

**February 10, 2014 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board meeting 2:30 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order.

MSP Christopherson and Oyen to go into executive session at 2:45 pm.

MSP Christopherson and Oyen to come out of executive session at 3:15 pm.

The board increased John's pay by \$1.00 per hour beginning with the next pay check.

**Supervisors present:** Jim Pfeifer, Reid Christopherson, Ron Johnson, Jeff Oyen

**Others present:** John Parker, Deron Ruesch, Rick Lehman, Nathan Blankers

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

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

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

**Bills:** Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes.

**NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:**

**WETLANDS:**

- Our current backlog is 70 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):**

- No new information.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):**

- Our mailing of post-cards was very successful, as we assisted 51 producers in providing specific CSP program information and applications. We received 20 applications.
- We still need to process one annual payment.

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

- Sign-up deadline for EQIP – National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) is Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Our January 29<sup>th</sup> NWQI/Soil Health Outreach event at Rodney Van Der Vliet's farm was a success. Approximately 70 individuals attended.
- We are still processing 17 EQIP applications.

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):**

- No new information.

**OTHER NOTES:**

- Farm Bill has been signed by the President. Stay tuned for updated information.
- February 18<sup>th</sup>: National Cover Crops and Soil Health Forum, Sioux Falls Regional Extension Service, 9:00-12:00pm.
- February 26<sup>th</sup>: Sioux Falls Field Office Visit with Curt Elke. The MCD board is welcome to attend.

**Old business:**

- Bio-Solids Update: The board suggested waiting ten days before contacting the City of Sioux Falls for payments. MSP Oyen and Christopherson to look for a probe to do 5' samples. All ayes.

- Update on district services: John reported on trees, seeding, and bare root sales. All are looking good.
- Gevik Learning Area Report – SDSU bio-reactor: John will check to see if the county can help with signs for the Gevik site. Jeppe from SDSU is interested in placing a bio-reactor at the site and evaluate in the spring. John Parker, Brian Top, and Barry Berg are involved in this project. MSP Johnson and Christopherson to follow through with this. All ayes.
- Ultima / District: Denise will help with inventory and tree sales as needed in February and on. MSP Christopherson and Oyen. All ayes.
- Seed sales: Pfeifers are going to sell seed at their dealership in conjunction with the District and Millborn. The District will sell the seed from the north cliff location.
- Website / QuickBooks: MSP Oyen and Christopherson to have Melanie continue with website work and grant research / writing, along with other assistance to the district. All ayes. MSP Christopherson and Johnson for John to look into Richards Bookkeeping Service for doing the District's bookkeeping. All ayes.
- Hoo-Hoo Club: MSP Christopherson and Johnson for John to attend their monthly meeting and report back in March. All ayes.
- Tree flyer / newsletter: Went out to 7700 potential customers and is available on the website and at the office. The time was well spent. Special thanks to Melanie for developing.
- Wetland work: TopSoil will be getting busy in the spring. Some of the work will be done by the District. Denise will be helping.
- Employee review: MSP Christopherson and Oyen to raise John's pay by \$1.00 per hour. All ayes.

#### **New business:**

- Information gathering for producers: John and Brian will be checking into possible future work on CSP contracts and nutrient plans.
- Leadership / Pierre: MSP Christopherson and Oyen for John to attend the Leadership Conference if it works into his schedule, and provide a report to the board at the March meeting. All ayes.
- Insurance update: State Alliance will still insure. They are creating a separate office to provide the same coverage.
- CRP / Trees: In the Farm Bill but not approved in time for 2014 tree planting.
- Reelections: MSP Christopherson and Oyen to keep current officers in place. All ayes. John is checking on board reelections and will report at the March meeting.

#### **Conservation plan approvals:**

- There are approximately 12 conservation plan revisions. MSP Christopherson and Oyen to approve. All ayes.

#### **Other business and announcements:**

- Discussion regarding the water festival participation, meetings, and equipment storage. The Water Fest will have its own account, separate from the District.
- Discussion about honey bees.

MSP Johnson and Christopherson to adjourn at 4:55 pm. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** March 10, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by John Parker, District Manager