

**MINNEHAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

DATE – TIME – LOCATION

May 20, 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, Jeff Oyen, Ronald Johnson, Reid Christopherson

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

Tom Wolles

OTHERS PRESENT

Amy Van Dam, Melanie Raine, John Parker, Deron Ruesch, Gordon Heber

AGENDA

The agenda was mailed out prior to the Board Meeting.

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular April meeting were emailed or mailed out prior to the board meeting.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

MAY BILLS APPROVED

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Johnson to accept the bills as presented; holding NACD and SDACD membership fees until a later date and also paying \$5000 on the Big Sioux Nursery bill. Four ayes.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

EQIP: The MCD Board needs to sign Conservation Plans for 6 EQIP NWQI applications that will be offered a contract. These are all in the Skunk Creek watershed area. The NWQI signup is going well. All monies except for \$17,000 were used for contracts and the State Office wanted all of the money spent in this watershed. One of the applicants had wanted to consider an animal waste system and thought he would do it in next year's program. We contacted him to see if he would be willing to work with us this year as we had funds available. He will be looking at installing a monoslope barn with manure pack. We will be adding that to his current application and using up the remainder of the available funds, with the possibility of requesting more funds to cover the cost of the total application. We may need to ask for an extension to get this work done. It is being put on the fast track for Ag-nutrient management.

CRP: The Continuous CRP program will have a signup starting May 13 and General CRP will start May 20 thru June 14. We are already working on some potential CRP applications for re-enrollment. There will be new rental rates and hopefully they will be posted before the signups begin.

Training: WRP training May 13th, Nutrient Management training in Brookings May 21st.

Office information: We have all been upgraded to Windows 7 which changed our whole operating system and we are all still in the learning stages with it. Most of us like the change and hope it eventually increases our speed on the computers. A nationwide AT&T system was down so it slowed everything down and is making it hard to tell if our system is faster than before. That was repaired so we should see the results soon. We will be getting our VTC system completely installed on May 16th. They will have to shut our operating system down completely that day from noon to 1pm to install the dedicated line that will run the VTC. Once that is done we will be able to hold live video teleconferencing right here in the building. It will save travel and other expenses by being able to attend meetings without needing to all meet in the same location.

We have not heard about the office intern position yet.

Bob Lehman, Resource Conservationist from Canton, retired on May 1st, 2013.

Deron will show you the "Field Office of the Future" video at the next board meeting that he can attend.

Handouts: News release on grass production, Water Quality Index, and rangeland monitoring school information.

OLD BUSINESS

GEVIK LEARNING AREA GRANT:

- The Gevik Grant was not funded. It was suggested that we re-submit in the fall.

RESOURCE TECHNICIAN GRANT:

- We have been approved for \$22,000 for a Resource Technician position. The grant would only pay for any new endeavors the district starts.

TONY DEAN GRANT:

- Not approved

SECOG ~ RIVER PROJECT:

- The project starts in September. We will be in charge of easements on the Big Sioux River and also monitoring trees.

BIO-SOLIDS PROGRAM:

- John sent a proposal to the City of Sioux Falls. Mark Perry gave us a verbal approval. The new person hired through the Resource Technician Grant would help Brian. We could possibly start as early as June 4. We would need to invest in probe & trailer. For now we can use Ronald's trailer. An electric probe plus all other things needed would cost around \$2400. The board would like John to check on trading our gooseneck trailer for a tilt trailer. John, Brian and Jim can check on a hydraulic or gas probe, whichever they think will work best. **MOTION** by Oyen; seconded by Christopherson to have Jim sign the agreement.

COUNTY FUNDING:

- We sent in our request for funding. If we have not received a response by May 28th, Jeff will call the county.

HANDPLANT ORDERS:

- An income/expense report will be ready for the June meeting.

MACHINE PLANTING:

- We have 5 sites left. We had a total of 17 acres. The board wants to address the acre minimum with Farm Service Agency.

MOWING/DRILL REPORT:

- We have 2 sites to mow. The 6' drill has seeded 8 acres, the 10' drill has seeded 262 acres and the 15' drill has seeded 555 acres.

NEW BUSINESS

WEST CENTRAL CHECK:

- We sent West Central School a check for \$327 which is what we received from Farm Service Agency. We are no longer eligible to receive FSA payments unless we use the funds to support public schools.

TIMESHEET REPORT:

- Handout

SPRAYING:

- The board decided we are not going to spray anymore.

CTA PROGRAM:

- SDACD has grant money for Conservation Technical Assistance. We can claim hours back to January 1, 2013 until June 30. We will get paid \$18 per hour up to 300 hours.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Area meeting in Brookings June 18th. The board wants to talk with other districts about Certified Wetland Determinations.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE – June 10, 2013 AT 3:00PM

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

Amy Van Dam, Recording Secretary