

**Aug. 17, 2015 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

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

Supervisors present: Ron Johnson, Jim Pfeifer, and Bob Woerman

Absent: Jeff Oyen and Tom Wolles

Others present: John Parker, Nile Herbener, Barry Berg, Brian Top, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Agenda: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of July meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay according to funds. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

Accounts Receivable: Reviewed at meeting.

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Nyle Herbener:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 36 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

20 enrollment applications being reviewed; 12 of these are re-enrolls. Need to be completed by 9-30-15.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

4 FY 2015 applications were approved. Payments range from \$21.15 to \$32.56 per acre.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

11 Nutrient Management plans have come in for certification and payment. RCPP – Preliminary screening and rankings complete on 9 applications. 7 are for Ag. Waste, 1 is for a Grazing System and 1 other application. Several contract modifications are being worked on as well.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

The wetland restoration application for 1 new easement is in the works. The newest application was not funded. Monitoring has been completed. Working on a Compatible Use Agreement for haying on 1 contract.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

71.8 total acres to be enrolled in SRAM. A well with solar powered pump, water tank and exclusion fence has been installed along the Big Sioux River just north of the City of Sioux Falls intake system. 8 producers are in the construction phase for EQIP/RCPP Animal Waste Management Systems this summer. 6 more systems are in the design phase. 9 producers have signed RCPP applications this enrollment period, of which 7 may be eligible. Still waiting for a project code and screening and ranking tools to be approved by the state office.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Gevik Site Pipeline Update and Brochure

Discussion about district outlay, information on the land, bi-laws and insurance, liability and upkeep. Discussion held about a new brochure on the Gevik Learning Area and possible changes to it. MSP to proceed forward with the brochure by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

2. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**
25 acres of trees planned for 2016, as well as terrace or waterway seeding. Discussion on equipment rental and pursuing bio-solids.
3. **Update on Equipment**
Discussion about adding weights to the front of the Kubota, for added down pressure during soil sampling. Have had a few producers asking about a larger no till drill. Jim is checking on models.
4. **State Commission Grants**
MSP to pursue 2016 – 2017 grants by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.
5. **Contribution Agreement for 2015-2016**
This agreement has been turned in to the NRCS for the 2015 – 2016 year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Bird Club Donation for Improvements at Gevik Site**
Bird Club will donate money to add trail to the North. Board needs more information on products and cost share. There is concern about maintenance as time goes on. Will replace information signs, add new Plexiglas and caulk the edges to keep weather out.
2. **Big Sioux Nursery Annual Meeting – August 18th (John, Representative)**
MSP to approve John Parker as a voting member at the annual meeting and nursery tour to be held on 8-8-15 by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.
3. **Board Advisors**
MSP to appoint Jennifer Schmidtbauer as an advisor to the board effective on 8-17-15 by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes. Jennifer accepted the position.
4. **Soils Health Workshop – September 8th**
Discussion about members attending the workshop to be held at Al Miron's on 9-8-15 and research farm by Beresford on 9-9-15.
5. **Land Judging in September**
Discussion about obtaining an excavator from Pfeifer Implement on 9-26-15, when soil pits will be dug. Score on 9-28-15 by NRCS. Students to come on 9-29-15 or 9-30-15 in case of rain.
6. **State Fair Booth – September 3rd**
John plans to work on 9-3-15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bob Woerman may attend and work a shift.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

MSP to sign agreements by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Correspondence**
\$25.00 to South Dakota membership.
Agreed to pay membership of \$25.00 to South Dakota Soil Health Coalition.

MSP to adjourn at 5:00 pm by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, September 14th, 2015 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by John Parker, District Manager