

**Minnehaha Conservation District
January 8th, 2018 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Ron Johnson, Jeff Oyen, Jim Pfeifer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson, Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Harlan Smith, Amy Richards and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve as amended (Election of Officers was added to New Business) by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

Minutes of December 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Oyen and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve Sioux Empire Water Festival Balance Sheet by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Oyen and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve paying the Agassiz bill in February 2018 by Johnson and Oyen. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 20 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

FSA has suspended new sign-ups. Working with FSA on 1 violation on pollinator habitat.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

18 out of 19 of the 2017 payments have been processed. Contract reviews will be completed by month end. 12 contracts will end later this year if not renewed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

Conservation planning continues on 4 new applications: 1 - animal waste storage facility, 1- high tunnel system, 1- grazing system and 1- cover crop. Still waiting for documentation to certify practices on 1 animal waste storage facilities.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

No new information.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top:

42 page RCPP Annual Report has been submitted. Matt Johnson has left his position and position replacement applications close 1/31/18. 4 Ag. Waste Systems are being designed (2 in Minnehaha Co.) 11048 linear ft. of terrace projects on 4 contracts in Lincoln Co. were completed and cost shared last fall. 2 confinement barns are under construction in Minnehaha Co. 1 Ag. Waste System payment was made.

OLD BUSINESS

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

New bio-solids contract has been sent to the City to approve for the next 2 years (\$133,242 contract).
Tree planting: 20-25 acres committed. Grass planting: 110 acres in Lincoln and 150 acres in Minnehaha planned. Spraying: 75 acres planned for spring.

2. **Building Review**

Discussion about bid received for a new cooler and installation, as well as the possibility of adding a completely new heated work space with a drain, office, bathroom, shower and conference room. John will gather more information.

3. **Equipment for 2018**

John reported back on options for purchasing a new fabric machine. Some of the drills are in the shop being repaired. Discussion about purchasing a new rider mower.

4. **National Convention (January 27 – 30)**

This will be held in Nashville, TN. No members plan to attend.

5. **Pheasant Fest 2018**

This will be held in Sioux Falls on February 16 – 18, 2018. The District will have a booth.

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

Deron and John will meet to discuss a proposal for this grant.

7. **Internship Information**

John has been working with Mitchell Technical Institute and SDSU on this.

8. **Employee Review**

(Discussed in Executive Session – Employee raises approved)

NEW BUSINESS

1. **SD Soil Health Coalition Membership**

Per by-laws, the Board will pay for this membership.

2. **Election of Officers**

MSP to keep the same officers as 2017 by Oyen and Pfeifer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

Chairman Woerman declared that the Board go into Executive Session at 4:45 pm to discuss employee review. Chairman Woerman declared that the Board go out of Executive Session at 5:09 p.m.

MSP to adjourn at 5:09 p.m. by Johnson and Oyen. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, February 12, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant