

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 11th, 2018 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 2:00 pm**

Chairman Woerman declared that the Board go into Executive Session at 2:30 p.m. to discuss work in Lincoln County.
Chairman Woerman declared that the Board go out of Executive Session at 3:15 p.m.

Woerman called the regular meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

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

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

Minutes of May 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report by Amy Richards, Bookkeeper: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

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

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 14 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

FSA is currently taking applications for eligible re-enrollments and new land through 8/17/18. Only certain water quality related practices are eligible; trees are not eligible.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

12 re-enrollments are being processed. 1 new CSP application will be funded (220 acres).

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

An additional 537 acres of cover crop was approved, for a total of 2,500 acres under the RCPP-EQIP program. 3 Ag. Waste Management Systems requests have been received.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

Bank stabilization projects on the Big Sioux River (\$2 – 3 million) are being worked on. The project will use ash trees that the City is taking down and pink rock. Surveying is being done this month. 650 acres of SRAM has been lined up north of the City. SRAM has been a success this year.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 5 fields to do this week. Trees: 65 acres in Minnehaha County and 15 acres in Lincoln County have been planted. Fabric is being laid. Excess tree sale will be held June 14th and 15th.

Grass: 668 acres planted with the 26' and 15' drills combined. Mowing: 300 acres in Lincoln Co. and 35 acres in Minnehaha Co. to be done. Gevik Site: Have been mowing weekly. Buffer is growing well, and trail has been cleaned up. Spraying: 35 -45 acres to do. Discussion about fencing part of the Gevik Site. John will gather more information.

2. **Equipment**

Everything has been working fine, except for a bent arm on the 26' drill.

3. **Vermillion/Big Sioux Area Meeting – June 18th**

This meeting will be held in Howard, SD at 10:00 a.m. 5 reservations have been made, including John, Bob, Gordon and Deron.

4. **Tree Planting Agreement with Lincoln County**

Agreement was signed last month and has worked well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Cover Crop Meeting**

Developing a winter (December) cover crop meeting in conjunction with Extension Service and the SD Soil Health Coalition.

2. **East River Cover Crop and Grazing Day – August 17th**

Will be held in Hartford, SD area. Brad Jorgensen from Ideal, SD and Sandy Smart from Brookings, SD will be coming to speak. Rainfall simulator will be demonstrated. MSP to sponsor a meal up to \$250.00 by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes.

3. **Future Work Plan for the District with Lincoln County**

Loren Brass from Lincoln County Conservation Board spoke about his district's challenges and expressed appreciation for Minnehaha County's assistance in getting conservation work done. A complete merger would be complex. A Joint Powers agreement would be simpler. Lincoln Co. would like to have Minnehaha Co. run their whole operation. All equipment and shed in Canton would be available. The next step will be for members of both boards to meet with Angela of the SDACD on June 18th about the partnership agreement.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. by Oyen and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 9th, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant

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