

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
December 11, 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:**

**Advisors present:** Dana Loseke

**Advisors absent:** Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Deron Ruesch, Hersh Smith and Kyle Grace

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

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

**Treasurer's report:** Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Oyen 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:** Our current backlog is about 7 outstanding certified wetland determination requests and 1 wetland violation appeal.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):**

No new updates. FSA is currently not accepting new signups.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):**

Processed crop year 2018 payments for 20 contracts. 2 re-enrollment applications required an extension modification which has been completed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):**

13 FY2019 applications are on file. Batching deadline is 12/21/18. Waiting on 1 animal waste system engineering certification. All payments have been processed for cover crop contracts.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):**

No new information

Discussion was held about the county's resource concerns list which is used to determine EQIP program rankings. The Board decided to change the concerns to 1. Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion (cover crops); 2. Organic Matter; 3. Water Quality Degradation – Nutrients in Surface Water; 4. Inadequate Feed, Forage & Grazing; 5. Soil Erosion – Ephemeral Gully

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:**

Still waiting for 3 contracts to be signed for SRAM. Surveyed an SRAM pasture and RAM pasture being planned for next spring. EQIP/RCPP: 1 manure pack barn in Moody County was finished. 1 Brookings County hoop barn was finished. The RCPP annual report was completed and submitted. Awarded \$450,000 319 funds for amendment 4 from DENR in Pierre. Recommendation of NPSTF was the same.

**No Public Comments were taken.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Bio-solids: Completed and billed out. New contract is going out to the City for 2019. Trees:

Tree plans are in place for 44 people (76 acres). Grass: 360 acres to plant next year with the 15' and 26' drills. 85 acres of CRP seeding to do in Minnehaha County and 48 acres to seed in Lincoln County. Gevik Site: A plan is in place to provide a remedy for the sediment issues on the trail.

### **2. Equipment**

One of the 10' drills is being traded in on the new drill. The 26' drill is being stored by Ron Johnson.

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

Early bird registration is available until 12/15/18. Parker plans to attend.

### **4. Water Festival 2019**

March 13-14, 2019 at USF. 1686 students have registered so far, as well as 8 presenters and 12 schools for the Quiz Bowl competition.

### **5. Water Summit – December 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown Sioux Falls**

Various speakers presented at the meeting, including Barry Berg, Jeff Zimprich and Mayor Paul Ten Haken.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Health Insurance**

Parker and Smith are covered as full-time employees under the District plan. Research revealed that The Avera Health Plan would cost less than Wellmark. MSP to change plan to Avera Health Plan starting 1/01/19 through the current agent, The Insurance Connection, by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

### **2. Erosion/Sediment Discussion**

Discussion was held about the District's Erosion Plan. The Board decided not to change the plan from the 2008 version.

### **3. Gevik Site**

Discussion was held with Kyle Grace, neighboring property holder to the Gevik Site, about the run-off that has occurred from his property onto the site. The plan to mitigate this situation was presented, with discussion about steps that have been taken, as well as practices to be implemented in 2019. Kyle has signed up for the EQIP program through NRCS.

### **4. Board Positions for 2019**

Thank you to outgoing board member, Jeff Oyen, for his years of service to the Board. Jennifer Schmidtbauer will be the incoming member for 2019. The Chairman asked the Board to move the selection of Board positions to the December 2018 meeting, due to health reasons and ability to attend the January 2019 meeting. All agreed. The Board positions item will be reviewed at the January 2019 meeting. MSP to nominate Ron Johnson for Chairman of the Board by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes. MSP to nominate Jim Pfeifer for Vice Chairman by Johnson and Heber. All ayes. MSP to nominate John Parker as Secretary/Treasurer by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

### **5. Executive Session – Not needed**

## **CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

2018-12A and 2018-12B

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Correspondence**

Congratulations to Board member Gordon Heber and his wife Shirley on their South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League 2018 Wildlife Habitat Award that was presented at the NRCS State Technical Meeting in Huron, SD.

MSP to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. by Johnson and Oyen. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 14th, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant