

**Minnehaha Conservation District
December 11th, 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 and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jeff Oyen and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson, Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Brian Top, Matt Johnson and Leah Turgeon

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

Minutes of November 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. 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/HEL REQUESTS: Our current backlog is about 24 outstanding certified wetland determination requests; none older than 40 days. During FSA Compliance Spot Checks, 1 producer was found to have an ephemeral gully erosion problem. A new conservation plan is being developed to address this.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

We have 1 conservation plan/contract to develop by 12/15/17 deadline. New signups are suspended.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

We have completed certification of 9 out of 10 contracts for 2017 payments. An additional 9 contracts will be certified for 2018 payment. The first payment was processed for a customer using the Client Gateway program.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Eligibility determinations and conservation planning has commenced on 4 new applications. We are waiting on documentation from producers on a few contracts in order to certify practices.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No new information

Jeff Zimprich, State Conservationist, presented the Sioux Falls Office the SD NRCS Print award.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Matt Johnson:

2018 Potential Acres & Linear Feet of Stream Exclusion – SRAM: 154 acres; 22,477 L. Ft.; RAM: 21 acres; 7,656 L. Ft.; SRAM 2.0: 62 acres; 5,065 L. Ft. 5 water tanks and 3 pipelines have been installed this fall to provide drinking water to grazing livestock. Total linear feet of livestock pipelines installed to date – 9,840 linear feet. EQIP/RCPP: Construction continues on a hog barn, along with 3 other Agricultural Waste Management Systems project that are in the engineering phase. Total AWMS to date: 10 projects.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids are completed for 2017. Tree planting: 27 acres planned. Grass planting: 225 acres in Minnehaha and 75 acres in Lincoln are planned. Spraying: 75.5 acres planned for spring. Mowing: 85 acres planned for June. 550 total acres mowed in 2017. After discussion about health insurance, MSP by Johnson and Heber to stay with Wellmark health insurance. All ayes. 2 possible erosion complaints have been received and will be investigated.

2. Building Review

No new bids were received on the building addition project. A new County Equipment shop may be planned in the future. The District may want to ask to be included in that. The District shed does not currently hold all of the equipment owned.

3. Equipment for 2018

The 10' drill from Lincoln County needs tires, disk openers and a small seed box fixed. Some maintenance is needed on the other 10' drill as well. John gathered information on a new fabric machine that would cost \$14,000.00. An average of 65 acres of trees have been planted with fabric in recent years. Turner County had been doing some of our hillside and curve fabric work. MSP to purchase the new fabric machine by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

4. National Convention (January 27 – 30)

This will be held in Nashville, TN. Per our by-laws, \$2,000.00 can be allocated among people who choose to go, with a limit of \$500 per person. No one is planning to attend at this time.

5. Pheasant Fest 2018

This will be held in Sioux Falls on February 16 – 18, 2018. The District will have a booth at a cost of \$450.00. John and Bob plan to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conservation Collaboration Grant (NRCS)

John, Deron and Brian will work together on this. MSP for the District to pursue this grant by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

2. Employee Review

John has contacted Mitchell Technical Institute and South Dakota State University about a possible internship position for next summer or fall. He also presented job descriptions for the District Manager and Field/Equipment Technician positions with the District. Reviews will be held at the next meeting.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 8, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant