

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
February 12th, 2018 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

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

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

**Supervisors absent:** None

**Advisors present:** Dana Loseke and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

**Advisors absent:** Jim Jackson

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Mary Lou Lacey, Barry Berg, and Hersh Smith

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

**Minutes of January 8th meeting:** MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. 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 Pfeifer and Oyen. All ayes.

**NRCS activity report by Mary Lacey:**

**WETLANDS:** Our current backlog is about 30 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):**

No new information; FSA has suspended all new sign-up activities.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):**

Sign-up deadline is March 2, 2018. We have started to complete contract reviews and plan to be finished by end of month.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):**

One high tunnel system was submitted for funding for FY-18 EQIP. Three applications were determined to be ineligible. We have started to complete contract reviews and plan to be finished by end of month. RCPP sign-up deadline is March 16, 2018.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):**

A list of easements for monitoring for FY-18 has been provided to the District Manager.

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:**

2018 potential acres and linear feet of stream exclusion – SRAM: 154 acres, 22,477 L. Ft.; RAM: 6 acres, 3,656 L. Ft.; SRAM 2.0: 62 acres, 5,065 L. Ft. Construction continues on 1 hog barn with 3 other Ag. Waste Management Systems in the engineering phase. Total AWMS to date – 10.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

A new bio-solids contract has been signed for 2018 – 2019. Tree planting: About 40 acres planned. Grass planting: 200 acres planned in each county – Minnehaha and Lincoln. Some mowing has been signed up.

2. **Building Review**

Mulder's Refrigeration will put in a new cooling unit in mid-March. We are still waiting on bids for fixing up the building.

3. **Pheasant Fest 2018**

This will be held at the Premiere Center on February 16 – 18. The District and the NRCS will have booths set up. 25,000 plus people are expected to attend.

4. **Internship Information**

John is working with SDSU about an internship position from mid-May to mid-August or possibly some work during the school year. The position will help with planting, WRP monitoring, survival count, etc.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Election of Board Members - 2018**

Woerman and Oyen's positions will end on 12/31/18 and they will need to run for re-election. Election petition process was discussed.

2. **Bio-Solids Contract**

A new contract was signed by the City of Sioux Falls for 2018 – 2019.

3. **Annual Plan of Work**

The Board reviewed the list of objectives and plan for carrying them out. MSP to approve the annual plan of work by Oyen and Johnson. All ayes. The plan will be sent to the South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture. MSP to join Friends of the Big Sioux River organization by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

4. **Water Festival**

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual festival will be held on March 13 – 14 at USF. So far, donations of \$26,100.00 have been received. The budget is \$48,000.00.

5. **Leadership Meeting – February 28 – March 2 in Pierre, SD**

This is the SDACDE meeting (for conservation district employees). MSP by Pfeifer and Heber to approve the District employees' attendance. All ayes.

6. **RCPD Meeting in Salem, SD on February 27 in Conjunction with Ducks Unlimited**

Ducks Unlimited received an RCPD grant and are promoting this meeting. John Parker, Brian Top and Deron Ruesch plan to attend.

**CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant