

**MINNEHAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

DATE – TIME – LOCATION

August 12, 2013 USDA Service Center, 3:00 PM

CALLED TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Conservation District Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Pfeifer.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Jim Pfeifer, Reid Christopherson, Jeff Oyen, Ronald Johnson

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

Tom Wolles

OTHERS PRESENT

John Parker, Amy Van Dam, Melanie Raine, Mary Lou Lacey, Gordon Heber, Liz Renner

AGENDA

The agenda was mailed out prior to the Board Meeting.

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Johnson to approve the agenda as printed. Four ayes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular July meeting were emailed or mailed out prior to the Board Meeting.

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Oyen to approve the minutes of the regular July board meeting as submitted. Four ayes.

MOTION by Johnson; seconded by Christopherson to approve the minutes of the special finance meeting as submitted. Four ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION by Oyen; seconded by Christopherson to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. Four ayes.

JULY BILLS APPROVED

MOTION by Oyen; seconded by Christopherson to accept the bills as presented, holding NACD and SDACD membership fees until a later date and also paying Milborn Seed all we owe except \$20,000 and to continue to pay them when funds are available. Four ayes.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

TELECONFERENCE ROOM: The new teleconference room at the USDA Service Center is close to completion. A new phone line still needs to be installed to avoid slowing down the computer system in the building.

WETLANDS:

- Backlog is down to 58 outstanding requests for determinations on file.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

- USDA announced that there will be a 45th General sign-up beginning May 20 and ending June 14.
- Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs, such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands, and Wildlife, will be announced in Spring 2013. FSA expects the sign-up to begin any day.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

- We had two General EQIP applications funded for terraces (2,530 feet), critical area seeding (1.5 acres), nutrient management (683.4 acres), pest management (683.4 acres), and cover crops (475.2 acres).
- We are currently working on planning/ranking 17 applications for EQIP – National Water Quality Initiative. Funding level is only \$497,000.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (WHIP):

- Funding is available for cover crops -- cannot hay or graze.

OTHER NOTES:

- We are waiting to see about the budget and sequestration.
- NRCS is accepting Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) which is available for state and local governments, non-government, and educational organizations, private businesses, and individuals to help develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to improve conservation on private lands. Applications are due March 15, 2013.
- Upcoming events:
 - March 7, 2013 – Tiling Contractors Workshop, Sioux Valley Energy Building, Brandon, SD from 10:00am – 11:45am.
 - March 7, 2013 – Basic Prescribed Burning training, Yankton, SD from 8:30am – 5:00pm.
 - March 12-13, 2013 – Water Festival, University of Sioux Falls.
 - March 19, 2013 – Prescribed Grazing Training, Brookings, SD from 9:00am – 3:30pm.

OLD BUSINESS**ACCOUNTANT'S DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **MOTION** by Oyen; seconded by Christopherson to approve the draft copy of the report.
- Binders will be made and will be available to the board, and also copies will be sent to the Minnehaha County Commissioners.

BIO-SOLIDS UPDATE:

- John talked with the City of Sioux Falls today and he will be taking soil samples within the next two weeks.

COUNTY FUNDING LETTER:

- The allocation the County Commission has approved is \$1000 for 2014. We will send a thank-you note for their support and let them know we would like to have a meeting with them in the near future.

GEVIK LEARNING AREA REPORT:

- The site has been mowed and sprayed. John talked about doing outreach work to the boy scouts, girl scouts, and other clubs.
- The board would like Melanie to look at other grant possibilities and/or opportunities to raise money so we can properly take care of the land.
- We will try again for a state grant.

TRUCK/TRAILER:

- John has not looked at trailers yet. No action on selling the truck.

ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS:

- In 2014 we will add 5% to all of our services and give a discount if people pay with cash or check.

BLY BROTHERS:

- John will meet with Bly Brothers within the next month.

STATE CONVENTION:

- **MOTION** by Christopherson; seconded by Johnson to send John Parker to the state convention in Aberdeen. Four ayes.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

AREA MEETING MINUTES:

- Handout.

ENDOWMENT HONOREE:

- The honoree this year is Wendell Anderson from McCook County. Amy will send \$100.

BIG SIOUX NURSERY SHIPPING FEE:

- There will be a shipping fee next year.

WETLAND SLIDE CHECKS:

- We will need to hire someone else to do slide checks for wetland determinations. Melanie will be moving at the end of September. One possibility would be Amy or Liz. Brian or Melanie would need to teach them.

NRCS HIRING DISTRICT POSSIBILITY:

- NRCS may not renew the Ultima contract and may offer to pay district employees for 20 hours per week to work for them.

PROPERTY VALUES:

- John said that our land is zoned residential, not commercial. The board suggested that we try to get it changed to commercial.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our disks are cracked. Larry Hallstrom has a 12' that we can use.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Johnson to approve 2 contracts. Four ayes. Oyen recused himself because he had a plan that needed approval.

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Oyen to move to executive session at 5:05 PM. Four ayes. Pfeifer declared out of executive session at 5:40 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE – SEPTEMBER 23, 2013 AT 3:00PM

MOTION by Oyen to adjourn; seconded by Johnson. Four ayes.

Amy Van Dam, Recording Secretary