

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/20/05
HB 6, 8

*Custer County Conservation District
3120 Valley Drive East
Miles City, MT 59301*

May 7, 1997

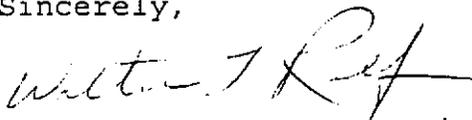
Dave Schwartz
Buffalo Rapids
P.O. Box 511
Terry, MT 59349

Dear Dave:

We, the Custer County Conservation District strongly support Buffalo Rapids proposal to become an EQIP priority area. With nearly 10% of the Buffalo Rapids project being in Custer County, it is a primary concern of the district to increase the overall efficiency of the Buffalo Rapids project.

We feel that Buffalo Rapids concerns, goals, and objectives are both realistic and obtainable. This project will have very positive effects on Montana and Custer County's natural resources. Thus, we support Buffalo Rapids becoming an EQIP priority area.

Sincerely,



Custer County Conservation District
Walter Rolf, Chairman



Dawson County Conservation District
102 Fir Street - Glendive, Montana 59330

May 23, 1997

Dave Schwarz
Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project
PO Box 511
Terry, MT 59349

Dear Mr. Schwarz;

This is to inform you and Buffalo Rapids board members that the Dawson County Conservation District is in full support of Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project's proposal of improving the efficiency of their conveyance system.

We also support the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project proposal as a 1998 priority project area and funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

We wish the best of luck in your funding efforts and look forward to working more closely with you and the Buffalo Rapids Board of Control.

Sincerely,

Joe Sharbono,
DCCD Board Member

cc: Glendive NRCS Office

MAY 23-1997

FROM: PRAIRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO. BOX 622
TERRY, MT. 59349

TO: DAVE SCHWARTZ
BUFFALO RAPIDS
PO BOX 511
TERRY, MT. 59349

RE: EQUIP PRIORITY AREA PROPOSAL

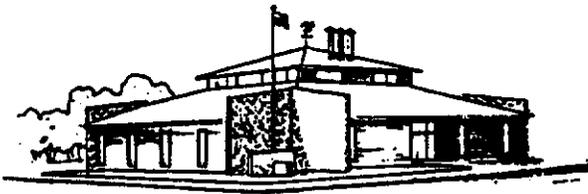
DEAR DAVE:

PRAIRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO STRONGLY LEND ITS SUPPORT TO BUFFALO RAPIDS PROPOSAL TO BECOME AN EQUIP PRIORITY AREA. BUFFALO RAPIDS GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND CONCERNS ARE IN DIRECT CORRELATION WITH PRAIRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS LONG RANGE PLAN FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF PRAIRIE COUNTY AND THE STATE TO ADDRESS AND INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE BUFFALO RAPIDS PROJECT. WITH 23% OF BUFFALO RAPIDS PROJECT BEING IN PRAIRIE COUNTY THE RESULTING INCREASE IN IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIROMENT IN PRAIRIE COUNTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,



PRAIRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DAVE STROBEL, CHAIRMAN



STATE BANK of TERRY

P.O. BOX 6 • TERRY, MONTANA 59349
(406) 635-5591 • (406) 635-5592
Fax (406) 635-2137

ALBERT S. BRUBAKER, President
SIDNEY K. BRUBAKER, Executive Vice President
R. GARY RYTI, Vice President
JERE L. FREIBOTH, Cashier
AVIS SPIDEL, Assistant Cashier
RENE CLARKE, Assistant Cashier

April 17, 1998

Montana DNRC
Resource Development Bureau
P.O. Box 201601
1625 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-1601

Gentlemen:

I am writing in regard to the proposal by Buffalo Rapids irrigation project to replace the first 450 feet of discharge line at the Terry plant with the help of an EQIP grant. I have lived in Terry for 51 years and have been involved with the bank for 28 years. During this time I have been very familiar with Buffalo Rapids and understand the economic benefit that they provide to the local farmers and businesses.

Prior to the formation of Buffalo Rapids, the Yellowstone River valley in our area was made up of sagebrush flats that could only support a very limited number of people. Since the project was installed the same area has become very productive farmland supporting many farmers and their families along with the local businesses. Improvements in the project, such as those being proposed, can only improve the economic value of the project and enhance the environment as well.

The proposed project would reduce the amount of water diverted from the river leaving more instream flow. This would be accomplished by reducing the amount of water lost in the system while still supplying as much or more to the farmers. By diverting less water it would reduce the amount of power used at the pumping station. Any reduction in power usage would benefit the environment along with reducing costs to the area farmers.

In closing I would like to state that Buffalo Rapids is vital to our area. Any improvements in the project will not only help the farmers in our area but the businesses as well. I would like to give my support along with that of the State Bank of Terry to the project.

Sincerely,

Sidney K. Brubaker Ex. V.P.

**BUFFALO RAPIDS PRIORITY AREA
Local Working Group**

Phone: (406) 635-5586
FAX: (406) 635-5412

Highway 253 Box 907
Terry, Montana 59349

April 27, 1998

Montana DNRC
Resource Development Bureau
P.O. Box 201601
1625 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-1601

To Those Concerned:

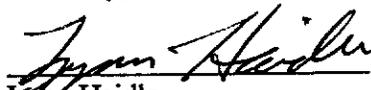
We strongly support Buffalo Rapids' continuing efforts to attain the goals outlined in their 1997 EQIP proposal. This proposal, to increase the efficiency of the Terry pump discharge lines, is directly related to the goals and objectives of that endeavor.

With Buffalo Rapids playing such a significant role in the economy of Custer, Dawson and Prairie Counties, it is imperative that its future solvency be assured. Increased in-stream flow resulting in less sedimentation and power use directly contribute to the conservation of Montana's resources.

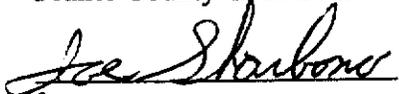
Buffalo Rapids Project has been a leader in conservation of natural and financial resources. The project possesses a well rounded and experienced work force which has substantial heavy equipment and machine shop experience. Many miles of pipeline have been installed over the past 20 years by this same crew.

We the undersigned members of the Buffalo Rapids Priority Area, Local Working Group, strongly support this proposal and urge your careful consideration.

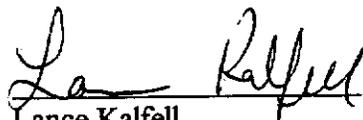
Sincerely,


Lynn Haidle

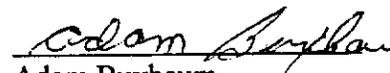
Prairie County Conservation District



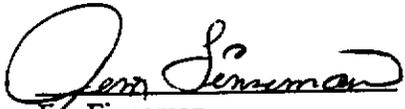
Joe Sharbono
Dawson County Conservation District


Lance Kalfell

FSA Prairie County Committee



Adam Buxbaum
FSA Dawson County Committee



Jim Finneman
Custer County Conservation District



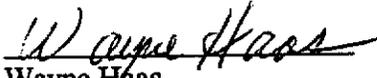
Ray Strasheim
BRP Board of Control President



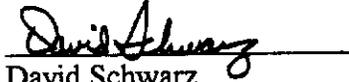
Walt Jenny
BRP District II President

Signatory not available

FSA Custer County Committee



Wayne Haas
BRP District I President



David Schwarz
Chairperson

PRAIRIE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 907
Terry, Montana 59349

February 25, 2002

To Those Concerned:

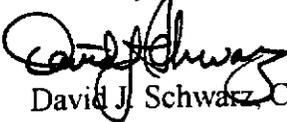
The Prairie County Economic Development Council is pleased to write a letter of support for Buffalo Rapids' RRGLP proposal for this funding cycle.

Buffalo Rapids provides a significant portion of the economic base for Prairie, Dawson, and Custer Counties. It is the single largest employer in the county and provides a large portion of the tax base.

The Project has been involved in increasing its efficiencies and upgrading existing infrastructures. Their work is to be commended as it benefits all in the Lower Yellowstone Valley.

The Council strongly supports Buffalo Rapids' proposal. This irrigation project is the most significant thing which has happened to date in Prairie County. We simply cannot afford to be without it.

Sincerely,



David J. Schwarz, Chair



117 Logan P.O. Box 6 • Terry, Montana 59349-0006
406-635-5591 FAX 406-635-2137

3/26/2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to write a letter of support for the Glendive #1 pump house refit that was approved and initiated this year. The Buffalo Rapids Project is located in Custer, Prairie and Dawson Counties in eastern Montana and parallels the Yellowstone River for 64 miles. The Glendive Unit includes the northern two thirds of the area (approximately 43 miles) and begins north of Fallon, Montana on the north side of the Yellowstone River and runs just north of Glendive, Montana.

The Glendive #1 pump house is the primary lift station for two thirds of the entire irrigation infrastructure of the Buffalo Rapids Project. The pump house was originally built in 1937, but was fitted with surplus electric motors built in 1903 and surplus pumps. Over the years repair and maintenance costs have been substantial to keep this pump station operational. Last year, one of the 3 electric motors became non-functional and essentially non-repairable. One of the other motors has had a long time problem with vibrations, which has created concerns about future reliability. My understanding is that two pumps have been used so long and repaired so many times that it is believed they are in danger of failing.

I believe the Commissioners of Irrigation District#1 realize there is a potential danger of catastrophic failure of one or more motors, pumps or a combination of both. The farmers, whom are affected, have realized this also and recently approved the refitting of the pump station along with the increased assessments to finance the project.

All parties concerned realize that if there is an interruption in service, there could be an equally catastrophic financial impact to both the farmers and people in our area if the pump station becomes inoperable.

I support the Glendive #1 pump house refit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Pisk", is written over the typed name.

Ron Pisk, President
Terry Office



**PRAIRIE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
P.O. Box 622
Terry, Montana 59349
Phone: (406) 635-5868
Fax: (406) 635-4210
E-mail: sbrown@mt.nrcs.usda.gov

APRIL 25, 2002

TO: BUFFALO RAPIDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HIGHWAY 253
TERRY, MT. 59349

FROM: PRAIRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO BOX 622
TERRY, MT. 59349

RE: RENEWABLE RESOURCE LOAN & GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BUFFALO
RAPIDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

The Prairie County Conservation District would like to lend our full support for the Renewable Resource Loan and Grant application being submitted by the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District. Buffalo Rapids Project is one of the most pro-active and progressive irrigation projects in the state. It is totally committed to water conservation, efficiency and repairing the infrastructure of the project. Prairie County Conservation District supports their mission fully. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
The Board of Supervisors, Prairie County Cons. District

Sandra K Brown - District Administrator

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF MONTANA

Southeast Project Office • 208 North Broadway, Suite 402 • PO Box 1047 • Billings, Montana 59103 • (406) 256-7512 • FAX (406) 256-7526 • Burt_Williams@tnc.org

May 1, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program grant application to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). I believe that Dave Schwarz has developed precisely the sort of program needed to support eastern Montana's farm economy, while doing so in an environmentally beneficial way. In Prairie County agriculture is the single largest employer, and the economic benefits are particularly critical. We not only support this project, we believe you could help the cause of environmentally responsible and compatible development by using the Buffalo Rapids project as a demonstration project leading the way to smarter use of Montana's river systems across the state.

From what I understand, the previously completed portions of this project have already realized considerable efficiency in the use of irrigation water, enabling farmers all along the system to receive sufficient water in a more timely way. The indirect effects of better irrigation methods, in addition to more efficient delivery of water, minimizes leaching of soil bound salts and runoff of agricultural chemicals into wetlands, thus multiplying the renewable resource effects. The use of the projected grant proceeds as part of the funding to replace pumps and other water lifting equipment and gate valves will improve the project's infrastructure, thus ensuring the beneficial effects of the project on into the foreseeable future.

In addition, the Yellowstone River in particular benefits from this appropriate use of DNRC's grant program. The lands bordering the river along its entire course are over 80% in private ownership. Incentives such as those provided by your program are important means of encouraging people to take voluntary measures to improve their use of river water.

Risks to the continued good biological condition of the Yellowstone are rising. Recent years have witnessed extremes on the Yellowstone: high flood waters and record low flows. Both extremes have in turn produced greater intervention in the natural flow of the river by human projects. A project like that of the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District, which ultimately allows more instream flow to support fisheries, aquatic life, and the riparian environment benefits Montanans in all walks of life.

The Nature Conservancy's Southeast Montana office strongly supports this grant application, and the general work of the Buffalo Rapids project. Our organization has as one of its principal goals biologically compatible human development. The Buffalo Rapids project is one that makes both sides of this goal achievable—increased economic activity and better environmental compatibility.

Sincerely,



Burt Williams
Southeast Montana Project Manager

Prairie County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 667
Terry, MT 59349

April 29, 2002

Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
PO Box 201601
1625 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1601

To Whom It May Concern:

Prairie County is fortunate to have the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project as a catalyst for development and implementation of water conservation projects. Supporting their efforts to replace turn of the century motors, pumps starters and gat valves will provide the financial assistance to make this a successful project.

This project provides for the continued viability of Buffalo Rapids. The upgrading of the infrastructure is necessary for the future. The improvements will provide increased efficiency of water use to producers while reducing the leaching of chemicals and nutrients into the groundwater and the Yellowstone River. The net effect of this is increasing in-stream flows benefiting the fish and wildlife along the river corridor.

Conservation and improvement of water is not the only benefit that Prairie County and the state of Montana receive from approving this grant and loan application. Buffalo Rapids is the largest employer in Prairie County, is a significant portion of our tax base and from that is a major supporter of our local economy. The Prairie County Chamber of Commerce provides this letter of recommendation as a continued show of support for Buffalo Rapids.

We believe that Buffalo Rapids serves not only the natural resource interests of the state, but also the continued support of our community. In Eastern Montana there is very little to show in the economic arena. The receipt of this grant and loan for Buffalo Rapids will have a direct effect on this economic region.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Elisa Leach
President
Prairie County Chamber of Commerce
(406) 635-4770



Mr. Dave Schwarz
Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District
12 Highway 253
Box 907
Terry, MT 59349

May 1, 2002

Dear Dave,

We appreciated the chance to hear about your current proposal and continued efforts to improve irrigation efficiency of the Buffalo Rapids project. We believe that Buffalo Rapids is setting the pace for irrigation Districts on the Yellowstone River. As we learn more about the Yellowstone we begin to understand better the need for modernizing irrigation with techniques that are river friendly and help producers. We are pleased that you are putting up to date irrigation technology into practice. When we are efficient with water, chemicals and nutrients we all benefit particularly farm families and the communities that depend on them. Please let us know if there is any support we can give to your project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Penfold".

Mike Penfold
Chairman

Current Forum Membership

P Sierra Club	Montana Wilderness Association
P Montana Wildlife Assoc.	Billings Rod and Gun Club
P Magic City Fly Fishers	Yellowstone River Parks Assoc.
P Nature Conservancy	Public Land Access Assoc.
P Amrican Rivers	Trout Unlimited, Montana Council
P Northern Plains Resource Council	Cottonwood Resource Council
P Bear Creek Council	Bikenet
P Audubon Society	Montana Parks Assoc.
P Mid Yellowstone Land Trust	Scenic America
P Yellowstone Valley Coordinating Council	