

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 10th, 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, Jim Pfeifer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

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

Minutes of June 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Oyen and Heber. 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. There are 11 Highly Erodible Land determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

Emergency Grazing has been authorized in South Dakota. Numerous calls have been received about weeds needing to be controlled on CRP.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

3 contracts were recently "preapproved"; conservation stewardship plans and supporting documentation are being prepared.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

NWQI – We are waiting for additional funds to arrive in SD so we can move forward with 1 application. Completed Ranking Review on one RCPP cover crop on 397 acres. Canceled one RCPP contract.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

August 1 is the easement monitoring deadline.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

SRAM acres in 2017: 298.2 acres (59,196 linear feet of bank protection) on Skunk Creek, Pipestone Creek and the Big Sioux River. RAM acres in 2017: 48 acres (8,188 linear feet of bank protection) to tributaries of Skunk Creek, Six Mile Creek and the Big Sioux River. 31 miles were added from 2013 – 2016. An additional 13 miles

have been added in 2017. Have been performing bi-annual site evaluations of enrolled acres and delivered several cost-share checks to producers for enrolling into SRAM/RAM. Continue to make progress on 5 Agricultural Waste Management Systems contracts. RCPP funds for 6 terraces in Lincoln County have been obligated and construction will begin soon. 1 terrace in Minnehaha County has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: caught up until the next crop harvest. Tree planting: 57 acres planted (5,500 conifers and 12,000 deciduous trees). Grass planting: 400 acres to do in August, mostly in Lincoln County. 600 acres of cover crop to do this fall. Some mowing and spraying to do yet. District will look at hiring an intern for next summer. John will check with colleges and put some material together.

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

Planning to participate next year. 3 years of technical assistance is involved. The internship could fall under this program.

3. **Tree Cooler Estimates**

John is still checking with companies to get proposals

4. **Building Review**

Bob and John have worked on this. They have received bids for re-siding the current exterior walls. They will look at more options and get estimates for expanding the building to contain a bigger cooler, more dry storage and adding an office and bathroom.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Gevik Site Permission**

Property owner adjacent to the Gevik site has inquired about retrieving a deer that may possibly be shot on his land that runs to the Gevik property. The Board agreed not to allow blanket approval to retrieve wildlife that runs onto the Gevik site.

2. **Mower (Turner County)**

Request from Turner County Conservation District to purchase a mower jointly with the Minnehaha Conservation District. Board decided to purchase the mower and work with Turner Co. and other districts who may want to use it. MSP to purchase a Great Plains Land Pride mower with 15' cutter for \$11,950.00 with 0% financing by Oyen and Johnson. 4 ayes. 1 abstention (Jim Pfeifer).

3. **Water Festival 2018**

MSP for the Minnehaha Conservation District to be a major sponsor of the 2018 Water Festival and keep Insurance coverage in effect by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

SDACD state convention will be held on 9-24-17 through 9-26-17 at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel.

MSP to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 15th, 2017 at a project tour, time and site TBA

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant

DRAFT