

**Minnehaha Conservation District
November 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, and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jeff Oyen and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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

Agenda: Agenda was amended to add item #3 under new business – Pheasant Fest 2018. MSP to approve amended Agenda by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

Minutes of October 16th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Presented by Amy Richards, bookkeeper. Reviewed at meeting. Board requested that bookkeeper provide monthly profit & loss and cash balance statements. MSP to approve by Heber 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: No report

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

2018 rates have dropped significantly. FSA is no longer accepting new applications.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Approximately ten 2017 CSP payments are being processed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Three applications were received for the RCPP-EQIP program. 7 modifications and payments are being processed.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No report

Sarah Fitzgerald, new Communications Coordinator for the SD Soil Health Coalition, is housed in our office.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

Two pipelines along with 4 water tanks are currently being installed this fall as additional practices for acres enrolled into SRAM. A grazing system consisting of 2 pipelines and 3 water tanks as an alternative water source will be installed on an unnamed tributary that runs to the Big Sioux River 1.5 miles away. Matt Johnson will be resigning from Project Coordinator effective 1-1-18.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids – soil sampling has been completed for this year. Trees – 25 acres planned so far, including 2 CRP plans. Grass – Finishing grass planting soon. Some terraces and waterways are lined up as well.

2. **Building Review**

Per the City planner, there is a sewer hook-up at the shed already. Discussion about adding a restroom and possibly adding on to the building. John will get more information.

3. **Equipment for 2018**

Discussion about the fabric machine and lawn mower to be used at the Gevik site.

4. **National Convention (January 27 – 30)**

Nashville, TN is the site. John and Gordon plan to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **RCPP Tour/Meeting**

A national team came on November 6th and reviewed proposals and toured 4 projects. 15 people attended. The team was impressed with the partnerships seen in these projects.

2. **FY 2018 Contribution Agreement**

The agreement between the NRCS and the Minnehaha Conservation District for 2018 involves a \$9,240.00 contribution from each partner.

3. **Pheasant Fest 2018**

This national Pheasants Forever convention will take place in Sioux Falls on February 16 – 18, 2018. A booth is reserved for the District for a \$450.00 fee. People would be needed to man the booth. MSP to participate in the booth at the convention by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:42 p.m. by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 11, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant