

**Minnehaha Conservation District
November 14th, 2016 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Supervisors present: Ron Johnson, Jim Pfeifer, Bob Woerman and Tom Wolles
Supervisors absent: Jeff Oyen

Advisors present: Dana Loseke
Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

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

Minutes of October 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

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

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

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 43 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

FSA has 100,000 acres remaining nationwide before they hit their national cap of 24 million acres.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

The CSP program has gone through a major overhaul for FY 2017 and sign-up will be announced soon. Annual Certification is due by December 16th, with contract reviews to be completed by March 31, 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

We are busy certifying practices and payment applications. Program eligibility and conservation planning has begun on our FY-2017 applications. There are 10 applications for general EQIP and 1 for RCPP-EQIP.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

We will be working on our 1 contract review this week with the Easement Specialist.

A Civil Rights Compliance review was conducted by Deron at the meeting.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

Total potential SRAM for 2017 is 342.3 acres. Totals from 2013 through 4/01/16: SRAM – 1,290 acres or 129,635 linear feet (footage of stream protected). RAM – 124 acres or 28,625 linear feet. CRP – 119 acres or 17,668 linear feet. 5 Ag Waste Management Systems (AWMS) are currently in design phase. 2 RCPP AWMS are completed in Minnehaha County and 1 regular EQIP AWMS has been completed in Brookings County.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**

Bio-solids soil sampling (covering about 1400 acres) has been completed for this year. We are working on a new contract for December 1st. 30 acres of trees are planned for next year. 95 acres of grass planting are left to do (75 acres in Lincoln County and 20 in Minnehaha County). 565 acres were seeded in Lincoln County this year. More mowing and spraying projects are being lined up for next spring.

2. **Equipment (Drill and Disc)**

Discussion held about replacing the small disc and purchasing a larger drill. MSP to get paperwork ready for the next meeting to purchase a 26 ft. Great Plains drill by Woerman and Wolles. All ayes. MSP to charge a \$75 daily fee plus \$10.00/acre, with a 25 acre minimum, for the 26 ft. drill by Wolles and Woerman. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Future Plan of Work**

We will continue with current work plus expand work with the purchase of the 26 ft. drill. Our work area covers Minnehaha County plus about a 5 mile reach across county borders into Minnesota and Iowa. We expect increasing work load in Lincoln County. John will put together a report to submit to the Department of Agriculture.

2. **Office Christmas Party Potluck – December 15th**

3. **Cover Crop Tour – November 15th**

The District will have the new 26 ft. drill on display at this event.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:47 p.m. by Pfeifer and Wolles. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 12th 2016 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant