

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

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson, Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

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

Minutes of May 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 27 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. Good progress is being made on the backlog.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

FSA is determining if the national cap of 24 million acres has been met.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Additional acres have been requested by the state to fund contracts. If NRCS receives additional acres, we may have 1 application funded.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

We are waiting to see if SD will receive additional funding for our 1 animal waste storage system. Working to certify 4,500 ft. of newly constructed terraces and an underground outlet.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

We have received 1 haying compatible use request (CUA) that will be processed this week. A potential encroachment violation needs to be field investigated.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

Totals for 2017 so far: **SRAM** - 298.2 acres or 59,196 linear feet of stream protected. **RAM** – 48 acres or 8,188 linear feet. This makes a total of 31 miles through 2016, with 13 additional miles through 2017. RCPP funds for terraces have been obligated and construction on 1 contract is complete in Minnehaha. MSP to approve signing 3 SRAM contracts by Oyen and Heber. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**
Bio-solids: 2 locations to soil sample. Tree planting: All trees are planted. Excess tree sale to be held on June 14th. John will work on a spreadsheet listing information about different tree suppliers. Grass seeding: 20 -30 acres to do yet in Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties. The following acres were put in: 15' drill – 600 acres; 26' drill – 425 acres; 2-10' drills – 600 acres; 6' drill – 10 acres. Terraces being seeded in Union, Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties.
- 2. Conservation Collaboration Grant (NRCS)**
District did not pursue this grant this year; will plan to do so in 2018.
- 3. Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative**
District did not pursue this grant this year; will plan to do so in 2018.
- 4. Vermillion-Big Sioux Area Meeting**
Discussion was held at the meeting about NRCS and District office space in the future. The Election procedure for Conservation District Boards will change on July 1st. The only qualification is that one must be a registered voter in the District. Precincts could be established for voting, based on population. No more landowner, urban, etc. categories will be allowed. John will get more information on this.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Tree Cooler (Fix or replace units?)**
1 of 2 compressors in the cooler broke. Discussed bid for cooler repair. 1 new compressor would replace 2 old ones. John will get more bids and report back.
- 2. Future Work for District**
Will possibly be more technical assistance focused, rather than service based.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. by Oyen and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 10th, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant