

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 8th, 2020 Monthly Meeting
Minnehaha Conservation District Shed
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Supervisors present: Brian Alderson, Jim Pfeifer, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Gordon Heber

Advisors present: None

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Jay Gilbertson, Jeff Barth and Alina Krone-Hedman

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

Minutes of May 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 9 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Conducting field status reviews on expiring 2020 and 2021 contracts. Working on general, continuous and grassland CRP offers.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): 1 renewal application for FY2020 was funded. Application sign-up deadline was May 29th.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Ranking applications to see who gets contracted. Gearing up for construction and implementation season on active contracts.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No report.

Minnehaha County is eligible for phase 1 of reopening office plan; will probably request this week. This phase allows a maximum of 10 employees in the building at once.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg and Jay Gilbertson: 348 acres of SRAM and 36 acres of RAM contracts completed this spring. Approximately 60 acres left to finish and get contracts signed. RCPP proposal was successfully funded in the amount of \$2,597,403, to support a 5-year project that will start in FY 2021. Jay Gilbertson of East Dakota Water Development District gave an update on the Project Specialist position that will be filled soon. A new Project Implementation Plan was handed out to the Board members for future consideration. Discussion was held about the possibility of creating more office space for partners on District property or elsewhere. Parker, Woerman and Gilbertson will meet and work on this. MSP to sign 3 conservation plans and contracts for Big Sioux River Project by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – No comments

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Sampling is going on this week and next week. Trees: Planting is complete. 55 acres were planted. Grass: Projects are still being seeded. 150 acres to put in with the 15' and 26' drills. 1500 – 2000 acres of cover crops and fall seeding are being planned. Gevik Site: Woerman, Parker and Randy Kittle of the Game Fish & Parks Dept. met at the site in May to discuss application for a GF & P Trail Grant.

2. CCG Grant – Urban Educator

Krone-Hedman spoke about items she is working on - making curriculum about green infrastructure, pollinators, etc.; her new web site and a "Farm to Table" grant application (restaurants and producers would work together). MSP to approve pursuing the first step of the Urban Agriculture grant by Schmidtbauer and Alderson. All ayes.

3. CCG Grant – Gevik Site

Grant was applied for and is in the process of being evaluated by the committee.

4. Election Reminders

Parker reminded attendees about the July 1st deadline to file petitions for the 3 open positions on the Board. A two-week ad for notice of vacancy on the conservation board will be printed in the Brandon Journal.

NEW BUSINESS

1. GF & P Trail Grant

Application is being completed for the grant. Discussion was held with GF & P representative about cementing the trail and widening it to 10 – 12'. The grant will be for the trail only. MSP to get an estimate of cost to design the trail proposal by Schmidtbauer and Alderson. All ayes.

2. Employee Updates

Hersh Smith will be leaving on July 24th, so will be working on a replacement for his position.

3. Area Meeting – July 22, 2020

This meeting will be held in Flandreau at the District tree shed. Please bring your own lunch.

4. Equipment Needs for the Future

The 15' drill is 15 years old and showing wear. The 26' drill has 8500 acres on it and disks will need to be replaced. Discussion about considering trading for a 30' drill. A good customer base has been built for the drills. Parker will get more information on equipment replacement. Other equipment is 2 – 3 years old and in good shape.

Executive Session (if needed) – not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:54 p.m. by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 13th, 2020 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant