

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
November 14th, 2019 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Open Meeting Training at 2:30/Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Drew DeGroot, State's Attorney, conducted the Open Meeting Training.

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 2:57 p.m.

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

**Supervisors absent:** Brian Alderson

**Advisors present:** Carl Eliason

**Advisors absent:** Jim Jackson, Susan Kruse, Dana Loseke, Kelly Lyons and Mark McGee

**Others present:** John Parker, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Mary Lou Lacey and Drew DeGroot

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

**Minutes of October 17th meeting:** MSP to approve by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Mary Lou Lacey:**

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 13 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** FSA will attend a CRP training in November. Possibility of general CRP signup in December

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** Contract reviews are starting. Some contract payment requests can be made, but funding has not yet come through for all.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** EQIP applications are being taken. Some interest in High Tunnels.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):** Wet fall conditions have delayed progress on our newest contract. We are working with the Easement Specialist to follow procedures.

Ruesch started his new position as RUC – Resource Area Conservationist (Manager of Brookings, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Union counties) and Lacey is the Acting DC in the Sioux Falls Field Office.

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:** 8 applications for next year for SRAM & RAM. RCPP grant renewal request was not successful. Working on a new RCPP full proposal that is due on 12/3/19. Big Sioux River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting on 12/5 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – No Comments**

**Update from Supervisors –** Woerman presented a handout from the “Public Input Meeting” for the Statewide Conservation Plan meeting that was held at the Outdoor Campus.

## OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 21 sets of soil sampling have been completed on 800 acres. Trees: 46 contacts for 2020 and 4 acres committed. Grass: Still trying to broadcast seed on very wet sites. Gevik Site: Still in discussions with SDSU.

### **2. CCG Grant**

The job description will be posted on 11/18/19. The City of Sioux Falls will be doing a press release. The employee will be housed in the City Environmental Center.

### **3. Fall State Convention for SDACD – December 9-11 in Pierre, SD**

This event will occur at the Ramkota Hotel. Parker, Smith, Woerman and Heber will attend from the Conservation District. MSP for the District to pay for registration and room by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes. A Contribution Agreement will reimburse costs up to \$335.00 for one person.

### **4. Banking Information**

Bank accounts have been switched to First National Bank (from Wells Fargo). There is better separation of funds and a separate credit card for the Water Festival.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **1. New Memorandum of Agreement (Review and Approve)**

MSP to sign the draft by Woerman and Heber. All ayes. Square footage in the office, vehicle usage and equipment usage, etc. will need to be listed in the "Unfunded Cooperative Agreement" as well.

### **2. Board Mileage and Meeting Per Diem Pay**

MSP to pay upon request - \$35.00 reimbursement per meeting and mileage at \$0.58/mile by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

### **3. NOLO Grant**

MSP to sign the NOLO Mini-grant application by Heber and Woerman. All ayes.

### **4. Public Comments for South Dakota Forest Action Plan**

The public is invited to make comments online. The concentration is on riparian areas.

### **5. NACD Conservation Investment FY20**

MSP to pay a \$775 gold member yearly membership by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

### **6. Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Dues Investment**

MSP to pay the \$200 yearly dues by Heber and Woerman. All ayes.

### **7. Review of Services**

The cost of providing different services was discussed. MSP to discontinue spraying service by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes. Parker had several recommendations: 1. Tilling: Increase charge to \$125/hour plus site charge (3-hour minimum); 2. 6' Drill rate: Increase charge to \$125/acre plus site charge; 3. 12' Drill: Increase charge to \$30/acre plus site charge (12 acre minimum); 4. 15' Drill: Increase minimum to 15 acres; 5. Mowing: Increase charge to \$25/acre plus site charge (15 acre minimum). MSP to adopt Parker's recommendations by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All Ayes.

### **8. Projected Budget for 2020**

Parker presented a chart listing amounts that each conservation district is funded (statewide). Discussion about the small amount that Minnehaha receives (\$2,000/year from the County). Proposed budget was presented.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 5:13 p.m. by Woerman and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 16th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Brian Top, Recorder