The SARC Board Meeting was called to order at 10:18 AM by Terral Balzer.

Members Present: Dr. Ken Kephart  David Wichman, Terral Balzer, Mike Bernhardt, Kim Nile  Greg Lackman, Kenny Lee, Tom Fischer, Walter Hudyma, Tony Zinne, Neal Fehringer, Carter Milkovich, Dr. Tom McCoy, Dennis Newton, Daniel L. Krum, Steve Rosh, Robert Story (for Dave Kelsey).

Guests Present: Bill Kennedy (Yellowstone Co. Commissioner), Taylor Brown (Northern Broadcasting), Becky Robison (Yellowstone County News), John Pulasky (Northern Broadcasting).

Members Excused: Dave Kelsey

Terral introduced Dr. Ken Kephart as the new superintendent of SARC.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Mike Bernhardt and approved.

Neal Fehringer gave a report on the last State Advisory Committee meeting.

Tom McCoy reiterated MSU's commitment to reopening SARC, keeping it funded adequately and staffing it with 4 1/2 staff members, starting July 1, 1998. The staff will consist of a two initial faculty research positions, farm foreman, secretary/clerical, technician, and any additional faculty that is necessary.

Moved by Kim Nile and seconded by Mike Bernhardt  that the committee resolve to pursue hiring an extension crop specialist to get the information from the SARC out to the people in the state.  Passed.

Dr. Kephart agreed to write a letter to Dr. Charles Rush, Interim Montana Cooperative Extension Service Director, concerning this matter.

Dr. Kephart gave a discussion on the status of the buildings at SARC. He reported on which ones were demolished or removed and the status of the remaining buildings.

Dr. McCoy stated that a request for $500,000 for two new buildings have been given the highest priority by the College of Agriculture at Bozeman.

Dr. Kephart reported that the bridge across the main canal should be replaced. He also has plans to computerize the weather station and move it from it's present location across Highway 312 to an area south of the existing buildings.

Break for lunch.

Discussion was held on the dairy barn. Suggestions were made on acquiring funds from concerned citizens for the upkeep of the barn.

Dr. Kephart presented his priorities on SARC research for the 97/98 crop year.

Discussion was held on what specialty we should look at for a second faculty person. Moved by Walt Hudyma and seconded by Mike Bernhardt that we ask for a weed scientist as the second faculty member at SARC. Passed.

Bill Kennedy offered what help he could give on the bridge that is bad over the irrigation canal. Bill has asked that the County Bridge Engineer review the situation and discuss with him what options may exist in having the county help with repair of the bridge.
Plans were made to have a meeting and meal with the area legislative candidates before the primary election. Neil Fehringer agreed to chair a subcommittee charged with planning this event.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bernhardt, Secretary
SARC Advisory Committee