

November 17, 2014 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Supervisors present: Jim Pfeifer, Ron Johnson, and Tom Wolles

Absent: Reid Christopherson, Jeff Oyen, Jim Jackson, Gordon Heber, and Greg Schneiders

Others present: John Parker, Deron Ruesch, Brian Top, Denise Fletcher, and Barry Berg

Agenda: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

Minutes of October meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

Accounts Receivable: Reviewed at meeting.

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS:

Our current backlog is about 45 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. This includes consultant requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

A few requests are being processed.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Payments are still being processed. 10 CSP reviews are in process.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Sign-up deadline is 11-21-14. Payments are being processed. 22 contract reviews are being conducted.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No report.

Central Big Sioux Water Project (Skunk Creek Project): Barry Berg

Project Segment 2 – Total linear ft. of 77,054 (14.6 miles). There are 11.1 miles of SRAM, and 3.2 miles of CRP. 176 acres (2.5 miles of SRAM are lined up for next spring. We should hear by early December whether the RCPP project is accepted for funding. (This announcement was delayed).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Elections:

Pfeifer was re-elected to the board.

2. Profit and Loss for each Service:

John presented a spreadsheet. Mowing is showing a loss. Seed sales are negative, but should be offset by accounts receivable. All other services are showing a profit.

3. Price Increase for Services:

The Board decided to review the price list and discuss at the next meeting.

4. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.):**
305 hours of bio-solids were completed in October. All grass seeding in Minnehaha County is done. There are 2 to do in Lincoln County and 1 to do in Union County (for terraces). 120 acres are planned for spring. 10 to 12 acres of tree planting is planned for next year.
5. **Grant Information (Tech. grant, tree renovation grant, native grass restoration grant, and vegetation grant-Bly Brothers):**

The tech. grant was extended for 2015-2016 - \$21,048.00. The vegetative grant-Bly Brothers work was completed.
6. **Equipment Review:**
The 10 foot drill needs basic maintenance. The 15 foot drill needs cleaning. Everything else looks good, except the fabric machine.
7. **Safety and Benefits Meeting:**
Held in Pierre on November 12th. Good information at the meeting. Brought up discussion about lack of worker's compensation coverage for volunteers.
8. **Contribution Agreement:**
Deron and John have not sent in the first reimbursement claim yet. They will get together to get this completed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Leadership Meeting – January 2015:**
Meeting will be held on January 7-8 at the AmericInn in Chamberlain. Dave White, chief of NRCS, will speak. The registration fee is \$25.00/person. John has the sign-up sheet. Sign-up deadline is 12-31-14.
2. **Re-working the Fabric Machine:**
Discs on the front and back would be better than the plowshares that are on it now. The depth wheel needs some work as well. John will start working on gathering parts, etc. Work to be done at Tom Wolles' place in the heated shop.
3. **Health Insurance:**
According to the Insurance Connection report, the same coverage (with Blue Cross Blue Shield) next year will cost \$715.60, up from \$713.60 this year. Continue plan and coverage.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS – none

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Larry Olsen, FSA, invited the Board to a December 18th potluck lunch.
2. Melanie Raine wants to stay on as the web site manager and grant assistant. She would like to be issued a 1099 for her services in the future.
3. West Central post-prom party donation request was received. No action was taken.
4. Board received a letter of congratulation for completing the vegetative grant work.
5. Presentation was given by Kyle Acord of Dakota Access Pipeline, explaining a proposed crude oil pipeline being planned. The proposed route runs west of Wall Lake on Conservation District land. This would require a 50' wide permanent easement and a 150' wide construction easement. Kyle will get answers to Board members' questions and report back.

MSP to adjourn at 5:32 pm by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 8, 2014 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee