

Marias River Watershed Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2009
1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Marias River Electric Hospitality Room

Chairman Paul Kronebusch called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. those present were:

Paul Kronebusch, Chairman MRW
Ramsey Offerdal, PCCD
Kody Farkell, PCCD Administrator
Anne Wright, NRCS
Stan Huhtala, BOR
John Wendt, BOR
Jane Holzer, MSCA
Dennis DeVries, RC&D
Elisha Dempsey, Volunteer
Gary Olson, FWP
Sara Shepard, TCCD Administrator

Marias Clean-Up Event Report

A Marias Cleanup meeting was held before this meeting. Paul Kronebusch announced that the project was coming along well. There seems to be enough money for the food. Stan Huhtala, is looking into the sanitizers for everyone. There won't be time for a logo to be imprinted on the sanitizers. Give away items or door prizes are also coming along with enough from each area.

The Kountry Kids 4-H Club, stationed at Devon, will receive hot dogs, donated by Mountain View Coop. The Triangle Sportsman group will be at North Bootlegger and will need a box of burgers, buns, and chips. Willow Creek will be hosted by Sara Shepard, Amy Kaiser NRCS, and Elisha Dempsey. The Marina will be hosted by Denise Frey, Dawn Wickum and Anne Wright. South Bootlegger will be hosted by Paul Kronebusch, and Marlene Moon, LCCD Administrator, and Kody Farkell will host the VFW park where the barbeque will also be served.

There will be sign up sheets for people to sign in and out on to make sure everyone returns safely. There will be signs posted that will tell people that they have to go higher up if a cell phone is needed. We could use 14 boats, but at this point there are only 5 or 6 boats coming.

Sara Shepard will order 5 boxes of ¼ lb. burgers with 40 patties per box. This should feed 150 to 170 people with a few extra burgers to go around. Marlene Moon will loan out a couple of roasters for the baked beans.

A board will be put up and anyone that has donated items for this project, volunteered their time, will have their names put on a fish and then mounted on the board.

Anyone who brings will be asked to make sure it is clean to keep the weed problem down.

Organizational Business

The minutes of the March 11, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Finding nothing wrong Ramsey Offerdal moved to accept the minutes presented, John Wendt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The grant funds were reviewed

Marlene Moon had asked about creating a logo for the MRW for stationary, cards, etc. Dennis DeVries RC&D suggested having the schools design the logo. He mentioned that the Milk Rivers Schools had done a contest and offered a \$100.00 prize to the winner or the school. John Wendt moved to have a \$100.00 prize for a logo contest, Jane Holzer MSCA seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Reports

RC&D: Dennis DeVries gave a report on the 25 x 25 conference he attended in Washington D.C. There were about 150 to 160 people attending this conference; half were conservation districts and the rest were professors. There were a lot concepts on how much energy can be produce by wind and solar power as well as, where these transmission lines should be. No one had a clear idea on how to get projects off the ground, though.

Carbon sequestration, woody biomass, and wind were the three main topics. As far as wind goes Montana is ahead of most of the nation and Iowa is the biggest wind generator in the nation.

Other involvements for the RC&D are – Thursday the 16th of April there will be a phone conference meeting. Politics are getting heavy at the Museum of the Rockies. Glacier Park will be having there 100th anniversary next year and RC&D are working on a project for then.

FWP: Gary Olson gave a short report concerning the Lincoln Ranch. The new name for this area is Marias River State Park Wildlife Management Area and will be open May 1st to the public. The McCormick access is the only access at this time. They have put in a parking area and quality outhouse at the location. Rules and regulations and maps are posted up and down the river.

Triangle Engineering is doing the boundary surveys and will be doing the McCormick Road. FWP anticipate 3 miles of new fence this year. They will also have cooperative agreements with Toole and Pondera County weed districts.

Erik Eneboe, DNRC Trust Land Management will be spraying weeds and working with insects to help control weeds on the ranch.

NRCS will hold a Range School doing plant inventory on the ranch this summer.

MSCA: Jane Holzer said that they were taking measurements 2 times a year on the P Canal.

Stan Huhtula discussed the Russian Olives project. Stan's new boss, Mike LeFrantz has been communicating with the Liberty County commissioners trying to smooth things over concerning the removal of Russian Olives removal last year. There need to be more trees planted to take the place of the ones removed. Tree orders this year were short on Buffalo Berry.

Stan also encouraged people to invite new people for the float trip of the Marias River on June 18th.

There were no Regional Reports.

Next meeting will be May 5th at 1:00 to 4:00, Marias River Electric Hospitality Room.