

**April 14, 2014 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Jim Pfeifer, Reid Christopherson and Ron Johnson

Absent: Jeff Oyen, Tom Wolles

Others present: John Parker, Deron Ruesch, Gordon Heber, Brian Top, Amy Richards and Denise Fletcher

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

Minutes of March meetings: Handed out. MSP to approve by Christopherson and Johnson. All ayes.

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

Bills: Approved to pay with exception of Big Sioux Nursery. MSP to approve by Christopherson and Johnson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS:

Our current backlog is about 68 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

On hold.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

No new information.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

General EQIP ranking has been completed. 9 were ranked and 0 were funded. 1 Ag. Waste (Nutrient Management) plan was ranked and funded. Deron discussed getting Nutrient Management plans approved by the Conservation District. Working on applications for Honey Bee Initiative, Water Bank and Prairie Pothole programs.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

No new information.

OTHER NOTES:

Reid Christopherson will be resigning his position with the Board, as he has accepted a position in Pierre with the SD Wheat Commission. Will remain as an active member until a replacement is appointed, through December 2014. Will not run for Board position in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bio-Solids Update: A new 3 year contract will be signed with a 3% increase. We have not been able to find a probe.
2. Update on district services: Services are all on an increase from last year. Bare root tree sales are very good. 475 acres on drill so far; many more planned. 450 acres spraying to do.
3. Accounting services: Amy Richards is doing very well with this.
4. Gevik Learning Area: The sign is going up on Friday, April 18th.
5. Seed sales: Have sold about \$3,000 so far; we get 15%.
6. Website/QuickBooks: Melanie is entering order information on QuickBooks, so it can be retrieved later. Denise will type up minutes and send to Melanie to post on the website.
7. Wetland Work: Brian reported that the NRCS is looking at areas in nine Eastern SD counties that are behind on Wetland Determinations (over a year old) and putting them out to bid. Brian and John don't feel that they have time to pursue this. The Board agreed.
8. Re-elections: Jim and Jeff are up for re-election this fall. Reid would have been, as well.
9. Hoo-Hoo Club: They want to work with 4-H and Boy Scouts on fundraisers. They will purchase trees through us.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Contribution Agreement: Deron discussed a proposal for the Office Assistant to become an employee of the Conservation District, with the NRCS reimbursing some of the cost. MSP Christopherson and Johnson to move ahead with the discussion and form a committee to act on this. All ayes.
2. ATV: Discussion about selling the old ATV and purchasing a newer used one. MSP Christopherson and Johnson to sell the old Artic Cat for \$1,800.00 and purchase a 2003 Polaris for \$3,850.00. All ayes.
3. DENR: Big Sioux monitoring sites. 32 sites with a bid of \$60/hr. There would be approximately 3-4 hours' work on each in July and August. This would be done annually for 5 years. There may be 40-45 sites eventually.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

Conservation Plans: MSP to sign plans by Christopherson and Johnson. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence: John reported that the Water Festival went very well. Approximately 2362 kids attended.

MSP Johnson and Christopherson to adjourn at 4:37 pm. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 12, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee