

State Conservation Commission
September 18, 2017
Ramkota, Sioux Falls

Call to order: 7:00 am by Chairman David Fischbach.

Members Present: David Fischbach, Tom Glover, Doug Hansen, Charlie Moe, Gerald Thaden, Tom Wolles, Alan Vedvei.

Members Absent: Wayne Bunge and Aaron Kiesz

Others Present: Sign-up Sheet(s) with Commission Minutes File.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve July 20, 2017 minutes as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Past and/or Upcoming Travel:

Doug Hansen will be traveling to Huron for the NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting in Huron on September 27.

Grant Report:

Motion by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve the Jones Conservation District request to add the American Creek Conservation District to grant #2016-CSW-019 (Shelterbelt Renovation and Establishment). **Motion carried.**

Motion by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve the Jones Conservation District request for a transfer of funds from tree removal (\$3,000) to shrubs (\$500), trees (\$1,500) and fabric (\$1,000) under grant #2016-CSW-019 (Shelterbelt Renovation and Establishment). **Motion carried.**

Motion by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve the Jones Conservation District request for transfer of funds from tree removal (\$1,000) to handplant replacement (\$1,000) for shelterbelts completed under grant #2016-CSW-019 (Shelterbelt Renovation and Establishment) in 2017 on the loss of eastern red cedar and rocky mountain juniper with a cost-share rate of 50%. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Tom Wolles and seconded by Gerald Thaden to approve the Mellette Conservation District request to approve reseeding cover crops on the same unit with a not to exceed a cap of \$200/year for seed cost-shared under grant #2017-CSW-021 (2017 Cover Crop). **Motion carried. (Charlie Moe abstained)**

Motion by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve the Roberts Conservation District request for a contract extension to December 31, 2018 for grant #2016-CSW-024 (Roberts Shelterbelt). **Motion carried.**

Miner Conservation District request for a name change will be taken up at the November Conservation Commission meeting.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Jeff Zimprich and Jeff Vander Wilt from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided the Commission with an overview of how the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) could potentially work in South Dakota if matched by Commission funds. Districts could individually apply for RCPP agreements with NRCS using Commission funds as match or the Commission could apply for a larger RCPP agreement. Under the latter, the Commission would need to set-aside funds to provide the match and the Commission would manage individual agreements with the districts. Either way, the key is that project must be science-based and have measureable outcomes. The type of agreement (Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) versus a Commission agreement would depend on which set of funds were used. A request for proposal will likely come from NRCS in January or February of 2018. A few districts expressed concern that setting aside funds to match RCPP would make it more difficult to fund district sponsored projects through the standard grant funding process. A few districts also use Commission funds to work with producers who are not eligible for EQIP or CSP and those districts feel setting aside Commission funds would result in even less funds for those producers. Additional discussion was schedule to follow the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts business meeting later today.

District Work Plan Template:

Jack Majeres presented the revised Conservation District Work Plan. Motion by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve the District Work Plan as presented. **Motion carried.**

Reports:

Commission Member, Division, and Advisory Member reports were waived because of time.

Laura Demmel from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) was introduced to the Commission. Laura is the new NACD Northern Plains Regional Representative. Laura is originally from Ogallala, NE. Her office is in Boseman, MT.

Next meeting will be a grant round in November. Location, date and time TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM.

Tiffany Shannon, Recording Secretary