

State Conservation Commission Minutes
Grant Round Meeting
May 22, 2014
Matthew Training Center, Pierre

Members Present: David Fischbach, Tom Glover, Doug Hansen, Aaron Kiesz, Charlie Moe, Gerald Thaden, and Tom Wolles.

Absent: Wayne Bunge, Alan Vedvei

Others Present: See attached list.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Fischbach at 8:20 A.M.

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the March 21, 2014 minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Revolving Loan Report:

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to deny Dewey Conservation District revolving loan application as the State Conservation Commission is not in the business of refinancing. **Motion carried.**

Grant Report:

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to defer action on Perkins Conservation District request for extension for Grant #2013-CSW-018 (Natural Resource Specialist) until the end of the grant selection. **Motion carried.** David Fischbach abstained.

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve Jones County Conservation District request for a 1 year extension for grant #2012-CSW-024 (Shelterbelt Renovation Project). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Pennington Conservation District request for a 1 year extension for grant #2013-CSW-026 (Thinning for Forest Health). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Butte Conservation District request for an amendment to Grant #2013-CSW-006 (SD Envirothon Pilot Project). Butte Conservation District would like to utilize the remaining \$10,181.09 for travel expenses of approximately \$3,500 to attend a regional competition in Kansas and approximately \$6,700 to help with team travel and expenses for the 2015 State competition (to take place in September 2014) near Custer. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Gerald Thaden and seconded to approve Todd Conservation District request for a 6 month extension for grant #2013-CSW-021 (Pond Cleanout Project). **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve Mellette County Conservation District request for a 1 year extension for grant #2013-CSW-029 (Technician). **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve Mellette County Conservation District request of a 6 month extension for grant # 2013-CSW-028 (Pipeline IV). **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Brown/Marshall Conservation District request to transfer funds of \$15,000.00 from the tree renovation to tree planting for grant #2012-CSW-007 (Multi-district Shelterbelts). **Motion carried.** Aaron Kiesz abstained.

A motion was made by Gerald Thaden and seconded to approve Miner Conservation District request for a 6 month extension for grant #2012-CSW-029 (Wind Protection & Livestock Watering Needs). Miner Conservation District also requested that Sanborn Conservation District be included in the grant. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve Miner County Conservation District request to transfer the following funds: \$40.16 from tanks to fencing; \$3,438.00 from pipelines to fabricated windbreaks; \$1,272.84 from tanks to fabricated windbreaks; and \$750.00 from administrative to fabricated windbreaks for Grant # 2012-CSW-029 (Wind Protection & Livestock Watering Needs). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve Miner County Conservation District requests for a 6 month extension for grant # 2014-CSW-017 (SD Public Awareness of Conservation). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to deny Sanborn Conservation District request for a 1 year extension for grant #2012-CSW-030 because the district has used only a small amount of the grant funds in the past 2 years. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve Yankton Conservation District request for a 6 month extension for grant # 2013-CSW-031 (Yankton County Conservation District CNRC) project. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to revert the following funds: Jackson Conservation District (Jackson County Ponds) grant #2011-CSW-014 in the amount of \$2,866.44; Perkins Conservation District (Natural Resource Specialist) grant #2011-CSW-009 in the amount of \$1,915.04; Miner Conservation District (Shelterbelt Planting) grant #2011-CSW-018 in the amount of \$373.45; Hamlin Conservation District (Prairie Coteau Grassland) grant #2011-CSW-017 in the amount of \$8,706.47; Marshall Conservation District (NE SD Wetlands) grant #2011-CSW-003 in the amount of \$6,405.97; Beadle Conservation District (North Missouri Coteau Grasslands) grant

#2011-CSW-007 in the amount of \$6,723.39; Tri-County Conservation District (Fabricated Windbreaks) grant #2012-CSW-032 in the amount of \$55,025.86; Hamlin Conservation District (Tree and Shrub Planting) grant #2012-CSW-020 in the amount of \$2,611.70; Aurora Conservation District (Multi-Purpose Shelterbelts) grant #2012-CSW-02 in the amount of \$176.24; Moody Conservation District (Resource Technician) grant #2013-CSW-017 in the amount of \$18,029.40; Miner Conservation District (Resource Technician) grant #2013-CSW-014 in the amount of \$537.67; Corson Conservation District (Resource Technician) grant #2013-CSW-007 in the amount of \$1,532.54; Jones Conservation District (School & Public Lands Dams) grant #2013-CSW-012 in the amount of \$10,996.20 for a total of \$115,900.37. **Motion carried.**

Grant Review:

Commission, division staff and conservation district representatives reviewed all the submitted grant applications.

Grant Selection:

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to deny Perkins Conservation District (NW Area Natural Resource Specialist) grant application. If the requested extension is passed the district's grant will have funds available until fall. The commission recommends the district come back with a grant application for the fall grant round. **Motion carried.** David Fischbach abstained.

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to take from the table the Perkins Conservation District extension request for grant #2013-CSW-018 (Natural Resource Specialist). **Motion carried.** David Fischbach abstained.

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve Perkins Conservation District request for a 6 month extension for grant #2013-CSW-018 (Natural Resource Specialist). **Motion carried.** David Fischbach abstained.

A motion was made by Gerald Thaden and seconded to approve Brookings Conservation District grant application (Fabric Removal Education Research) in the amount of \$10,500.00 for 2 years with the conditions the district provides a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement between Brookings and Moody Conservation Districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve Bennett Conservation District grant application (Resource Technician) in the amount of \$7,314.00 for 18 months with a 50% cost-share. The district provides a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement between Bennett and Shannon Conservation Districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. The district match and grant funds are to be used to perform resource technician duties over and above what has been normally completed by the district. The district submits two semi-annual reports for the technician's work activities. These reports are to show landowner contacts made by the technician, miles

driven, number of plans written, acres treated or any other measure to show the conservation benefit provided by the technician. These reports are to be provided to SDACD and the Conservation Commission no later than January 12 and July 12 of each year. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve Bon Homme Conservation District grant application (BHCD Cover Crop/Grazing Management) in the amount of \$23,236.00 for 18 months with the conditions that grazing plans be required as part of the agreement with the landowners. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Hand Conservation District grant application (Hyde/Hand Enhancement Phase 3) in the amount of \$30,000.00 for 1 year with the conditions the district provides a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement between Hyde and Hand Conservation Districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. All tree and shrub planting plans to be reviewed and approved by one of the SDDA RCF foresters. All stand-alone farmstead/homestead windbreaks do not qualify for cost-share from the commission funds. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to defer the Todd Conservation District grant application (2014-2015 Shelterbelt/Windbreak) until later as Todd Conservation has several grants now and the commission would like other districts have a chance to get a grant approved. **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Jones Conservation District grant application (Shelterbelts) in the amount of \$15,000.00 for 1 year with conditions the district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. The district will have all tree and shrub planting plans reviewed and approved by one of the SDDA RCF foresters. All stand-alone farmstead/homestead windbreaks do not qualify for cost-share from the commission funds. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to defer the Todd Conservation District grant application (2014-2015 Pipeline) to the end of the grant selection. **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to approve Tri-County Conservation District grant application (Tri-County Windbreaks) in the amount of \$50,000.00 for 1 year. A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to amend the motion to \$25,000.00. **Motion carried** to approve the amendment. **Motion failed** for lack of a majority vote to approve the grant application. Charlie Moe-No, Aaron Kiesz-No, Tom Glover-No, Gerald Thaden-Yes, Tom Wolles-Yes Doug Hansen-yes. David Fischbach abstained. Reason for denial, this project does not provide conservation on the ground.

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Hanson Conservation District grant application (Resource Technician) in the amount of \$17,000.00 for 1 year with conditions the district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. The district match and grant funds are to be used to perform resource technician duties over and above what has been normally completed by the district. The district submits two semi-annual reports for the technician's work activities. These reports are to show landowner contacts made by the technician, miles driven, number of plans written, acres treated or any other measure to show the conservation benefit provided by the technician. These reports are to be provided to SDACD and the Conservation Commission no later than January 12 and July 12 of each year. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to approve Brule/Buffalo Conservation District grant application (Missouri Coteau Water Development Phase III) in the amount of \$55,000.00 for 2 years with the condition the district provides a copy of the Joint Powers agreements between Brule-Buffalo and the other participating districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. **Motion carried.** Aaron Kiesz abstained.

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve Miner Conservation District grant application (Information & Education Workshop) in the amount of \$1,725.00 with the condition the district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve Dewey Conservation District grant application (Livestock & Resource) in the amount of \$15,000.00 for 1 year. The grant is to cover living windbreaks and will require removing fencing, fabricated windbreaks, and renovation from the budget. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. Grazing plans to be required as part of the agreement with the landowners and all tree and shrub planting plans are to be reviewed and approved by one of the SDDA RCF foresters. Stand-alone farmsteads/homestead windbreaks do not qualify for cost-share from the Commission funds. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to take the two Todd Conservation District grant applications off the table. **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve Todd Conservation District grant application (2014-2015 Shelterbelt/Windbreaks) in the amount of \$15,000.00 for 1 year excluding fencing and renovation with fabric are to be removed from commission grant funding. Other conditions the district provides a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement between Todd and Mellette Conservation Districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. All tree and shrub plantings plans are to be reviewed and approved by one of the SDDA RCF foresters and stand-alone farmstead/homestead windbreaks do not qualify for cost-share from the commission

funds. **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve Todd Conservation District grant application (2014-2015 Pipeline) in the amount of \$25,000.00 for 1 year with conditions the district provides a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement between Todd and Mellette Conservation Districts. The district provides timesheets or other documentation to demonstrate the actual time spent on salary/administration of the grant. Grazing plans are to be required as part of the agreement with the landowners. **Motion carried.** Charlie Moe abstained.

Soil Conservation Awards:

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to accept all 6 Soil Conservation Award selections. **Motion carried.**

Reports:

Commission reports were given by the State Conservation Commissioners.

The Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry report was given by division staff.

Hamlin Soil Erosion & Sediment Standards:

Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry staff presented information for the commissioners on the process for Hamlin Conservation District to revise their Soil Erosion & Sediment Standards. The commissioners have been asked to review the document and present any changes/corrections they find to the Hamlin Conservation District by September 13, 2014. A telephone conference call will be scheduled for July or August.

Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of Agriculture, entered the meeting and provided a report to the commissioners.

Stacy Revels, Policy Advisor, introduced herself to the commission.

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded that it be noted the State Conservation Commission appreciates all Ray Sowers hard work and dedication to conservation over the past years. **Motion carried.**

Other Reports:

Reports were provided by DENR written and oral report, NRCS and SDACD.

Next Meeting:

To be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Marjorie Gregg
Recording Secretary