

**June 9, 2014 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Jim Pfeifer, Ron Johnson, and Tom Wolles

**Absent:** Reid Christopherson, Jeff Oyen

**Others present:** John Parker, Gordon Heber, Deron Ruesch and Denise Fletcher

**Agenda:** Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

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

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

**Bills:** Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay, according to funds available. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

**Accounts Receivable:** Reviewed at meeting.

**Activities Reports:**

**NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:**

***WETLANDS:***

Our current backlog is about 78 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. 30 requests have fieldwork completed and are being prepared to send out.

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

Sign-up starts on June 9, 2014.

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

9 applications have been pre-approved. This involves 4300 acres (\$112,000.00 in annual payments), the largest sign-up ever for Minnehaha County. 2 were not funded at this time. All need to be field checked by Mary and Deron in the near future.

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

8 applications were pre-approved – 1 Ag. waste, 4 energy audits, 1 shelterbelt renovation, 1 grazing system, and 1 small nutrient management project. We'll have a campaign this summer to try and get more participants for this program. We have a special practice payment grant for Minnehaha County.

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

3 applications have been taken in Minnehaha County.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Bio-Solids Update: A new 2 year contract was signed, with right of refusal after the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Deep soil sampling has been done (275 samples were taken.) All lagoons will be cleaned out and put in silo tubes. Will continue with the injection method.
2. Update on district services: Raven is interested in having Gordon Heber as a representative between the Board and them. 23 tree sites have been planted (24.5 acres), more than last year. There are 16 sites to put fabric on yet. The 15' drill seeded 1450 acres; 10' drill seeded 375 acres (60 acres left to seed); 6' drill planted 8 acres; and 268 acres of spraying have been done. Bare roots have sold well. No mowing or clipping has been done yet.
3. Gevik Learning Area: Signs have not gone up yet. Experimental trees have been planted. The bio-reactor has been put on hold until this fall.
4. Seed sales: Have sold \$23,400; we get 15% (\$3,510.00).
5. Wetland Work: At a standstill. None have been completed in 2014.
6. Contribution Agreement: Deron and John are in favor of this. Curt Elke, at the State Office, needs to approve. This topic may be covered at the June 16<sup>th</sup> district area meeting in Vermillion.
7. City Wetland Management: 4 firms bid on this project, including us. We did not get the project.
8. District Area Meeting: To be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Vermillion at the Eagles Building, starting at 10:00am. \$11.00 per person. John will plan on 4 people attending – Deron, Jim, Jeff and himself.
9. Future Personnel: No new information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Cooperative Agreement with Moody County: This is for implementing Barry Berg's Skunk Creek projects. The State's Attorney has looked it over. It will enable the two counties to do work for each other when needed. MSP to sign agreement by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

## **CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

Two transfer agreements: MSP to sign agreements by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence – One complaint has been received about an eroding hillside causing problems with a township road. The Board can draft a letter and send to the producer. Will talk to FSA about getting a 569 done on this, so it can fall under a compliance check.
2. Big Sioux Nursery will do a presentation on native perennials and grasses for the Master Gardeners on July 14<sup>th</sup>. This could provide additional work for the district.
3. Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum – The District will donate 2 hours to plant grass at this site.

MSP to adjourn at 4:32 pm by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: July 14, 2014 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee