

**Minnehaha Conservation District
April 8, 2019 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:30 pm**

Executive Session – Vice Chair – 3:00 p.m.

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. MSP to hold an executive session to discuss Board positions by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes. Pfeifer declared the executive session out at 3:30 p.m. MSP to place an ad on the District website for 30 days to recruit potential Board members by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Hersh Smith, Brian Top, Leah Turgeon, Tami Moore, Tanya Flegel, Brian Alderson and Drew DeGroot

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

Minutes of March 18th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Heber. 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 Woerman. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: We currently have 8 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Leah Turgeon, Minnehaha County FSA Director, spoke about the District's need to use the exact conservation plan that is in place. No new sign-ups until probably December.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Sign-up deadline for applications is 5/10/19 for 2019 funding. Dialog on a potential CSP Pilot Program has commenced with the NRCS State Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): 3 applications have been preapproved under the Soil Health Initiative (758.9 acres for \$123,034.) 7 other applications are in a holding pattern until additional funding is received.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): 4/12/19 is deadline. 1 application received.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

450 acres of SRAM and 60 acres of RAM applications are planned so far. Moving forward with construction plans for 1 Minnehaha barn. Working with 2 producers with grassed waterway requests.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

State's Attorney's Office (10 minutes) Drew DeGroot, Minnehaha States Attorney's Office, introduced himself and talked about services that he could provide to the Board.

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: About 10 days before 500 – 1000 acres of soil sampling can begin. Trees: 30.7 acres planned on 24 sites. Grass: 900 – 1000 acres are planned. Gevik Site: Water is moving on the site. A neighbor to the site will put in a tree shelterbelt this year and seed grass. The bike trail project is moving forward. Parker will meet with project leaders and obtain more information.

2. Equipment – Equipment is in good shape. New drill to be picked up in the future.

3. Gevik Opportunity – Research & Study for the Future (Mike Heisler)

Information is still being gathered; should be available for the May meeting.

4. Beneficiary for Land Management Company

At this time, a Beneficiary is not yet required because there is no active mitigation site.

5. Customer Focus Group Meeting (Research Farm)

Heber attended the meeting on March 20th and reported. The research farm was started in 1959 when 15 conservation districts bought land near Madison. The farm was re-located to Brookings in the 1980's. The farm has a 2019 budget of \$3 million. Field day scheduled for 6/18/19. Next focus meeting is 1/15/20.

6. Annual Plan of Work

Heber has submitted an added objective 4. Tabled until May meeting.

7. Long-Term Plan of Work

More information is needed; new data will be available on 4/11/19. Tabled until May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NOLO Information

Tami Moore, Manager of Miner County Conservation and Tanya Flegel, Manager of Kingsbury County Conservation, presented information about the NOLO (Non-Operating Land Owners) outreach project in SD. Conservation Districts are looking for ways to communicate and work with these land owners.

2. SD Wildlife Federation Camp Sponsorship

MSP to sponsor 1 camp membership fee by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

3. Area Meeting Information – Meeting will be held on 6/17/19 at 10:00 a.m. in either Crooks or Hartford.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

3 Ag. Waste Management System nominations to approve. MSP to sign agreements by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 13th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant

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