

**February 9, 2015 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Supervisors present: Ron Johnson, Jim Pfeifer, and Jeff Oyen

Absent: Tom Wolles

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Brian Top, Mary Lou Lacey, Matt Johnson, Ryan Thompson, and Bob Woerman

Agenda: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve with the addition of Old Business Item – SB 2 (Senate Bill 2) by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Minutes of January meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Oyen. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Oyen. 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 Mary Lou Lacey:

WETLANDS:

Our current backlog is about 38 outstanding certified wetland determination requests and 1 potential wetland violation is being worked on. Assignments for spring field work are expected shortly.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

6 new applications have been taken.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

We are working with 3 producers to issue their 2015 payments. This will be done by March 6th. Contracts reviews must be completed on our existing 12 contracts by March 31st. Sign up deadline for FY 2015 is February 27th; to date, we have 9 applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

We are working on 31 applications for this batching period. Eligible applications will be screened by February 20th and ranked by March 6th. Only a few 2014 payments remain to be completed.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

Our 1 FY 2014 easement has been surveyed with the assistance of Mary Lou Lacey and Marcus Rock. A restoration plan will need to be developed for the wetlands and upland.

Big Sioux River Watershed Project – RCPP Report: Matt Johnson

Approximately 314.8 acres are to be enrolled into SRAM with the next year. A Media Day was held on January 16th to announce the approval of RCPP funding for the project.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids – About 1200 acres of soil sampling will be done this year. Estimating that 35 – 50 acres of trees will be planted. Approximately 200 acres of grass planting is planned.

2. Equipment Review (10 ft. drill)

Discussion about putting together a seeder for terraces. The 10 ft. drill and the 15 ft. drill will be repaired. Discs will be added to the back of the fabric machine.

3. Internship

Tom visited with Ag. And Wildlife departments at SDSU. They asked for a job description that they could post at the college. NRCS could also add in some tasks for their department. John will work on this.

4. Water Festival Volunteers and Workers (approximately 2500 students to attend - March 16-18)

A list of volunteers was presented to the board (approximately 60- 70 volunteers). MSP to approve the volunteer list by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

5. Website/Newsletter

10,000 copies of the newsletter were sent out and a copy was posted on the website.

6. SB-2 (Senate Bill 2)

Discussion about this bill that will be before the State Senate on Thursday, February 12th. John will forward more information as it is received.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Members and Advisors

Oyen was elected to a 4 year term. Pfeifer was elected to a 2 year term. Bob Woerman attended the meeting as a potential board member. MSP to appoint Bob Woerman as a board member (Rural Property Owner) to replace Reid Christopherson by Oyen and Pfeifer. All Ayes.

2. 2015 NACD Membership

MSD to pay the 2015 NACD membership fee at the Gold Level (\$775.00) by Woerman and Oyen. All ayes.

3. Ryan Thompson – High Resolution Mapping

Ryan Thompson of the US Geological Survey (USGS) presented information on a high-resolution mapping pilot project that is being conducted in Minnehaha County.

4. Joint Powers Contract

Joint power agreements with Turner, McCook and Lincoln Counties were presented for signatures.

5. Ag Day – March 21st at Pavilion (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

The District will participate in this event.

6. Loan Payment Approval for March Payments

This will be reviewed in March.

7. Employee Pay Review (seasonal and regular)

This will be reviewed in March.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

- Planning Department Open House in March
- Leadership Meeting March 3rd and 4th in Chamberlain

MSP to adjourn at 5:35 pm by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 9, 2015 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Employee