

State Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 20, 2018
Matthew Training Center, Pierre

Call to Order: 1:09 pm CDT by Vice Chairman Tom Glover

Members Present: Tom Glover, Doug Hansen, Charlie Moe, Tom Wolles, Mike Konechne, Gene Williams

Members Absent: Aaron Kiesz, Wayne Bunge, Gerald Thaden

Others Present: A copy of the Sign-in Sheet can be requested.

Call to Order/Election of Officers: The meeting was turned over to Bill Smith.

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to nominate Tom Glover for Chairman of the Conservation Commission. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to nominate Doug Hansen for Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was turned back to Chairman Tom Glover.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the November 29, 2017 minutes as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Upcoming Travel & Meetings:

Bill Smith presented a schedule of upcoming meetings to the Commission. Bill asked for volunteers to attend the Natural Resources Conservation State Technical Committee meeting in Huron in May (tentative date). Doug Hansen will be attending the State Speech Contest April 28th in Pierre and the State Technical Committee meeting. Gene Williams will try to attend the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) meeting in Pierre on May 16, 2018 (tentative date). Assigning attendance at the meetings are coming up in June and will be addressed during the May meeting.

New Business for Agenda:

None.

Correspondence:

None.

Revolving Loan Report / Applications:

Revolving Loan Report: Tiffany Shannon presented the revolving loan report to the Commission. Balance \$94,985.59.

Tiffany reviewed the loan process for the two new members to the Commission (Mike Konechne and Gene Williams). Tiffany to check with Terri LaBrie to find out how much money is available for tillage equipment loan program and whether those funds could be moved to the revolving loan program. Tiffany to send out a reminder to the conservation districts so they are aware of the loan programs.

Loan Applications: None were received since the last Commission meeting.

Grant Updates/Changes/Amendments:

A motion was made by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Beadle Conservation District's request to waive the 25% landowner cash contribution requirement for in-kind land rent for Grant # 2018-CSW-003 (Soil Health Project). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve the Bon Homme County Conservation District's (BHCD) request to include Yankton County CD in the BHCD Enhancement Grant 2017-CSW-005. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to deny the Clark County Conservation District's request to expand the administration part of the budget from \$2,000 to \$5,500 on Grant # 2017-CSW-010 (Shelterbelts). This additional money would come out of the tree planting category. The reason for denial was because the Commission had questions regarding their administrative costs and the District was not present to answer the Commission's questions, as well as this request would put the administrative cost at 25% of the grant (only 15% is allowed as per South Dakota Administrative Rule). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Clark County Conservation District's request for a one-year extension to 06/30/19 for Grant #2017-CSW-010 (Shelterbelts). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Tom Wolles and seconded to approve the Jones County Conservation District's request to add rural water hookups to Grant # 2017-CSW-018 (Jones County Multi-Practice Grant Phase V) by transferring \$1,530.00 from the Pipeline budget. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Marshall County Conservation District's request to add the Roberts County Conservation District to Grant # 2018-CSW-020 (Multi-Purpose / Multi-County). **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to approve the Mellette County Conservation District's request to amend Grant # 2017-CSW-039 (Multi-Practice) by adding seeding as an activity under this grant. A substitute motion was made by Doug Hansen and seconded to limit the amount that can be spent on seeding not to exceed \$5,000.00. **Motion carried.**

Grant Final Reports

Final grant reports were presented to the Commission by Tiffany Shannon.

Spring 2018 Grant Round Memo

A memo was sent to the conservation districts reminding them that applications for the Spring Grant Round are due into Pierre by April 3. Several Commissioners asked as to whether the memo should include the dollar amount available to be granted during the Spring Grant Round. Bill replied that, historically, the amount has not been in the memo because the exact amount is unknown until the amount of the reversions of grants that ended in December are known. Tentatively, there will be approximately \$146,000 to grant out in the spring, pending any outstanding reimbursements.

Code of Conduct:

A draft Code of Conduct was presented to the Commission by Chris Petersen, Fiscal Officer for the Departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks for review and any modifications the Commission may want to make. All boards and commissions will need to adopt a Code of Conduct under state law passed by the State Legislature in 2017. The Commission to review prior to the May meeting and will be put on the May meeting agenda for discussion and possible vote to adopt.

Partner Reports:

Angela Ehlers from the SDACD provided a verbal report via telephone.

Division Report:

Bill Smith provided the Commission with copies of the *South Dakota Department of Agriculture 2018 – 2020 Strategic Plan* and the *South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*.

Advisory Board Member Reports:

NRCS – State Conservationist Jeff Zimprich provided a verbal report to the Commission.

Review of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Over 900 applications for approximately \$14 to \$15 million in funds were received by the NRCS office in Huron. Jeff expects that NRCS will allocate approximately \$10 million within the next couple of weeks.

Review of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Over 750 applications were received in addition to a large number that will be eligible for renewal this fall. Jeff estimates that CSP enrollment in South Dakota will be over 8 million acres by the end of the year.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2018 in Pierre.

Ending Remarks:

Tom Glover expressed his appreciation to the Commission members for their confidence in him fulfilling the role of Chairman.

Adjourn: 3:15 pm CDT