

**Minnehaha Conservation District
October 15, 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, Ron Johnson, Jeff Oyen, Jim Pfeifer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Hersh Smith and Melanie Raine

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

Minutes of September 10th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 19 outstanding certified wetland determination requests and 1 potential wetland violation in process.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

2 cultural resource reviews for 2 grassed waterway applications were completed. These are on hold. FSA is currently not accepting new applications.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

2 re-enrollment applications are almost complete. We can start processing 2018 payments on our 20 contracts and are still waiting for some of the documentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

We are working with producers to certify practices and payments on 18 contracts. Some scheduled conservation practices will not be installed this fall due to weather, requiring 8 contract modifications. NRCS is proposing changes to the EQIP funding starting in FY2020, focusing funding on smaller watersheds to address similar resource concerns, along with ability to track measurable outcomes.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

We are still waiting for 3 contracts to be signed for SRAM. 1 producer in Hamlin County is planning to construct a barn. The annual report for DENR (GRTS) was completed on 10/12/18. The Big Sioux River Summit will be held on December

6th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Downtown Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux Falls. Big Sioux River Steering Committee will also meet that day. Woerman, Johnson and Schmidtbauer will be involved with the committee.

Public comments were received.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Soil sampling is caught up until harvest. 15 producers are lined up for deep soil samplings, plus some shallow sampling. Trees: Working on about 15 acres of tree plans for next year so far. Grass: 35 acres to plant yet this year between the two counties, if possible. Gevik Site: Minnehaha County approved for \$2,000.00 for the District for 2019, which will go to the site. Parker plans to do a presentation to the County Commission. Parker led a discussion about trail expansion, improvements, and other possible options for Gevik. MSP to have VanderSnick make trail improvements for \$2,500 by Oyen and Heber. All ayes. Raine spoke about the 20 new dye-sublimation signs that she developed for the site. MSP to move ahead and apply for a 319 grant for the new dye-sublimation signs (in the amount of \$961.88) by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

2. **Equipment**

All equipment if up and running. We had gotten a pricing on a Land Pride 9 ft. 3-point dirt blade. We will borrow one for now. Tractor rental cost will be increasing next year.

3. **Review Lincoln County Work Contract**

Heber presented the latest contract proposal from the Lincoln County Conservation Board. Discussion about costs of doing business in another county. MSP to end work in Lincoln County after current work obligations are finished by Heber and Oyen. All ayes.

4. **Land Judging – October 2**

155 students from 15 schools participated. First place went to McCook Central. Thank you to Bob Woerman for providing the land on which the judging was held, south of Brandon. Also, thank you to Pfeifer Equipment for the use of equipment to dig judging pits.

5. **Contribution Agreement – FY 2019**

This is a 50/50 work agreement between the District and the NRCS. A new FY2019 agreement has been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **National Convention (February 2 – 6) – San Antonio, TX**

Parker plans to attend and Heber may attend. If interested, please let Parker know or register yourself.

2. **National Association of Conservation Districts 2019 Annual Dues**

MSP to pay \$775 for a gold membership by Johnson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

Board agreed to pay the annual membership investment invoice from the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, as per the by-laws.

MSP to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant

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