

**Minnehaha Conservation District
January 9th, 2020 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Supervisors present: Brian Alderson, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors present: Susan Kruse and Dana Loseke

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason, Jim Jackson, Kelly Lyons and Mark McGee

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Mary Lou Lacey, and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve (as amended by moving old business item #5 to the top) by Woerman and Alderson. All ayes.

Minutes of December 16th meeting: MSP to approve by Alderson and Heber. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Mary Lou Lacey:

WETLANDS: We currently have 18 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): FSA is taking general and continuous applications. We are expecting a large workload, but many questions about the program are still unanswered.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): 2019 payments have been completed and 2020 payments are being processed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): We are taking applications; some interest in High Tunnel.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No updates.

Mary Lou discussed the state's Conservation Implementation Strategy that will call for proposals from NRCS and partners for targeted projects.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top: 25 potential producers interested in SRAM, RAM and WLE (Working Lands Easement). RCPP Technical Assistance (TA) funding will run out on 1/31/20. Will continue to fund TA consultant with Sioux Falls City funds. 1 Ag. Waste Management System finishing up on Skunk Creek watershed.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – No comments.

Update from Supervisors – Woerman mentioned an article he read in Farm Journal about cities and farmers working together on water quality. He will bring it to the office to distribute via email.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: New contract for 2020 with City of Sioux Falls was verbally approved. Trees: 52 plans completed for 29 acres (with a possible 15 more acres soon). Grass: 2 larger areas of seeding planned – 1 for 100 acres south of Good Earth State Park. Gevik Site: We are still working on pollinator projects and waiting for SDSU research to come out for a field visit.

2. CCG Grant

There were 42 applicants for the Urban Educator position. The pool has been narrowed down to 8 and we will be contacting people for interviews starting next week.

3. 2020 Annual Plan of Work

A change was made to show one newsletter per year. MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Alderson. All ayes.

4. Long Range Plan of Work

MSP to approve by Alderson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

5. Board Officers for 2020

MSP to appoint Alderson as chairman by Heber and Woerman. Brian declined the chairmanship due to being new on the board. MSP to appoint Woerman as chairman by Pfeifer and Alderson. All ayes. MSP to appoint Alderson as vice-chairman by Woerman and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to appoint Parker as Treasurer by Alderson and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to appoint Fletcher as Secretary by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

6. Employee Reviews

Tabled until February meeting.

7. Projected Budget for 2020 (Approval)

Tabled until February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Executive Session (if needed) – Not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. by Pfeifer and Alderson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, February 10th, 2020 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant