

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 22nd, 2017 Monthly Meeting
City of Sioux Falls Environmental Office
Board meeting following Big Sioux Watershed Project meeting at 9:00 am**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Ron Johnson, and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jeff Oyen and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Others present: John Parker, Deron Ruesch and Michelle Burke

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

Revised Minutes of January 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Minutes of February 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 27 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

The current CRP backlog is 10 requests.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Contract Reviews are completed. 5 eligible applications are in process. March 31st is the deadline to have all applications evaluated and ranked.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Contract reviews have been completed. 1 NWQI application is being processed for an animal waste storage facility. 1 RCPP application has been ranked and submitted for terrace, underground outlet and critical area planting. 1 RCPP animal waste storage facility has been funded.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

1 restoration modification has been completed. 1 grazing compatible use request is being processed.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

Totals through 4/01/16: **SRAM** – 1,229 acres or 112,261 linear feet (footage of stream protected). **RAM** – 124 acres or 28,625 linear feet. **CRP** – 132 acres or 21,259 linear feet. 2017 Sign-up so far in all programs is about 320 acres. 5 Animal Waste Storage Facilities (AWMS) are in the design phase, and 2 have been completed in Minnehaha County and 1 completed in Brookings county. 5 producers are

showing interest to plan for an AWMS in Minnehaha County and 1 in Brookings County. 8 producers have funding this spring for terraces and cover crops.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: waiting for call to sample fields. Tree planting: 45 acres confirmed; additional 15 possible. Grass planting: 300 acres in Lincoln County and 400 acres in Minnehaha County are planned for the 10' drill. The 15' drill has 200 acres planned and the 26' drill has 150 acres planned.

2. **Water Festival (March 14 – 15)**

The 24th annual festival was a success for 2017, with about 2400 4th graders from the surrounding area (including MN, IA and SD) attending. Over 60 volunteers worked. Thanks to all who worked or helped prepare to make the festival a success.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **SDWF Youth Conservation Camp**

MSP to approve sponsoring 1 camp membership by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

2. **Conservation Collaboration Grant (NRCS)**

After discussion, MSP to continue to investigate and pursue the CCC Grant by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

3. **Leadership Meeting**

Discussion about an experimental (bio-degradable) fabric. MSP to plant extra trees on the Gevik Site land using the experimental fabric in 2017 to provide a screening windbreak by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

4. **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative**

Brian Top is getting in touch with a couple of people that may be interested in working on this with the District. The City of Sioux Falls expressed interest in partnering on this. MSP to further investigate and gather information for discussion on this subject for the 4/10/17 board meeting by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

MSP to sign agreements by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 10th, 2017 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant