

**April 13, 2015 Monthly Meeting**  
**USDA Service Center**  
**Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Ron Johnson, Jim Pfeifer, Tom Wolles, Jeff Oyen and Bob Woerman

**Absent:** None

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

**Agenda:** Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve with the addition of "Grant Update", item #4, under Old Business by Pfeifer and Oyen. All ayes.

**Minutes of April meeting:** Handed out. MSP to approve by Woerman and Wolles. All ayes.

**Treasurer's report:** Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.

**Bills:** Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Oyen and Pfeifer. 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. Nathan is working in Hamlin County for a few weeks. Eugene is working on wetland appeals and a few certifications in Minnehaha County.

***CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):***

Continuous CRP applications are being processed. FSA should have new soil rental rates by the end of April.

***CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):***

We are processing 13 applications. Annual practice reminder letters have been sent.

***ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):***

Two Honey Bee Pollinator applications were funded. More applications may yet be funded this year. Annual practice reminder letters have been sent.

***AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):***

The survey has been completed for our one easement. The deadline for new sign-ups is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:**

Barry explained the ranking and screening process that has been set up. There was discussion about the priority areas under the EQIP/RCPP program and the local screening questions. The tentative sign-up deadline is June 19<sup>th</sup>. MSP to approve Draft #3 (screening worksheet local questions) by Oyen and Wolles. All Ayes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**

Bio-solids soil sampling is occurring. A new \$125,000 bio-solids contract with the city was signed for 2015-2016. 42 acres of tree planting is planned so far. Bare root sales are up this year. 525 acres of grass are to be planted with the 15' drill and 250 acres are to be planted with the 10' drill. 125 acres of pasture spraying has been lined up.

2. **Update on Equipment**

The 10' and 15' drills are working well. We are waiting for the new spreader to arrive (for seeding terraces). There was discussion about a loader.

3. **Water Festival Recap**

Water festival went well; 2500 kids and 75 volunteers attended over the 2 days.

4. **Grant Update**

Discussion was held about the grant funds reimbursement that John has been working on.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Review City Contract**

2015 – 2016 Bio-solids contract with the City has been signed. Discussion was held about submitting a bid to the City of Sioux Falls for Wetland Management Services (maintenance and reports). This contract would start on 5-20-15. MS to make a proposal to the City by Pfeifer and Woerman. 2 ayes; 2 opposed; 1 abstained. Motion failed due to lack of majority.

2. **Gevik Site – School Usage**

The Sioux Falls School District wants to use the site for 2 weeks, the last week of May and the first week of June from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on weekdays for programming. The Master Gardeners and Isaak Walton League will help with volunteers. About 600 students and 50 teachers would be involved.

3. **SB – 2 (Legislative Watershed Information)**

This bill passed the legislature and was signed into law on 3-16-15. Conservation Districts will eventually be formed into Watershed Districts, which will have taxing authority, over the next 12-24 months.

4. **Employee Pay Review (seasonal and regular)**

MSP by Wolles and Oyen at 5:56 p.m. to go into executive session and discuss this issue. MSP by Oyen and Pfeifer to give each employee a \$1.00/hr. raise. 4 ayes and 1 abstained. Johnson declared the session out at 6:15 p.m.

## **CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

MSP to sign agreements by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence – None

MSP to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. by Oyen and Wolles. All ayes.

**NO MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY; NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 8th, 2015 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Employee