

**Minnehaha Conservation District
September 11th, 2017 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 2:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson, Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

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

Minutes of August 15th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Oyen. 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 Johnson and Oyen. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 27 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

3 contracts have been signed. Reminder letters were sent to existing CSP contract holder to collect their records and submit their annual certification.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

August grass seeding deadline was extended to September 5th, due to wet conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

3 Ag. Waste storage systems are being constructed. Sign-up deadline for EQIP and RCPP-EQIP is October 20th.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information

Office remodeling has commenced. We are working with Interstate Office Products on layout.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

We may need to start prioritizing producers due to funding. 3 Ag. Waste systems are being constructed. 10 sites on the Big Sioux River are being planned for bank stabilization. We are working with the City of Sioux Falls to tap into water lines for 2 producers.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: planning for fall soil sampling. Tree planting: 15 acres planned for 2018 so far. 125 acres of dormant seeding and 200 acres of spraying to do this fall. 15' drill is busy. The 26' drill is reserved for cover crops.

2. Tree Cooler Estimates

MSP to replace cooler compressor with bid from Mulder's Refrigeration by Heber and Johnson. All ayes. Discussion about replacement and possibility of new building and cooler. Still gathering information on new building, water, and sewer.

3. Building Review

Discussion about siding the current building. MSP to obtain bids on siding and installation from Brandon and Colton Lumber, as well as gathering information on building a new building and hooking up water and sewer by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fall Convention (Sept. 17-19)

This will be held at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls. Ron, Bob, Gordon and John will attend.

2. Land Judging (October 3rd)

This will be held at the Bennett Sunvold property by Hartford. NRCS will help dig pits on September 29th. Equipment will be furnished by Pfeifer Implement.

3. Equipment for 2018

Discussion about the fabric machine and obtaining a different lawn mower to be used at the shed, Gevik site and potential jobs, if the equipment would fit the project. This topic was tabled – need to obtain more information on the fabric machine.

4. Gevik Endowment Fund

Talked with the bird club about future projects and fund raising. Heber and Woerman will meet at the Gevik site with John to look at the area where the trail could be extended to the north. Tabled – more information to be gathered.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence
Soil Health Coalition, cover crops.

MSP to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, October 16th, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by John Parker, District Manager