

February 8, 2016 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm

Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Supervisors present: Ron Johnson, Jeff Oyen, and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer and Tom Wolles

Advisors present: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Dana Loseke and Jim Jackson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Amy Richardson, Deron Ruesch, Matt Johnson, and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of January 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Oyen. All ayes.

Minutes of January 11th special meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Oyen. All ayes.

Treasurer's report, including Accounts Receivable: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Woerman and Oyen. All ayes.

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 16 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. The office has been fielding many calls about the Wetland Bank/Mitigation news articles.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

Office is processing Continuous CRP applications. The general CRP sign-up deadline is 2/26/16. FSA has 25 applications so far.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

3/31/16 is the batching deadline. All annual payments have been made for 2015. Contract reviews on existing contracts need to be completed by 3/31/16.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

8 applications need to be ranked and submitted by 2/23/16. Contract reviews on existing contracts need to be completed by 3/31/16.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

Ranking will be completed on 1 Wetland Reserve Easement application by 3/1/16.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Matt Johnson: There are a total of 266.5 potential SRAM acres for 2016. These acres would exclude approximately 38,596 linear feet (7.4 miles) of stream from livestock grazing. 5 Ag. Waste Management Systems are currently in design phase. 6 producers are showing interest in Ag. Waste Management Systems and have signed applications. 1.9 million dollars are now in the NRCS RCPP account, available for eligible expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Gevik Site Endowment**

A contract drawn up by the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation has been reviewed by the state's attorney for Minnehaha County. The west boundary fence of the site will need fixing. Ron will get someone to look into this.

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

A new Bio-solids contract with the City for 2016 in the amount of \$134,000 and potential for \$200,000 is ready to sign. 24 acres of tree planting is committed. 350 acres of native grass planting is planned. 400 acres with the 15' drill is planned. The newsletter has been sent out for 2016.

3. **Equipment and Drilling in Lincoln County**

Some changes have been made to the agreement. The Lincoln County Board will need to approve and sign it. An independent dealer appraisal was completed on the drill, but the results have not been received yet. John will follow up on this.

4. **Mitigation Site Information – Jeff Oyen**

Jeff checked with the Corps of Engineers to ensure that our board meeting minutes correctly reflected the mitigation site information.

5. **Water Festival (March 8 – 10 at USF)**

2450 4th graders are signed up to attend. A list of volunteers for the festival was approved for participation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board Elections – Jack Majeres**

Jack addressed the board about the election change proposal and said that current laws might be considered discriminatory. He took suggestions from the board about how to word a new proposal. John presented election petitions to board members who are up for re-election.

2. **Joint Powers Agreement**

A new agreement was signed between Moody and Minnehaha Conservation Districts.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

Discussion held about the Izaak Walton League Wildlife Habitat Award and the Department of Agriculture County Conservation Farm Award call for nominations. MSP to nominate individuals for both awards by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.

MSP to adjourn at 5:40 pm by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 14th, 2016 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant