

VTS Project Stakeholders meeting  
18 August 2005  
DakotaFest, Farm Bureau tent

Attendance:

Jodie Hettinger, Scott Jones, Mike Schmidt, Kenneth Taylor, Dennis Clarke, Sara Smith, Ron Gelderman, Mike Schmidt, Wayne Smith, Todd Trooien

Clearance for Threatened and Endangered Species issues has been obtained, thanks to the efforts of Dennis Clarke. Dennis and Ken will collectively address any issues that remain with NRCS.

A Conservation grant from the state has been obtained thanks to the efforts of the sponsor, the Miner Conservation District. These funds will be used as cost-share for the construction of the Haakon site.

Updates of the five research sites were presented. The Haakon site is in the design phase at SDSU. The Roberts site is in the last part of the design phase with NRCS. Funds from the PL-566 program will be used for cost-share at the Roberts site, not EQIP funds. The Meade site is under construction. The Miner and McCook sites have been operating this summer.

Grass yield and management research has commenced under the direction of Dr Arvid Boe and Martine Zamy, graduate student. The smooth brome at the Miner site has already yielded more than 3.5 tons per acre this year. Yields this far are summarized in the written informal update of August 2005. An additional \$20k of research funds appears to be secured from EPA via DENR to perform grass research beyond the scope of the original proposal.

Microbiology (coliforms) research has also commenced, under the direction of Dr Bruce Bleakley and Martine Zamy. VTA inflow and outflow coliform concentrations have been measured in 2005.

The web site has been established at SDSU and will be used a primary method of communication. It is located at <http://abe.sdstate.edu/vts>. The landowners will be contacted to make sure they are comfortable with the information available at the web site. The stakeholders present were comfortable with the amount of information at the web site.

Dennis Clarke updated the group on the probably next step for the phosphorus index research.

The next stakeholders meeting will be held in conjunction with the Cattleman's Convention in Sioux Falls in November.