

**MINNEHAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

DATE – TIME – LOCATION

September 23, 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, Melanie Raine, Gordon Heber, Deron Ruesch, Matt Johnson

AGENDA

The agenda was handed out at the Board Meeting.

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular July meeting were handed out at the Board Meeting.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

AUGUST BILLS APPROVED

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Oyen to accept the bills as presented, holding NACD membership fees until a later date and Milborn Seed until discrepancy in bill is resolved. Four ayes.

Oyen asked for a report showing typical expenses October – April in order to know how much money might be necessary to get through the winter.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

WETLANDS:

- Current backlog is 88 outstanding certified wetland determination requests
- Field work for completing certified wetland determinations will be commencing as crops continue to be harvested.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

- All re-enrollments have been completed. A big thanks to Mary Lou Lacey in completing this task.
- Currently do not have any new applications on file.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

- Two contracts waiting to have cover crops seeded. Hoping to build terraces on two contracts once crops come off.
- Beginning to certify integrated pest management practices for existing EQIP contracts.
- Will be completing annual status review on existing contracts in the next couple of months.
- Are following up with EQIP applicants who were not funded FY 2013 and new applicants to begin planning for FY 2014 dollars.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

- Currently working with a new landowner on a Transfer Agreement who purchased land with a WRP easement located on it.
- Monitoring has been completed for FY 2013. Dennis Larson is coming from BFSO on October 9 to assist with installing a new post on an existing WRP easement to locate the boundary between the cropland and the easement.

DOCUMENTS:

- Reviewed Cooperative Working Agreement and Mutual Agreement, and noted that no updated information is available at this time.
- Reviewed the Civil Rights Compliance and Your Conservation District Board document.

OTHER NOTES:

- Ultima update: Hours for the Sioux Falls / Canton Field Offices have been cut from 64 hours to 32 hours. At this time, Gail Viereck, Ultima in Canton will be working 16 hours in both offices.
- Chuck Lebeda, Conservation Planner for the Central Big Sioux watershed, has hit the ground running and has made a few contacts with producers in the Skunk Creek watershed. He will be developing whole farm plans.
- Sand County Foundation was in Minnehaha County on September 9 videoing producer / stakeholder interviews for the Skunk Creek watershed. Al Miron, Jeff Zimprich, Jack Majers, and Mayor Mike Huether were interviewed.
- On September 9, John Parker and Deron Ruesch attended the Mayor's Big Sioux River Summit.
- October 2: Soil judging contest.
- October 16: District Conservationist meeting in Brookings.
- Matt Johnson explained the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) Project application.

OLD BUSINESS

ACCOUNTANT'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Recommendation for John and Gordon to reconcile the Water Fest account and report back to the board asap, hopefully before the next board meeting. Approval was postponed until the next meeting.

BIO-SOLIDS UPDATE:

- Crops are coming off and soil samples are starting. Brian Top and John are making contacts for more ground for bio-solids application. John is in the process of building a 5' soil probe. There are no glitches or concerns to date regarding the bio-solids service.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT SERVICES:

- All three drills broke down last week and are now repaired and running again. There are approximately 256 acres of spraying to do yet, as well as approximately 140 acres for the drill. The District did some mowing for Sanford.

GEVIK LEARNING AREA REPORT:

- The Gevik site has been mowed and we will spray for thistles soon. The University of South Dakota is doing a plant survey for a thesis project. We still need to get the sign up.

TRUCK/TRAILER:

- Hope to get the trailer traded when the fall season is done.

STATE CONVENTION UPDATE:

- It was a good convention; very informative. There is a proposal to reorganize the watersheds.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

WETLAND SLIDE CHECKS:

- Gail Viereck may be interested in helping with Brian's work. Part of the decision depends on the outcome of the Ultima position. Sandy is willing to learn. Liz Renner may also be a possibility, depending on her college schedule.

OFFICE COVERAGE:

- Gail has agreed to work in Minnehaha County for 16 hours. Sandy is willing to help whenever necessary. John will check with Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Volunteer Information Center (VIC) regarding volunteer possibilities. We would need to check with the NRCS to see if this is an acceptable alternative in light of possible changes with the Resource Coordinator / Ultima services. We need to be mindful of our partnership with the FSA and NRCS.

NEW GRANT APPROVALS:

- **MOTION** by Oyen; seconded by Christopherson to approve the grant application for the Gevik Conservation Learning Area Enhancement Project. Four ayes.
- **MOTION** by Christopherson; seconded by Johnson to approve the grant application for the Resource Technician extension. Four ayes.
- **MOTION** by Oyen; seconded by Johnson to approve the grant application for the Wildlife Habitat Project. Four ayes.
- The commission will meet in the first part of November. Due to his hip surgery, John may not be able to attend to present the grant applications. A decision will be made at a later date.

WATER FESTIVAL (CHECKING, PARTICIPATION):

- We are looking into creating a separate bank account for the water festival funds. Gordon and John will review the existing expenses and will coordinate with Deb Callahan.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTING:

- Melanie should line up the Online Quickbooks. John and Gordon will review the bookkeeping system, especially the categories used. John will be meeting with Cec Johnson and Gordon for training.

MOTION by Christopherson; seconded by Oyen to execute a contract with QuickBooks for online services. Four ayes.

WEBSITE / GRANT WORK:

- Melanie will continue as webmaster and grant writer. The website has been fully updated.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- We are checking into discontinuing the second phone line and using only John's phone. We will use call forwarding for now; John is to check further into that option.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

MOTION by Oyen, seconded by Christopherson to approve one contract. Four ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

No correspondence.

NEXT MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 21, 2013 AT 3:00 PM

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

Melanie Raine, Recording Secretary