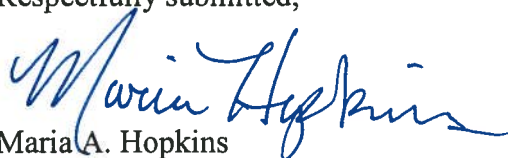
310 Application, 2019-07 was reviewed. The applicant wants to repair the Big Horn River riverbank at Section 25, T65, R35E. The onsite was supposed to be scheduled in September but due to scheduling conflicts has been moved to October. Maria will notify the landowner of the delay and let him know that if it becomes an emergency to let us know and we can enact the emergency 310 permit process. No action taken.

310 Application, 2019-08 was reviewed. The applicant wants to stabilize the Big Horn River riverbank at Section 10, T4S, R35E. Phillip motioned, seconded by Dan K., to approve the application as a project. Motion carried – unanimous.

Seanna reviewed the field office report and the option for the district to cover the facility fee for Ladies Ag Night that will be held on January 28th. Phillip motioned, seconded by Steve to pay the facility fee for the event. Motion carried – unanimous.

As there was no response to a call for public comment and no further business to come before the meeting the chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria A. Hopkins
District Administrator

APPROVED:



