

March 14, 2016 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, Jeff Oyen, Jim Pfeifer, Bob Woerman and Tom Wolles

Supervisors absent:

Advisors present: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Harlan Smith, Jr. and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of February 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. No bills to pay.

Accounts Receivable: Reviewed at meeting.

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 19 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): FSA submitted 19 General CRP applications for a total of 418.4 acres. We have been busy processing Continuous CRP applications.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Deadline for applications is 3/31/16. Two completed applications received so far. Three contracts will have Quality Assurance Reviews done by 3/31/16.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Three animal waste systems have been "preapproved" for funding for a total of \$749,571. No applications for the Lower Big Sioux Funding Pool were preapproved. Contract reviews on all existing contracts to be completed by 3/31/16.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No new information

Deron conducted a Civil Rights Compliance Review with the board. MSP to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Conservation District and the NRCS by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Total potential SRAM acres for 2016 are 266.5. These acres will exclude approximately 38,596 linear feet (7.4 miles) of stream. Five animal waste management systems (AWMS) are currently in the design phase. Two AWMS are planned to start construction this summer in Minnehaha County. Adjustment of budget for RCPP to include Terrace 600 practice.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Gevik Site Endowment

The Sioux Falls Community Foundation is reviewing the re-worded agreement document. Per the Bird Club, \$12,000 – \$15,000 is already committed to go into the endowment fund for trail development. State and Federal trail grant applications are being worked on.

2. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, newsletter, etc.)

A new bio-solids contract with the city has been signed for 2016-2017. 120 acres of samples are planned. 55-60 acres of tree planting is expected. 300 acres of CRP seeding is planned for Minnehaha County and 74 acres in Lincoln County. Bare root tree orders are coming in. A March online newsletter is planned. The tiller needs \$1,200 of repairs. Pfeifer will check on the price for a new tiller.

3. Equipment and Drilling in Lincoln County

Lincoln County has signed the agreement. They asked \$15,000 for the grass drill. MSP to sign the agreement by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

4. Elections

Wolles (Tax-payer, Property Owner) and Pfeifer (Urban Member) will need to re-run for their 4 year terms on the board this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RCPP Addition of Services (Terraces)

MSP to sign a letter to Jeff Zimprich, State Conservationist for South Dakota, requesting a change to the RCPP to include terraces as a practice, by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

2. Urbanology

The Sioux Falls mayor is making a concentrated effort to promote conservation within city limits. Discussion was held about the possibility of the Minnehaha Conservation District being an information center to promote this idea.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to fund 2 camper's application fee to the SD Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp at Bob Marshall Camp in the Black Hills by Jeff and Wolles. All ayes.

MSP to adjourn at 5:03 p.m. by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 11th, 2016 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant