

**Jefferson River Watershed Council (JRWC)
February 24, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 PM USDA Service Center, Whitehall**

Present

Gary Nelson, Troy Smith, John Kountz, Tim Mulligan, Ronnie Maurer, Jodi Kountz, Ted Dodge

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September JRWC meeting were approved with no changes.

Announcements

Ted announced that the Golden Sunlight had provided another \$6,500 grant for the stream gauging station maintenance and for a restoration project underway by the FWP.

John ask that the JRWC look into the opportunity provided by the USFS request for comments on road construction related to the Highland mine. John believes this may offer an opportunity to get work done on the Fish creek project. Ted said he would contact Ron Spoon and look into it.

Ted also announced that the proposed USGS Precipitation Runoff Model development in the Missouri Headwaters was submitted to the new Department of the Interior Program, "Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. He will send the Board a copy of the proposal.

Other Business

Proposed JRWC Water monitoring program.

Jodi Kountz distributed and reviewed a proposal which she had prepared at the request of Ted for the development of volunteer water quality monitoring program in the Northern portion of the watershed. The board then asks questions related to the proposed program.

Ronnie Maurer presented a map with the proposed monitoring locations. Ted reviewed the available funding to begin the effort, along with the concurrent efforts by the JRWC, the Montana Watercourse and the Whitehall Schools. John announced that the Golden sunlight had agreed to purchase a key piece of equipment and loan it to the JRWC.

The Board authorized the completion of task one.

Proposed 319 project on Pipestone Creek

As the discussion shifted to Pipestone Creek That item on the agenda was moved to the next item. Ted presented the Board with three studies that had been done in the early eighties. He proposed that with the help of the local NRCS that the studies could be revisited and used to develop a 319 grant request for restoration work. Ronnie stated that he and laurel would reshoot some of the key sections with the commencement of field work spring. As the Watershed restoration plan has been submitted to the DEQ along with the JRWC should be in position to complete for 319 funding. The addition of the water quality monitoring program should make for a strong proposal.

USDA/NRCS Watershed initiative

Ronnie spoke the status of the initiative. He stated that several landowners had come in to talk to him about the proposed initiative and that he planned to start meeting with landowners to begin development of the program proposal to the NRCS this fall.

At the conclusion of the agenda items Tim reviewed his concerns about some propose legislation relating to irrigation structures and fishing access. He has written letter to Sen. Murphy and ask the other Board members to look at the legislation as well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM