

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 18, 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: Ronald Johnson

Advisors present: Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Mary Lacey, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Hersh Smith, Mark McGee and Mike Heisler.

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

Minutes of February 11th 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 Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Mary Lacey:

WETLANDS: We currently have 2 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No updates.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Sign-up for CSTwP 2019 has not been announced. We received some information regarding a list of activities for participants and payment schedule.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Minnehaha County has submitted 5 applications (540.7 acres) for \$74,661. 1 application for a grassed waterway/forage biomass planting should be funded for \$6,586. Additional funding is being requested to fund 2 additional applications for \$30,299 (shelterbelt, terrace, waterway and cover crop).

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): April 12th is the deadline. We have 1 application so far.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

April 1 is the deadline for SRAM and RAM signups. 400 acres of SRAM and 60 acres of RAM applications have been received so far. 14 Ag. Waste Management Systems completed in Segment 3 of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project, including 1 barn in Hamlin County. We are writing another grant pre-proposal for RCPP in May.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

John Parker brought up items about previous and current board members.

Update from Supervisors

Woerman attended Sioux Empire Water Festival and reported that it went well. Heber presented some Board financial projections.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 2022 is expected to be the City's last year of the project as it is currently administered. Trees: 30 acres are planned for this year so far. Grass: 350 acres are planned for the 12' drill and 400 acres are planned for the 15' and 26' drills

so far. Gevik Site: The site is in good shape after the rain, except for a township road that washed out. We are finalizing a tree and grass plan for an adjacent property owner. The CCG (Conservation Collaboration Grant) application has been sent to NRCS. The City has offered assistance to promote urban conservation if this grant is received.

2. Equipment

All equipment is in good shape. The new 12' drill is still in the shop.

3. Water Festival 2019

A successful event was held on March 13-14, 2019 at USF. About 2,000 4th graders attended. 5 schools cancelled due to the weather.

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

Mike Heisler presented a proposal to the Board that would potentially lead to the site being more self-sustaining. Part of the site could become a research, demonstration and education site for tall native grasses. This project would have various partners with the Gevik site as a main hub. The site could be enhanced through the project (parking, buildings, etc.) The Board expressed interest, so Heisler will continue having conversations with potential partners regarding the project.

5. Conducting Public Meetings (see attached)

Board had discussion about the making of motions during a meeting, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

6. Beneficiary for Land Management Company

Tabled until next meeting.

7. Customer Focus Group Meeting (Research Farm)

This is scheduled for March 20th at 10:00 a.m. in Brookings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grant Application for Pollinator/Rain Garden Project (Multi-County)

Tami Moore (District Manager in Miner County) wrote a multi-county grant application to the SD State Commission. MSP to join the grant application by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

2. Annual Plan of Work

Parker gave the Board his Plan of Work with work objectives for the next year to be reviewed by Board. Action tabled until next month.

3. Long-Term Plan of Work

Long-term Plan of Work was presented to the Board by Parker for Board to review. Action tabled until next month.

4. Employee Reviews

MSP to give a 3% increase in salary to John Parker, Hersh Smith and Denise Fletcher, effective with the next pay period by Woerman and Schmidtbauer. Ayes – Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman. Nay – Heber.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

2019- 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3I, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3M and 3N

MSP to sign agreements by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. Ayes – Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman. Abstain – Heber.

MSP for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee Reviews (New Business Item #4) by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer at 5:15 p.m. All ayes. Board was declared out of Executive Session by Schmidtbauer at 5:55 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. by Pfeifer and Woerman. All ayes.

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

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant