

**Minnehaha Conservation District
February 13th, 2017 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Ron Johnson, Jeff Oyen, and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher and Deron Ruesch

Agenda: MSP to approve by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

Minutes of January 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 25 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

We have 10 CRP sign-up #50 and/or re-enrollment requests. Any new tree planting requests will be for spring 2019.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

We have one 2016 payment to process and 1 contract review to complete. 5 new sign-ups are being processed. The deadline is 3/31/17.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Only 1 out of 4 EQIP applications will move through the ranking review process. 12 contract reviews need to be completed.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information

There was discussion about cover crop funding. MSP by Oyen and Heber to apply for the State Commission Grant plus other avenues for cover crop funding. 3 ayes (Oyen, Heber, and Woerman);

1 nay (Johnson).

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by John Parker:

They are working with producers on projects. Regarding the Baltic dam project – John talked to the City Administrator in Baltic, who said that they were taking care of the 404 permit.

OLD BUSINESS

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

No bio-solids activity is occurring at this time of year. 35 acres of tree planting is planned this year. About 300-400 acres of grass seeding for CRP is planned. 7 have applied for Shelterbelt Renovation Grant funds. Some spraying is planned for this year.

2. Equipment (disk)

MSP by Heber and Johnson to purchase new 8 ft., 3 point Great Plains Land Pride disk for \$3,960.00. All ayes.

MSP by Oyen and Johnson to sell the old John Deere drill for \$1,115.00. All ayes. MSP to sell the old Weed Badger by Heber and Oyen. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Legislature Information

Discussion held about issues currently before the state legislature.

2. Eastern SD Soil & Water Research Farm (Board Member)

MSP by Johnson and Oyen to nominate Gordon Heber to be the representative on this board. All ayes.

3. Water Festival (March 13 – 15) Next Board Meeting?

2450 students are signed up for this March 14-15 event at USF. Set up is on March 13th afternoon. MSP by Oyen and Heber to approve the volunteer list. All ayes. The board decided to hold next month's meeting at the RCPP-Big Sioux River Watershed Project Meeting, to be held March 22nd.

4. Leadership Conference in Pierre for Employees (March 1 – 2)

John and Harlan are planning on attending this meeting. Hiring & training of employees and liability issues will be discussed. The Big Sioux Nursery meeting and training will also be held, as well as native grass seeding and cover crops discussion.

5. Ag. Day at Pavilion – March 18

NRCS and MCD will have a booth at this event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 22nd, 2017 – RCPP-Big Sioux River Watershed Project Meeting

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant