The SARC Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:17 AM by Chairman Terral Balzer with the introduction of guests. Ken Kephart introduced Tom Fischer, SARC Farm Foreman and Research Assistant, and the two newest members of the SARC staff: Ms. Peggy Lamb, Research Associate of Agronomy hired in February, 1999; and Dr. Jim “Mick” Mickelson, Assistant Professor of Weed Science hired this past September.

Members Present: Terral Balzer, Mike Bernhardt, Paul Dixon, Neal Fehringer, Tom Fischer, Mike Greytak, Mikol Hjelvik, Walt Hudyma, Dave Kelsey, Ken Kephart, Darrel Krum, Peggy Lamb, Glen Leonhardt, Mick Mickelson, Dennis Newton, Kim Nile, Steve Rosh, Todd Yeager, Tony Zinne.

Members Excused: Greg Lackman, Carter Miklovich, Rodney Jabs.

Guest Present: Dr. Sharron Quisenberry, Dean of the College of Agriculture/Director MAES; Dr. Dave Bryant, Dean/Director MSU Extension Service; John Pulasky, Northern Broadcasting; Bill Kennedy, Jim Reno and Ziggy Zeigler, Yellowstone County Commission; Rebecca Robinson, Yellowstone County News; Wade Malchow, Coors Brewing Company.

Minutes of the November 24th, 1998 meeting were read by Secretary Mike Bernhardt. Mike Greytak moved to accept minutes as amended, seconded by Mike Bernhardt. Motion carried.

Old Business

Dr. Sharron Quisenberry, Dean/Director MAES gave her report. Dr. Quisenberry presented her plan on dealing with the budget shortfall of MAES. She also reported on her efforts to see that all the MAES faculty is paying their way, or they will be out the door.

Dr. David Bryant, Dean/Director Montana Cooperative Extension Service gave his report on proposed Extension support of MAES. He also requested input on how the Extension could help SARC. Walt Hudyma moved that we pursue a marketing development specialist through the extension service to be available at SARC. Seconded, passed.

Terral Balzer and Neal Fehringer gave a report on the State Advisory Committee. Neal reported he is resigning his position from both the SARC and state advisory committees.

Ken Kephart presented the Superintendent's report. Dr. Kephart gave the current status on faculty, professional, and classified positions at SARC. He announced that Jim Krall, former SARC Superintendent from 1958 to 1971, has initiated the “Southern Agricultural Research Center Foundation” and contributed an initial $500 to the fund. Dr. Kephart also discussed the crop leases and the problems with the underground fuel tank leakage in the past, and negotiations with the Montana State Department of Environmental Quality. He brought up the current facility situation, and discussed the new on-site weather station. Ken then discussed the crop research that was done in 1999. Field Day is set for July 12, 2000.

New Business

Mick Mickelson, SARC Weed Scientist, gave a discussion on weed science research at SARC, and solicited advice on weed problems that need pursuing. Dr. Mickelson shared plans to bulk mail a weeds survey to south central Montana farmers this winter.
Constitutional changes were brought up by Terral Balzer. Efforts will be made to fill all vacancies and equalize county membership on the advisory committee. Copies of the proposed constitution and bylaws with all changes and corrections will be mailed out as soon as possible by Ken Kephart. Ken Kephart noted that Carbon and Musselshell Counties each have vacancies on the advisory committee.

Moved and seconded that Terral become regular State Representative. Motion passed.

Kim Nile and Mike Greytak volunteered to serve as alternates.

Current executive committee members Terral Balzer, Chairman, Greg Lackman, Vice Chairman, and Mike Bernhardt, Secretary, were reelected.

Meeting adjourned, 3:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bernhardt, Secretary
SARC Advisory Committee