

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 8th, 2018 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Ron Johnson and Jeff Oyen

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Others present: John Parker, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Hersh Smith and Brian Top

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

Minutes of February 12th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 38 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. We are switching to the Minnesota wetland tool.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

No new information

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

4 new applications were received. Reviews are due at the end of the month.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

1 High Tunnel pre-approved; finishing the contract to be signed. Have received 11 applications – deadline is 3/16/18. Outreach campaign completed to 230 producers for cover crops in priority sections.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

11.5 acres new ground for 1 restoration agreement.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

Tanner Clausen is the new employee for East Dakota Watershed. Still taking applications for RAM and SRAM. Construction continues on one hog barn, as well as engineering on 3 other Ag. Waste Management Systems.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, etc.)**
Bio-solids: new contract signed for 2018. Trees: 50.76 acres planned on 36 sites. Grass seeding: 625 acres planned for Lincoln Co. and 525 acres in Minnehaha Co. Drills: 300 acres planned for the 15' drill and 200 acres for the 26' drill so far. Toured the new Millborn Seed facility and attended workshops there.
- 2. Pheasant Fest 2018**
This was a successful event with many booth visitors. A few tree plans and seedings were generated. Thanks to all who helped – Gordon and Shirley Heber, Bob Woerman, Harvey Schafer, John Parker and Hersh Smith.
- 3. Internship Information**
Working with SDSU for fall 2019 Internship. Creating outline of work for students that will apply.
- 4. Water Festival – Volunteers**
MSP to approve the list of workers and volunteers for the water festival by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes. This will be the 25th annual Water Festival, to be held March 13th and 14th.
- 5. Leadership Meeting – March 1 – 2 in Pierre, SD**
Hersh and John attended this informative meeting. Accounting, cover crops, trees and seeding were covered.
- 6. RCPP Meeting in Salem, SD on February 27 in Conjunction with Ducks Unlimited**
Brian and John attended this meeting on cover crops for areas with duck nesting. Probably only a small portion of Minnehaha County (northwest) would be in the focal area.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Service Expansion**
Millborn Seeds is interested in having Minnehaha Conservation District be a dealer for seed. Need to decide if we have manpower, space, equipment and time for expansion. Bob Woerman looked at other possible space for equipment storage. Options will be discussed at a later date.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:58 p.m. by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 9, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Hersh Smith, Resource Technician