

**Minnehaha Conservation District
August 13, 2018 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

Oyen called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: Bob Woerman

Advisors present: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors absent: Jim Jackson and Dana Loseke

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg and Brian Top

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

Minutes of July 16th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Johnson. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: Our current backlog is about 15 outstanding certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

We are processing 4 applications. August 17th is the sign-up deadline for CRP this fiscal year.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

We are processing 4 modifications. 5 out of 10 renewal applications being processed. The other 5 cancelled. Reminder letters will be sent out about submitting documentation and certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

3 applications are being processed for the FY2018 Flood and Hail Effort. 1 application has been preapproved for 151 acres. The remaining 2 applications will be for approximately another 150 acres.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

Annual monitoring has been completed. Thank you to John Parker for completing these.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:

2018 acres and linear feet of stream exclusion: SRAM – 590 acres; 68,279 L. ft.; RAM – 14 acres; 2,590 L. ft. We are collecting the rest of the signatures for SRAM and RAM. All EQIP/RCPP funds have been obligated.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: We are caught up until harvest. Trees: 15 acres of trees are planned for 2019 so far. We expect 55-60 acres total. John, Hersh & Bob attended the Big Sioux Nursery open house on August 7th. Grass: 150 acres in Lincoln Co. and 50 acres in Minnehaha Co. left to complete. SRAM to seed if it is not too wet. Gevik Site: Thank you notes received from touring groups. Heavy rainfall caused a new wash-out from neighboring property onto the trail, which has been cleaned up. Discussion about signs at the site. Working to get the site added to tourism lists.

2. Equipment

All is working well. The 7' mower seal was repaired. Discussion about trading in a 10' drill for a new 10' or 12' drill. MSP to order 12' drill and trade in the old 10' drill by Johnson and Heber. All ayes.

3. Review Lincoln County Work Contract

Gordon Heber from Minnehaha Co. and Lorin Brass from Lincoln Co. have been working on a plan. Heber presented a proposed work agreement to the Board. He will take the Board's feedback back to the Lincoln Board's chairman.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fall Convention in Pierre, SD at Ramkota – September 16 - 18

3 rooms are reserved. Parker, Woerman, and Heber plan to attend. Ruesch from NRCS will plan to attend as well.

2. Water Festival

The committee member who has been handling the scheduling for the event is no longer with the committee. MSP to proceed with the District handling the scheduling for the Water Festival for a fee by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. by Heber and Johnson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant