

**October 20, 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, and Tom Wolles (via telephone)

**Absent:** Reid Christopherson, Jim Jackson, Gordon Heber, and Greg Schneiders

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, and Brian Top

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

**Minutes of September 8th meeting:** Handed out. MSP to approve by Oyen and Johnson. 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 Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.  
MSP to approve paying the vegetative grant payment to SDSU (John Parker and Brian Scott need to come up with the final figure and pay) by Oyen and Wolles. All ayes.

**Activities Reports:**

**NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:**

***WETLANDS:***

Our current backlog is about 48 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. Nathan Blankers is on detail to Lake County to assist with requests greater than 12 months old. Eugene Preston continues to work on appeals.

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

Now is the time to sign-up for the Continuous CRP and prepare for grass/tree plantings next spring. Mary Lou Lacey has worked on 4 new applications.

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

We are working on renewing 1 CSP contract on 571.6 acres that expires at the end of the year. The first deadline to meet is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Once we receive approval, we will begin to process 11 annual payments.

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

**Sign-up Deadline: November 21.** We have started planning for outreach to our producers. Thank you to Minnehaha CD and SDACD with the outreach assistance. We are assisting the Animal Nutrient Management Team, Mitchell, with planning on 5 sites. We are processing payments for practices completed in 2014. Construction on 1 animal waste storage facility is about completed. Deferral letters have been sent out to applicants who did not receive funding in 2014.

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

Marcus, Rock, Biologist – Huron has been selected for the Easement Specialist position in Parker. He will be providing assistance with all of our easements. He reports to duty on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**OTHER NOTES:** October 1: The contribution agreement between Minnehaha CD and NRCS went into effect. John Parker and Deron Ruesch have been working and how to track and implement this agreement.  
November 12: District Conservationist Meeting, Brookings; November 21: EQIP Sign-up Deadline

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Bio-Solids Update/Update on District Services:**  
Bio-solids soil sampling will continue until freeze-up. This should be an ongoing project for the next couple of years. 30 acres of trees are already planned for next year. 1/3 is CRP or EQIP. 200 acres of dormant seeding will be done yet this year. Spraying is almost completed.
2. **Gevik Learning Area Report- SDSU Bio-reactor:**  
Bio-reactor is in process, but on hold. The Gevik site has been mowed and sprayed for thistles.
3. **Contribution Agreement:**  
This went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are still working on getting the tracking sheet done for this.
4. **Grants (Tech. grant, tree renovation grant, native grass restoration grant, and vegetation grant-Bly Brothers):**  
There are 2 interested parties in the tree renovation grant, 2 interested parties in the native grass grant. November 12<sup>th</sup> Insurance Safety Meeting and November 13<sup>th</sup> – State Conservation Commission Grant Meeting, both in Pierre. MSP to approve John Parker attending these meetings by Oyen and Wolles. All ayes.
5. **Central Big Sioux Water Project:**  
600 projects were sent to DC. This has been brought down to 250 (our project is among those). 150 projects will be funded. The grants will be awarded on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Fall Convention – September 21-23 – Chamberlain:**  
This was a good meeting – no major news. Discussion about contribution agreements occurred. \$190,000. in SD this year. Various districts are participating.
7. **Land Judging:**  
Was a success. Held at Bob Julson’s place near Garretson. 18 schools and 193 participants.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **County Allocation – 2015:**  
Commission will allocate \$2,000.00 for 2015.

### **CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

MSP to sign agreements by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence  
A thank you was received from the family of Ronald Johnson’s mother for a memorial given by the Board.

MSP to adjourn at 4:31 pm by Oyen and Wolles. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, November 17, 2014 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center  
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee