

EXHIBIT

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JAN 28, 2011

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Sweet Grass County Conservation District

Sweet Grass CD – Big Timber Creek Channel Stabilization Project

-Ranked # 23 - RRGL Ranked List

-Page 62 Legislative Budget Book

Hearing Date: Friday, January 28, 2011

Presenters:

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Pioneer Technical Engineers
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Billings, Montana 59102
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Warren Kellogg, Watershed Specialist
Warren Kellogg Stream & Watershed Consulting
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Clancy, Montana 59634
406/933-8676

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee...

For the record, my name is Dan Rostad and I represent the Sweet Grass County Conservation District in Big Timber.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the District and the Big Timber Creek – Swamp Creek Watershed Group who have submitted this Renewable Resource Grant application for the Big Timber Creek Channel Stabilization Project for your consideration.

With me today is Chad Raisland, who served as the lead engineer to develop a full scale analysis of the conditions that have brought on this problematic erosion issue and develop several solution alternatives including the one presented in this project application

Also with me is Warren Kellogg who provided the professional services that documented comprehensive Reconnaissance Stream Corridor Assessment report of Big Timber Creek and its tributaries. Warren has been invaluable in providing advice and guidance based upon his many years with NRCS and working with local watershed groups on stream issues such as this.

We are pleased that our project application has ranked so high overall in this process and are here to encourage your support for funding this important project.

This has been a long process for the watershed group and conservation district which has involved many meetings with all involved including representatives of all the appropriate permitting agencies, adjacent landowners, irrigators, ranchers and the Sweet Grass County Commission.

Certainly the ranking report shows that this project is well-merited and well-planned. This project provides the foothold for an overall bigger process that will address further long-term solutions created by previous high water events that have left this stretch of the creek filled with high volumes of bed load and very unstable channel delineation.

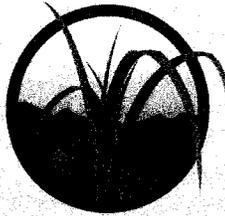
Right after we submitted this application earlier this summer, the district and watershed group hosted a meeting and site tour for this project that included representatives from the Sweet Grass County Commission, Montana DEQ, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Army Corps of Engineers and the Sweet Grass County Floodplain Director. This lengthy discussion provided further suggestions for upstream mitigation efforts that will reinforce the work we hope to accomplish with this project.

I am confident that the reason we were ranked so highly with our project application includes the in-depth preparation taken that provided this solution option and the overwhelming support and participation we received from all involved. We submitted more than a dozen letters of support with our application.

Providing a solution for this water management problem will secure a vital renewable resource for the three irrigation diversions and the many acres served by them. It will also protect a beautiful natural forest gallery that would be destroyed if this stream migration is allowed to cut loose and abandon its natural stream channel that would open up a deep cut and destroy existing habitat.

We would be happy to answer any questions and address any concerns you may have. I would like to address one remark listed under the Technical Approach in the Ranking Report. Paragraph 2 – Sentence 2 is not relevant concerning this project since Swamp Creek Road is not the root cause of the channel instability. Mr. Kellogg & Mr. Raisland can address this remark and any other technical, resource, project or environmental concerns.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Thank you for allowing us to present our project application this morning. We would be happy to answer your questions!



Sweet Grass
COUNTY

Office of the County Commissioners

*Susie Mosness
Rick Reed
Bill Wallace*

January 27, 2011

Dear Chairman Mc Nutt and members of the Long Range Planning Appropriations,

Sweet Grass County Commissioners would like to go on record to support the Big Timber Creek Channel Stabilization Renewable Resources Grant application. We are very pleased to hear how high this was ranked by the reviewing committee.

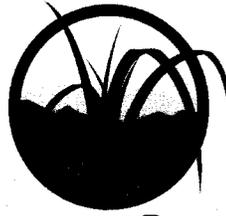
Sweet Grass County has been supportive of the Big Timber/Swamp Creek Watershed Association, Sweet Grass County Conservation District and Pioneer Engineering in the extensive preparation for this project. Countless hours have been spent pulling all the various state and federal agencies as well as many landowners, to gain the appropriate permits.

This project will benefit and preserve existing riparian habitat, also allowing irrigators to continue using the three diversion structures in this part of Big Timber Creek. Bank stabilization would preserve fisheries, irrigated farmland and allow safe access for the residents and recreational users on the Swamp Creek Road.

Sweet Grass County plans on providing some in kind support to this project, we urge you to fully fund this project.

Sincerely

Susan Mosness, chair
Sweet Grass Co. Commission



Sweet Grass COUNTY

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BIG TIMBER CREEK CHANNEL STABILIZATION PROJECT – CONCEPTUAL PLAN



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