

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 8th, 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: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Sarah Scroggins, Drew DeGroot and Brian Alderson

Agenda: MSP to approve, (after amending by adding old business item # 6 – Big Sioux Nursery – Area) and deleting new business item # 2 (Big Sioux Water Project) by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of June 10th meeting: MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer 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 Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: We currently have 24 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Sign-up is open through 8/23/19.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET) has been completed for 3 eligible applications. Ranking and cost estimates due by 7/12/19. Deadline for signing up for CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative is 7/19/19. This will assist producers in protecting grazing land uses, as well as conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Preconstruction meeting held on 7/3/19 for animal waste storage facility contracted through EQIP. Sign-up for EQIP-Erosion Prevention and Soil Health program ended on 6/30/19. Minnehaha county received 79 applications with only 10 screening as "high". Only "highs" will be considered for funding.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): Minnehaha Conservation District has 1 on-site monitoring to complete by 8/1/19.

Sarah Scroggins, Soil Health Coalition Communications Coordinator, presented information about the SD Grazing Exchange, which is funded through an NRCS grant. The purpose of the exchange is to connect crop and livestock producers to improve soil health.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Surveying to be completed on 1 SRAM and 4 RAM sites. 2 or 3 Animal Waste Management Systems (AWMS) are in the planning process. 1 AWMS has been funded statewide through EQIP-NWQI. Letter to extend RCPP for 1 year is being drafted.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - Drew DeGroot, State's Attorney, said that he will be available to do training on Board meeting procedures. Will plan to hold training before the September Board meeting.

Update from Supervisors: Heber discussed compensation to Board members for meeting attendance and expenses. By law, members must be paid for expenses that they claim to the District. Compensation for meeting attendance is optional.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site, etc.)**
Bio-solids: They are caught up; fewer hours have completed than planned due to wet conditions. Trees: 35 acres planted. Fabric completed on 7/8/19. 8-12 acres planned for next year so far. Grass: 12' drill work finished on 7/8/19. 15' drill is putting in cover crops (250-350 acres planned). 26' drill is still being used. Much mowing has been completed. Spraying is caught up for now.
- 2. Equipment:** All is working well. The fabric machine purchase deal was not completed.
- 3. Gevik Opportunity – Research & Study for the Future (Mike Heisler)**
Parker presented a plan draft for a possible Gevik Coalition Project. He feels that the next level of this plan would be to secure funding for the site and keep it separate from the District's general fund. The item was tabled until the next meeting. Board members should review the plan and come with ideas and/or workers for the next meeting.
- 4. Recognition of Service**
The District was recognized for 25 years of membership in the SDML (South Dakota Municipal League) Workers Compensation Fund and presented with a plaque.
- 5. Board and Advisory Appointments**
MSP to appoint Brian Alderson to fill the vacant board member position by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes. The Board approved appointing Carl Eliason, Mark McGee, Susan Kruse and Kelly Lyons as advisors.
- 6. Big Sioux Nursery – Area Meeting**
Parker reported on ideas presented at the area meeting to help the nursery increase revenue and prevent closure.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. NOLO Outreach Event – July 18th in Sioux Falls**
This event will be held at the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum starting at 12:00 p.m. and is aimed primarily toward non-operator land owners who are women. Mary Lou Lacey and Michelle Burke will attend from NRCS. Let John know if you have names of people who want to attend.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, August 8th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – Dewey Gevik Nature Area
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant