

**Minnehaha Conservation District
April 10th, 2017 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

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

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

Supervisors absent: Jeff Oyen

Advisors present: Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

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

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

Minutes of March 22nd meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

On April 17th a training session will be held in Parker regarding operation of the Local Work Groups for a 6 county area (to determine resource concerns for NRCS programs).

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 17 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

No report

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

None of our 3 applications was funded at this time. 1 contract will undergo a quality assurance review. Practice Reminder letters were sent out.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

1 Ag. Waste Management System (AWMS) application was funded and obligated. 1 NWQI application for AWMS will be submitted. 1 RCPP-EQIP application for a terrace was pre-approved. Practice Reminder letters were sent out.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No report

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

340 acres of SRAM have been added to protect the Skunk Creek, Pipestone Creek and Big Sioux this year. The City of Sioux Falls will provide an alternative water source on some projects. 3 Ag. Waste Management Systems will be constructed in Minnehaha County this year.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Trees will arrive starting on 4/17. Tree planting - 59.5 acres planned. Spraying – 200 acres to finish; 15 acres were completed last week. 10 ft. drill seeding – 300 acres for Lincoln County and 250 acres for Minnehaha County planned. 15 ft. drill seeding – 200 acres planned in Minnehaha County. The 26 ft. drill is operating. Bio-solids – 1200 acres of deep sampling is planned for April.

2. **Conservation Collaboration Grant (NRCS)**

Conservation Districts can apply for these technical assistance funds that are supported by the South Dakota NRCS. NRCS could provide technical assistance.

3. **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative**

The District could sponsor this grant (up to \$50,000) which is supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

MSP to move forward and write a proposal to compete for both grants by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Regarding the Baltic dam issue – The City took care of the issue and the dam is now removed. MSP to record that the Board contacted the City of Baltic to follow through on the low-head dam issue by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Dan O'Brien – “Buffalo, Baby Boomers and Beyond: Toward a More Sustainable Use of North American Grasslands”, Augustana University, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

2. **Signs – Shed and Gevik Site**

The sides of the sign at the shed were blown out in a windstorm. MSP to proceed with pricing a lighted sign with the District name and logo by Pfeifer and Johnson. All ayes.

3. **Gevik Site – Scout Project**

Thomas Kruse will be doing a scout project involving a crew of people putting up signs at the Gevik site.

4. **Auditor Report**

An informal audit was performed on March 28th. The accounting system got a good review. MSP to conduct a yearly snapshot audit by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

5. **Lap Top Computer**

The District owns 3 old lap top computers that have old windows operating systems that can no longer be updated. MSP to purchase 1 new lap top computer by Johnson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. by Johnson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 8th, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant