

**Minnehaha Conservation District
January 14, 2019 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, Jim Pfeifer, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Brian Top, Brian Scott, Maggie Gillespie and Jeff Barth

Maggie Gillespie of the State's Attorney Office introduced herself and discussed how she could be of service to the Board.

Election of Officers for 2019

The Board welcomed new member, Jennifer Schmidtbauer. Motion to nominate Jennifer Schmidtbauer for Chairman by Heber. Motion died due to lack of a second. MSP to nominate Ron Johnson for Chairman by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. 3 ayes (Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman) and 1 nay (Heber). MSP to nominate Jim Pfeifer as Vice Chairman by Johnson and Schmidtbauer. 4 ayes (Johnson, Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman) and 1 nay (Heber). MSP to nominate John Parker as Secretary/Treasurer by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Agenda: MSP to approve as amended (with the addition of new business item #9 – "Approval of Beneficiary for Land Management Company") by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of December 11th meeting: MSP to approve as amended (with the addition of Hersh Smith as a meeting attendee) by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: We currently have about 6 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No updates. FSA is currently not accepting new signups.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Payments have been processed on 20 contracts for 2018. Annual Status Reviews will be completed by March 1st on the remaining 10 contracts.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Conservation planning activities have commenced on 14 EQIP applications. Practices include: animal waste storage facility, nutrient management, cover crop, no-till, livestock pipeline and tanks, and rotational grazing.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): 1 application is being processed.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

RCPP/EQIP watershed projects: 2 barns were recently completed in Moody County, plus 1 each in Brookings and Hamlin Counties. 1 barn and 1 open lot system are being designed. Many terraces are being cost shared in Lincoln County, as well as 3 in Minnehaha County. We are working on getting applicants for the SRAM stream buffer program.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

Jeff Barth, County Commissioner, spoke about a couple items that he is concerned about – the possible speedway teardown in Brandon, SD and the operation of a junk yard without a permit, south of Hartford, SD. The legislature is considering a bill to deal with consequences for operation of a junk yard without a permit. Brian Scott spoke about the SD Dept. of Agriculture’s spending authority legislative bill. Water quality issues and shelterbelt plantings are a couple of the big issues that they deal with. He also discussed the Supervisor Accountability training modules that are available online.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: The 2019-2020 contract with the City of Sioux Falls is at the City for signature. \$132,150 is available to the District under the contract. Trees: 45 – 55 acres are planned so far. The SD cumulative tree planting report for 2018 was passed around. Grass: In Minnehaha County, 360 acres are planned on the large drill. 48 acres are planned in Lincoln County. Gevik Site: The State approved a 319 grant in the amount of \$2,650 (to be matched by the District) for trail improvements that will be implemented by 6-1-19. A meeting is scheduled with the neighboring land owner to discuss conservation activities planning.

2. Equipment

The 10’ drill that was purchased from Lincoln County was offered back to Lincoln. They refused purchase. That drill was then traded in on a new Great Plains 12’ drill. The 10’ Great Plains drill owned by the District is listed for sale. Funds from that sale will be applied to the new drill when the sale is complete.

3. Water Festival 2019

This will be held on March 13-14, 2019 at the University of Sioux Falls. The District is the lead sponsor. \$54,000 in donations have been received so far this year. 2098 students from 42 schools have registered. 15 schools will participate in Quiz Bowl. 3 schools have requested transportation assistance.

4. Gevik Trail Grant

Covered under Service Report

NEW BUSINESS

1. Erosion/Sediment Procedure

A procedure is in place for erosion/sediment complaints in Minnehaha County. Complaints need to come to the Conservation District first, where a written form is to be completed.

2. National Watershed Coalition Membership

Membership was discussed, but not acted upon.

3. CCG Grant/NRCS

Parker and Ruesch discussed the Conservation Collaboration Grant that is available through the NRCS. The District has visited with the City about partnerships concerning urbanology and soil health/sustainability or “food to table” projects. This would not be a cost share program; it would provide education to customers. The application will be due by 2-20-19. MSP by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer to pursue the CCG Grant. All eyes.

4. NACD Grant

This would be a supporting grant to the CCG grant. It cannot be applied for until the CCG grant is received.

5. Gevik Opportunity – Research & Study for the Future

Parker discussed a proposal to establish a biodiversity research area at the Gevik site. Tests and studies would be conducted, and the program would work with other partnerships that the District already has. The Board requested a presentation for a future meeting on this.

6. Employee Reviews

This was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Open Meetings Training – Planning for 2019 (In Accordance with Dept. of Ag.)

Brian Scott and Parker discussed the training module that is offered through the SD Dept. of Ag.

This may be done as a group or individually and covered over the next year and a half. Also, the State’s Attorney offered training for county planning and zoning, as well as training on open meeting regulations and laws.

8. SDACD 2019 Dues

The Board agreed to pay these dues, as per the bylaws.

9. Approval of Beneficiary for Land Management Company

Parker led discussion about whether the Board wants to agree to be an insurance beneficiary of the Tetonka Wetland Mitigation Bank site. The District is the long-term mitigation site manager. Parker will request a copy of their documents, to be reviewed at the February meeting.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

2019- 1A and 1B

MSP to sign agreements by Woerman and Pfeifer. 4 ayes (Johnson, Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman) and 1 abstain (Heber).

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, February 11th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant