

REVISED MINUTES

**Minnehaha Conservation District
January 9th, 2017 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

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

Minutes of December 12th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Oyen and Woerman. All ayes.
MSP to arrange for an auditor's review of the books by Oyen and Woerman. All Ayes.

NRCS Activity Report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 38 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

We have 8 CRP sign-up and re-enroll requests.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Accepting applications for the "improved" CSP program. Completed 1 modification. 2016 payments were made and we have nine 2017 payments to process.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Certifying practices and payment applications. Program eligibility and planning has begun on 2017 applications.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

Currently taking applications until 1/15/17. We may have one application.

Sioux Falls Farm Show is from January 25 – 27. We are encouraging producers to sign-up for Conservation Client Gateway in order to do business with NRCS on-line.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

SRAM, RAM & CRP – We are preparing contracts for acres to be enrolled this spring. RCPP-EQIP - funds have been used to install 4 stream crossings on Beaver Creek in Lincoln County. Currently processing payments on active contracts. The Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee was presented with the "Excellence in Cooperative Conservation Award" from State Conservationist Jeff Zimprich. Discussion was held about the erosion situation at the southern low-head dam on the Big Sioux River in Baltic. MSP for Minnehaha Conservation District to talk to the States Attorney about being the sponsor of a 404 permit for the Baltic Dam project by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids – The signed contract is back from the City for the next year. 40 – 45 acres of tree planting is planned. 200 acres of grass planting is planned for Minnehaha Co. plus more in Lincoln Co. 250 acres of spraying is planned. Sales calls are being made to promote the new 26 ft. drill in the community.

2. Equipment (disk)

Discussion about purchasing a new Land Pride mounted 8 ft. tandem drill. More information to be presented at the next meeting.

3. Newsletter

This is being put together and will be out in January.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Changes

Gordon Heber took his oath of office to join the board. MSP to nominate Bob Woerman for Chairman by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to nominate Jeff Oyen for Vice-Chairman by Pfeifer and Johnson. All ayes. MSP to nominate John Parker as Secretary/Treasurer by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

2. Election Changes – Jack Majeres

Update on 2 resolutions that were passed at the SDACD state convention last fall.

1) Nominating petitions for board supervisors would need signatures from no less than ½ of 1% of the voters registered in the district, not to exceed 25. 2) The candidates for supervisor would need to be a registered voter, residing in the district. One of the legislation proposals would require the 5 board members to be elected at large or coming from sub-districts equal in size, as determined by the census population count. These changes would start with the 2018 election cycle.

3. National Convention – Denver, CO

This will be held from January 29 – February 2. See John for more information.

4. SDACD Membership (By-laws)

Per board by-laws, the SDACD annual membership fee will be paid.

5. Employee Reviews

MSP to go into executive session by Johnson and Pfeifer at 4:56 p.m. **to discuss employee reviews.** All ayes. Reviewed and evaluated employees, as well as the budget and funds. Chairman Woerman declared the executive session ended at 5:47 p.m.

6. Chairman Woerman declared the meeting back to general session. MSP to approve employee raises retroactive to 1/1/17 by Johnson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. by Oyen and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, February 13th 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant