

**Minnehaha Conservation District
February 11, 2019 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

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

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Ron Johnson

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Brian Top, Sean Newberg, Lorin Brass, Greg Huffman, Jim Klinghagen, Tessa Schwans, Brian Hagen, Jeff Barth and Brian Alderson

Agenda: MSP to approve by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Minutes of January 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. 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

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): All annual contract reviews have been completed and payments made. NRCS will be making changes to the program. A 1-year extension has been made for 2 contracts in Minnehaha County.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Conservation planning activities continue for 14 applications, with a March 1st deadline. All annual contract reviews have been completed.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): March 1st is the deadline for completing "offsite" easement monitoring. The District has been assigned 2 offsite and 1 onsite review.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

Applications being processed for 426 acres of buffers along streams, primarily along Skunk Creek and the Big Sioux River. 1 Ag. Waste Project application is in the works.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

Tessa Schwans and Brian Hagen, Wall Lake Residents, spoke about the proposed 4-mile black top biking trail around Wall Lake. They would be interested in using the Gevik Site parking lot and perhaps connect with the Gevik trail. They are looking for the Board to approve the project and possibly serve as a grant entity for the \$750,000 - \$850,000 project. A committee would do the grant writing and administration. Jeff Barth of the County Commission also spoke in favor of the project and said that the county is interested in it.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: The signed 2-year contract has been received from the City of Sioux Falls, for a possible \$132,000. Trees: 46 trees plans are being worked on; 14 are confirmed (22.7 acres). 10,000 newsletters with tree order forms have been mailed. 8,000 email copies will go out this week. Gevik Site: Parker supported looking at the Wall Lake Trail proposal, saying the District would want administrative fees. The Board discussed the proposal and agreed they would need more information at a future meeting.

2. Equipment

The 10 ft. drill will be sold to Lincoln County Conservation District (New Business Item #3).

3. Water Festival 2019

March 13-14, 2019 at USF, with 44 schools (2186 students) attending. 16 Quiz Bowl competitions will be held. There will be 23 presenters on Wednesday and 20 presenters on Thursday. MSP to approve the list of volunteers by Heber and Woerman. All ayes.

4. Gevik Trail Grant

The Trail Grant was received. The trail sign project needs to be completed by June 1st.

5. National Watershed Coalition Membership

MSP to not pay membership for 2019 by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

6. CCG Grant/NRCS

NRCS is providing this money to partnerships in 1-3-year grants with funds for education and outreach for urbanology and other projects. A meeting between the District and the City of Sioux Falls is planned to discuss interests of both parties.

7. Gevik Opportunity – Research & Study for the Future

Tabled; no new information.

8. Employee Reviews

Tabled to next month.

9. Open Meetings Training – Planning for 2019 (In Accordance with Department of Ag.)

1 ½ hour in-house training will be scheduled for the Board later this summer with the State's Attorney.

10. Beneficiary for Land Management Company

Tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NACD Convention Report

Parker reported on the convention, which he attended from Friday – Tuesday in San Antonio, TX. Presentations are now available on-line. The main item that he learned was that working with financially stable partners is very important for Conservation Districts.

2. Customer Focus Group Meeting

All are welcome to attend this meeting on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the SDSU Research Farm. This meeting helps determine research projects for the farm.

3. Sale of 10 Ft. Great Plains Drill to Lincoln County Conservation District (Discuss & Determine the Sale)

Lorin Brass from the Lincoln County Board thanked the Minnehaha County Board for helping them out over the past few years. They want to get back into the grass drilling business. MSP to sell the 10 ft. drill (as is) and accept the \$20,000 bid from Lincoln County Board by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

4. Conservation Plan Approval Review

Discussion was held about the conservation plan approval process by the Board at meetings. The process that the Board has been using is that members can review the plan, but not announce names and locations at the meeting, to protect producer's private information. They decided not to change this process.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

2019- 2A and 2B

MSP to sign agreements by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. 3 ayes (Woerman, Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer); 1 abstain (Heber).

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 11th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant