

**May 12, 2014 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Reid Christopherson

**Others present:** John Parker, Mary Lou Lacey, Gordon Heber, Carter Anderson, Barry Berg, Matt Johnson and Denise Fletcher

**Agenda:** Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve, with the addition of Barry Berg's activity report, by Oyen and Wolles. All ayes.

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

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

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

**Accounts Receivable:** Reviewed at meeting.

**Activities Reports:**

**NRCS activity report by Mary Lou Lacey:**

***EARTH TEAM:***

Awards presented to Ron Johnson and Tom Wolles for their service.

***WETLANDS:***

Our current backlog is about 65 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

***CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):***

On hold.

***CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):***

We are in the process of completing 13 Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). The deadline for having these completed and in the system is May 28th. We will know by May 30th who has been "preapproved" (who will be offered a contract).

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

At this time, we had no applications funded through the Vermillion/Big Sioux funding source. We had 1 application for an waste system preapproved and continue to put the final touches on this contract. We should know by the end of the week if any of our applicants are funded for the remainder of the different funding codes in EQIP, except for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). The sign-up deadline for the NWQI is due Friday, May 16th.

### ***AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):***

This replaces the wetland reserve program (WRP). Sign-up deadline for this program is June 13th.

### ***OTHER NOTES:***

Chuck Lebeda, SDACD, has developed 3 whole plans in Minnehaha County. April 29th: Media Advisory-Cropping Systems Inventory Event was cancelled due to rain. May 21-22: Brookings Area All Personnel meeting Swiftel Center, Brookings. NRCS personnel will be out of the office at this time.

### ***S-Ram Program Report by Barry Berg:***

11.1 stream miles of Skunk Creek enrolled, with more planned for next year. Barry is currently working on the next project. Bio-Solids: Wood chips were planned to be shipped on May 15<sup>th</sup> and taken out to the bio-reactor in the field. This was delayed due to field conditions. May try again the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Bio-Solids Update: A new 1 year contract was signed with a 3% increase. This covers through June of 2015. 5 foot samples are caught up.
2. Update on district services: Services are all on an increase from last year. This year 19 customers asked about cost share on planting trees. None of them put in trees, due to no funding. There are 12 tree orders left to be picked up, 18 acres of trees to finish (2 are planted). 185 acres have been planted with the 10 ft. drill. 1,075 acres have been planted with the 15 ft. drill, with about 850 acres left. Spraying – about 140 acres are done and 140 to do yet.
3. Gevik Learning Area: Signs have not gone up yet. The bio-reactor will be a good research project (funded by SDSU and Barry Berg's project).
4. Seed sales: Have sold about \$5,600 so far; we get 15% (\$840.00) There was discussion about putting up a sign thanking Pfeifer's for helping with the district's first grass seed sale. John will work on this.
5. Wetland Work: None have been completed in 2014. Brian is working on six or seven determinations.
6. Re-elections: Jim and Jeff are up for re-election this fall. Papers need to be in by July 10<sup>th</sup>.
7. Contribution Agreement: NRCS and the Conservation District are trying to get approval for up to 32 hours/week. The NRCS would reimburse the district for some of the hours.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. City Wetland Management: The City sent out a bid announcement stating that they have 15 different sites that need mowing, fertilizing, chemicals applied, etc. This may be an opportunity for the District. John and Brian will get more information on this.
2. District Area Meeting (attendance): A district area meeting will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Vermillion. Updates will be given as details come in.
3. Future Personnel: Contribution agreement was discussed earlier. Brian Top has said he would like to offer his services to the district to assist as needed (selling seed, etc.) The Board suggested that he write up a proposal for this.

### **CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

S-Ram Agreements: MSP to sign agreements by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Hoo Hoo Club and the Turkey Federation want to meet with the Conservation District about CRP.
2. Raven Industries is interested in working with the District in promoting green projects.
3. SD Game, Fish and Parks Department may want the District to help maintain wildlife areas.
4. John will be on a trip to Alaska from July 24<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>.

MSP to adjourn at 5:20 pm by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: June 9, 2014 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee