

January 13, 2014 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm

Pfeifer called the meeting to order.

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

Others present: John Parker, Brian Top, Deron Ruesch, Gordon Heber

Agenda: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Christopherson. Five years.

Minutes of December meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Christopherson and Wolles. Five years.

Treasurer's report: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Wolles and Christopherson. Five years.

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

Activity report by Deron Ruesch: WETLANDS:

- Our current backlog is 79 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

- No new update, still in a hold pattern

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

- December 27, mailed 1100 post-cards to active producers in Minnehaha County advertising CSP program. We have had about 3% response to the mailing, which have resulted in 7 applications at this time.
- Sign-up deadline has been extended to Friday, February 7th.
- Mary compiled a list of Coops and Consultants in the Minnehaha County and we are in the process of sending them fact sheets on NRCS programs.
- Feel free to visit the following website for additional information on CSP:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

- Sign-up now for FY-2014 dollars. General EQIP – the first batching period ended December 20, 2013. Please remember, EQIP is a continuous sign-up.
- Sign-up deadline for EQIP – National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) is Friday, February 21st.
- Outreach meeting for the EQIP – NWQI is set for Wednesday, January 20th from 11:00-1:00pm at Rodney Van Der Vliet's farm. Afterwards NRCS will be meeting to discuss the local ranking questions which you are invited to attend.
- Jeff Zimprich, State Conservationist, also requesting to form a small steering committee for the NWQI area of local producers/contract holders who would like to actively participate in providing local guidance for this watershed. This is in the initial planning phase.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

- No Farm Bill = No WRP. Everything is at a standstill for this program.

OTHER NOTES:

- Denise Fletcher, Ultima Services-Sioux Falls, accepted the position and started work on January 6th. We are happy to have her on board for 24 hours per week.
- Mary Lou Lacey, Soil Conservationist, will be the Acting District Conservationist in Madison. We wish Mary the best. Offices Monday's and Tuesday's while Mary is on her detail.
- January 30th: Sioux Falls Field Office Visit with Curt Elke, the MCD Board is welcome to attend.
- February 7th: District Conservationist Meeting, Brookings.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bio-Solids** – talked with City of Sioux Falls, finished up sampling. Talked to Phil at City about our getting paid. He had checked, all paper work was in and correct. Should be getting a check by the next meeting. Making plans for Bio-Solids 2-14.
- **Steering committee for Skunk Creek and area** – report given explaining they are going forward with the incentive payments. Currently working on final contract.
- **Update on district services** – Bare root orders 100% payment before ordering from customer in 2014. Jeff motion, 2nd by Tom Wolles, all in favor 5 yes's. Board decided on a 3% increase on services in 2014 with price being rounded up to nearest quarter. Wetlands to remain the same price as 2013. Tom Wolles, motion, 2nd by Jeff Oyen. All in favor – 5 yes's.
- **Gevik Land Area report** – pursue grant opportunities with companies such as WalMart, Coke, and Pepsi, etc. Reid gave report on meeting with Izaaks, bird club, University of Sioux Falls about the future of the Gevik land and ideas for projects. Trail markers, signs to identify grass, trees, and along, along with a bio reactor site on drain tile.
- **Ultima/District** – motion by Christopherson, 2nd by Jeff Oyen to have Denise work up to 10 hours per week as needed for tree orders and upcoming season.
- **Seed sales** -- Jeff Oyen motioned to advance with the opportunity to sell seed through the district to producers/customers and to talk with Pfeifers for a seed distribution outlet. Concern was raised by Christopherson that we would increase our manpower need. John mentioned that we are currently selling seed to producers, just not actively advertising the availability. If Pfeifers does become an outlet, they would handle the sales. 2nd by Tom Wolles, all in favor. 4 yes's Pfeifer abstaining.
- **Website/QuickBooks** – using the online version of QuickBooks. Website information maintained by Melanie.
- **Hoo-Hoo Club** – meet with them to figure out a plan for distribution of the \$2000 dollar donation for trees to support replacement from ice storm in spring of 2013.
- **Employee Review** – review to be held in February ½ hour before meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Wetland Work** – As Denise becomes trained in wetlands, the district will pursue the wetland work with the consultants.
- **Tree Flyer/Newsletter** – to be printed and mailed in the month of January.
- **Office Coverage** – As season gets busier the front desk will be covered by Denise with Ultima and district hours.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL:

- Two plans – motion by Christopherson, 2nd by John to approve. All ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Motion by Johnson, 2nd by Christopherson

Submitted by John Parker, District Manager