



Ripples from the River

Summary of the 03/14/2017 meeting at Rib & Chop Miles City, MT

New member: Replacing Bob Hector, longtime Yellowstone CD supervisor who resigned due to health issues, will be Leroy Gabel. Jerry Williams will continue to serve as alternate.

Election: Don Youngbauer will continue to serve as Chairman, John Moorhouse was elected vice chairman.

Working groups: Two working groups have been formed: Irrigation Water Management work group, chaired by David Pratt and Sarah Meloy and the Invasive Woody Plant Control work group, which is still being organized. Local Districts can participate in these working groups by providing representation to the working groups' discussion and planning process.

Common Buckthorn: Attention was drawn to this new invader shrub as it has been seen in Montana, getting a good handle on it before it spreads is imperative.

Plank Stewardship Initiative: John Heyneman, Chairman of this organization was in attendance to inform the Council of the services that can be provided by this group. John is interested in partnering with conservation districts and other groups. There are programs for financial assistance, estate planning, riparian restoration and bank stabilization. Information will be sent to local CD offices.

******Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2017 in Billings, MT.