

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 10th, 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: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Tanner Clausen, Drew DeGroot and Susan Kruse

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

Minutes of May 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. 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 12 certified wetland determination requests in progress. Nathan Blankers, Wetland Specialist, is also completing Food Security Act Compliance Reviews in Lake, Minnehaha and Moody Counties.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Sign-up is 6/03/19 – 6/23/19. Shelterbelts, Field Windbreaks, and Living Snow Fences are ineligible for this sign-up. No Incentive payments are authorized. Soil Rental Rates (SRR's) will be at a rate equal to 90% of rate in effect on 9/28/18.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): 12 applications received and being processed by 6/28/19.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Additional contracts approved for funding: 1 high tunnel system, and 1 grassed water way/forage biomass planting. 1 animal waste system contract has been obligated (\$341,563). 6/28/19 is deadline for FY-19 Erosion Prevention and Soil Health sign-up (cover crops, grassed waterways and forage & biomass seedings). South Dakota will receive approximately \$1.5 million to address resource concerns because of excessive moisture.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): Minnehaha County was 1 of the 6 counties selected for national audit of the compatible use agreements (CUAs) which will be conducted on-site. Sioux Falls Field Office will be advertising for a Soil Conservation Technician.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by or Brian Top: Surveying is being completed on 3 SRAM and 4 RAM sites. 2 or 3 Animal Waste Management Systems (AWMS) are being planned. 1 AWMS was funded. Information is being entered into the Tracker system.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – None received

Update from Supervisors: Schmidtbauer said that the Downtown Rotary Group is still interested in doing a Big Sioux River clean-up project. Woerman mentioned a research project that studied the rate of gain of livestock in an indoor facility compared to those in outdoor facilities.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: An extra 1,000 acres of sampling have been added for this summer by the City.

Trees: 29/34 sites have been planted so far. (29/34 acres planted). Grass: 75 acres left to plant on 12' drill; 150 acres left for 15' drill and 300 acres remaining for the 26' drill. Spraying: 5 customers have been served and 8 more customers are interested in fall spraying. A sink hole developed near the District Shed, that was repaired with rock fill. Gevik Site: The site has improved greatly since last summer. The neighboring property has been repaired and covered with grass and cover crop; will not be grazed until fall. Trees will also be planted. 18 new signs have been made and are ready to be erected along the trail. 5-6 parties have inquired about haying the site. Bids will be taken, with certain parameters set up for when harvesting can be done.

2. Equipment: All is working well. Parker will negotiate a deal to sell the old fabric machine to an interested party.

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

A person is interested in placing bee hives on the site. Several parties are interested in haying (see service report). Parker will be meeting with people about research projects that could be conducted at the Gevik Site.

4. Area Meeting – June 17th in Hartford

The meeting will be held at the Pizza Ranch in Hartford from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parker, Heber, and Woerman plan to attend.

5. Recognition of Service

Schmidtbauer discussed ideas about items that are offered to employees at Raven Industries. Parker will do research on obtaining items.

6. Board and Advisory Interest

The Board had received a Letter of Interest from 2 people. Susan Kruse was also present at the meeting and spoke about her interest in the Board. MSP to go into executive session at 4:55 p.m. to discuss interest and qualifications of interested persons by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes. Executive session was declared out at 5:05 p.m. The Board decided to make an appointment for the open Board position at next month's meeting. They appreciate the interest in the position.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2019 SDACD Resolution Proposal

Parker discussed the SDACD employee's proposal.

2. Participation in Outdoor Campus Exposition with Game, Fish & Parks

Discussion about events – Pollinator Event on 7/13/19 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; and 8/03/19 Exposition from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MSP to participate in Outdoor Campus events by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

MSP to sign agreements by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:23 p.m. by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 8th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant