

**Minnehaha Conservation District
October 16th, 2017 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:02 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, Brian Top and Matt Johnson

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

Minutes of September 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Pfeifer 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:

Deron conducted an annual Civil Rights Compliance review for the board.

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 23 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

FSA has suspended all continuous sign-up offers starting 10/1/17. Only authorized to accept Grassland offer sign-ups. NRCS is resuming conservation planning on applications received through 9/30/17.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

3 contracts were obligated in September on 1,568.6 acres.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

The sign-up deadline is 10/20/17. Three Ag. Waste Storage Systems are being constructed. Deferral letters were sent to FY 2017 applications that were not funded.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Matt Johnson:

62 potential acres for the new SRAM 2.0 program that would pay \$100/acre. SRAM – 170 acres are expected to be enrolled in 2018 (24,000 linear ft. of stream). RAM – 22 acres of cropland/pastureland expected to be enrolled (7,000 linear ft. of stream.) Ag. Waste Management Systems – 1 design completed and dirt work started, 2 under construction and 4 producers showing interest. 6 terrace projects funded in Lincoln County and 2 in Union County. 10 bank stabilization projects on Sioux River are being planned.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**
Bio-solids: soil sampling underway (about 900 acres completed so far); Trees – 20 acres planned so far, 2 CRP contracts for next year. 65 acres were planted this year. Grass – 200 acres of dormant seeding to do. Potential 600 acres of cover crop to plant. 110 acres of spraying to complete this fall. 475 acres of mowing has been completed.
- 2. Building Review**
Still waiting on siding bids to come in. Water and sewer service would be through Renner Sanitary District, costing \$40,000.00. A permit and bonded contractor would be needed to tear building down and add sewer.
- 3. Fall Convention (Sept. 17-19)**
Over 300 people attended, including Gordon, Bob, Jeff and John from the District. Soil demonstration and key-note speaker were highlights.
- 4. Land Judging (October 3rd)**
16 schools with 163 students participated. Thanks to Pfeifer's for equipment provided to use and to Bennett Sundvold for use of the land. Thanks to NRCS staff and to Megan Jordahl, Ultima for Lake County, for their help.
- 5. Gevik Site**
A windstorm knocked the sign down; this is being repaired. Master Gardeners will take over control of the flower bed in front. Bob, Gordon and John met at the site with the Weed & Pest Board committee members. There was discussion about trail extension. Need to meet with Bird Club again to discuss. The waterway was cleaned out; flowing well now. Numerous people have asked about developing food plots, so a demonstration food plot is being developed. Discussion about getting water sampling done.
- 6. Equipment for 2018**
No information on fabric machine. Some lawn mowers have been viewed. Drills will need some refreshing.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. National Convention (January 27 – 30)**
This will be held in Nashville, TN. John would like to attend.
- 2. National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Membership Investment**
Board agreed to pay a Gold Level membership in this organization, as per the by-laws.
- 3. Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Investment**
Board agreed to pay annual membership.
- 4. RCPP/Program**
A new RCPP program can be applied for with the District as a lead sponsor. The District would supply technical services and receive administration fees. MSP that Minnehaha Conservation District be the lead sponsor for this new program by Pfeifer and Heber. All eyes.

5. Tractor Leases

3 tractors are reserved for next year. 1 John Deere tractor from Kibble Equipment from Mid-March through November (250 hours) for \$2,250.00. 2 tractors from Sioux International would each be leased for \$5.00/hr. @ 150 hours maximum. MSP to lease tractors by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

Discussion about sand pit proposal located near the District Shed. MSP to show no opposition to the project by Johnson and Pfeifer. All ayes. Discussion about taking out a Weed and Pest Board sponsorship ad.

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

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

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant