

State Conservation Commission  
Grant Round Meeting  
April 25, 2019  
Governor's Inn, Pierre

**Members Present:** Doug Hansen, Gene Williams, Mike Konechne, Tom Glover, Aaron Kiesz, Charlie Moe, Gerald Thaden, and Bruce Haines.

**Absent:** Wayne Bunge.

**Others Present:** See Attached

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Hansen at 8:15 a.m.

Chairman Hansen recognized past Commissioner Bob Gab's years of service to conservation and the State Conservation Commission. Bob passed away on April 19. Doug and the Commission gave their condolences to Bob's family.

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the January 24, 2019 minutes as submitted.

**Motion carried.**

**Request for New Items to be Placed on the Agenda:**

None.

**Upcoming Travel:**

- Charlie Moe will represent the Commission at the State Speech Contest in Pierre on April 27.
- Doug Hansen will represent the Commission at the NRCS State Technical Committee meeting in Huron on May 22.
- Gene Williams will represent the Commission at the Northwest and Hills South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Area meetings on June 10.
- Mike Konechne will try to attend the Vermillion Big Sioux SDACD Area meeting on June 17.
- Aaron Kiesz will attend the North Missouri Area meeting on June 19.
- Bruce Haines and Mike Konechne will attend the South James – Missouri Area meeting on June 20.
- Tom Glover and Charlie Moe will attend the Prairie Area meeting on June 25.
- Gerald Thaden and Doug Hansen will attend the Coteau Area meeting on June 27.
- Bill Smith will forward agendas to the SDACD Board meeting on May 15 and the Northern Plains Region, National Association of Conservation Districts, Annual meeting in Gothenburg, NE on June 12 – 14 to see if any Commissioner are able to attend these two meetings.

**Correspondence:**

None.

**Revolving Loan Report:**

A report was presented by division staff.

**Revolving Loan Application:**

Motion made by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve Lincoln Conservation District's Revolving Loan application in the amount of \$15,000 to purchase a no-till drill. **Motion carried.**

### **Grant Program Updates/Changes/Amendments/Report:**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Haakon Conservation District's extension request for one year on its shelterbelt grant 2019-CSW-015. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Mike Konechne and seconded to approve the Jones Conservation District's extension request for one year on its multi-practice grant 2018-CSW-019. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Tom Glover and seconded to approve the Hughes Conservation District's extension request for one year on its shelterbelt grant 2018-CSW-036. **Motion carried.**

### **Reversions:**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to revert the following funds:

Jones Conservation District grant 2016-CSW-019 (Shelterbelt Establishment/Renovation) in the amount of \$5,716.03; Roberts Conservation District grant 2016-CSW-024 (Shelterbelts) in the amount of \$478.66; Lawrence Conservation District grant 2016-CSW-034 (Aspen Regeneration) in the amount of \$37,234.39; Beadle Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-002 (Soil Health Cover Crops) in the amount of \$4,452.97; Edmunds Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-014 (Northern Coteau Rangelands) in the amount of \$7,638.06; Jones Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-018 (Multi-Practice) in the amount of \$11,653.58; Miner Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-023 (East Central Range Stewardship) in the amount of \$3,506.14; Minnehaha Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-025 (Wildlife Habitat) in the amount of \$9,436.44; Sanborn Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-026 (Conservation Practices) in the amount of \$5,186.18; Mellette Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-039 (Multi-Practice) in the amount of \$415.58; Beadle Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-001 (Shelterbelts) in the amount of \$2,784.79; Beadle Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-002 (Water Quality for Livestock) in the amount of \$147.50; Beadle Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-003 (Soil Health) in the amount of \$1,355.00; Butte Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-006 (Envirothon) in the amount of \$372.36; Davison Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-011 (Tree Planting) in the amount of \$475.80; Gregory Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-014 (County Projects 4) in the amount of \$19,291.64; Roberts Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-026 (Conservation Education and Public Awareness) in the amount of \$155.68; Sanborn Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-027 (Conservation Education) in the amount of \$1,349.17; and Perkins Conservation District 2018-CSW-040 (Northwest Area Specialist) in the amount of \$4,349.86 for a total amount of \$115,999.83. **Motion carried.**

### **Grant Review:**

A review of the grant applications was made by division staff, the State Conservation Commission, and district representatives.

### **Grant Selection:**

Chairman Doug Hansen outlined a possible new process for the Commission to consider in regards to selecting the order in which grant applications are selected for funding. Under the new process, each district that applied for grant funding would have their names put into the hat for the order in which funding is considered and awarded. In the case that a district with multiple applications is drawn, they would then need to identify their top priority project. The first round will continue until all district names are drawn or all available grant funds are allocated. In the event there are still grant funds available after the first round of funding, the districts with multiple projects will be put into the hat again for a second round of lottery drawing, and so forth until all the available grant funds are allocated. This would introduce an additional aspect of fairness into the system by giving all the district applicants a chance of being considered for funding before an applicant with multiple applications is considered twice. A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to approve the new grant funding selection

process as proposed. **Motion carried.**

(The following are in alphabetical order by district rather than chronologically as they were taken up.)

Motion by Bruce Haines and seconded to approve the Beadle Conservation District's grant application (Baum Demonstration Farm) in the amount of \$13,350.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Brule-Buffalo Conservation District's grant application (American Creek Renovation Project) in the amount of \$15,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Brule-Buffalo Conservation District's grant application (BBCD Brush Management) in the amount of \$10,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Mike Konechne and seconded to approve the Brule-Buffalo District's grant application (Burn Deferral Pilot Program) in the amount of \$20,000.00 for one year. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Aaron Kiesz – nay; Charlie Moe – nay; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Tom Glover abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Butte Conservation District's grant application (Butte Livestock Water Development) in the amount of \$20,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the Davison Conservation District's grant application (Awareness & Outreach Activities) in the amount of \$2,500.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Bruce Haines abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Davison Conservation District's grant application (Multi-County Brush Management) in the amount of \$10,000.00. Roll Call Vote; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Mike Konechne and Bruce Haines abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the Edmunds Conservation District's grant application (Conservation Practice Grant) in the amount of \$15,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Edmunds Conservation District's grant application (Conservation Education) in the amount of \$1,500.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden –

aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Grant Conservation District's grant application (Cover Crop – Wind Soil Erosion) in the amount of \$9,784.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Gerald Thaden abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Hamlin Conservation District's grant application (2020 Tree Plantings) in the amount of \$10,800.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the Jackson Conservation District's grant application (Shelterbelt Establishment) in the amount of \$461.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Gene Williams abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Kingsbury Conservation District's grant application (Conservation Education) in the amount of \$3,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Miner Conservation District's grant application (Pollinator Plantings – Rain Gardens) in the amount of \$12,250.00. Roll Call Vote Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Mike Konechne abstained. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Tom Glover and seconded to approve the Pennington Conservation District's grant application (Thinning for Forest Health) in the amount of \$20,000.00 for two years. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the Roberts Conservation District's grant application (Conservation Education & Public Awareness) in the amount of \$2,500.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Aaron Kiesz and seconded to approve the Roberts Conservation District's grant application (2019-2020 Trees & Shrubs) in the amount of \$5,784.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Charlie Moe and seconded to approve the Roberts Conservation District's grant application (Little Upper Minnesota River Watershed) in the amount of \$11,606.15. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Spink Conservation District's grant application (Braun Regenerative Ag Demonstration Site) in the amount of \$22,500.00 with a May 1, 2019 start date. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Charlie Moe – nay; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – nay; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Tom Glover and seconded to approve the Todd Conservation District's grant application (2019 Cover Crop) in the amount of \$10,000.00. Roll Call Vote Mike Konechne – aye; Tom Glover – aye; Aaron Kiesz – aye; Gerald Thaden – aye; Bruce Haines – aye; Gene Williams – aye; Doug Hansen – aye. Charlie Moe abstained. **Motion carried.**

**Conservation Tillage Loan Program (Now Called the Natural Resources Conservation Equipment Loan Program):**

Motion made by Tom Glover and seconded to maintain access to the Conservation Tillage Loan Program. **Motion carried.** Bill Smith was directed by the Commission to reach out to the Governor's Office of Economic Development to pursue an agreement to continue the program.

**Soil Conservation Award:**

Brian Scott presented the soil awards submitted for Del Oschner (Beadle Conservation District), Rick and Connie Lalonde (Moody Conservation District), and Rick Sando (Roberts Conservation District). Brian showed the Commission the metal signs that each recipient will receive to display on their operation.

**Code of Conduct:**

Chris Petersen presented the current Code of Conduct for boards and commissions to consider for modification or adoption. A motion was made by Gene Williams and seconded to adopt the Code of Conduct as presented. **Motion carried.**

**South Dakota Association of Conservation District Committee Assignments:**

- Natural Resources Stewardship:
  - Gene Williams
  - Gerald Thaden
- District Capacity:
  - Mike Konechne
  - Aaron Kiesz
- Public Relations:
  - Charlie Moe
  - Doug Hansen

**Division Report:**

Bill Smith provided the Commission with a report on the status of filling Division vacancies, the Forest Action Plan; and the Department Strategic Planning process.

**Commission Reports:**

Gene Williams, Doug Hansen, and Tom Glover provided reports.

**Executive Session:**

None.

**Advisory Board Member Reports:**

Rick Vallery (South Dakota Department of Agriculture), Angela Ehlers (South Dakota

Association of Conservation Districts), Jeff Zimprich (Natural Resources Conservation Service), and Jesse Lisburg (US Fish and Wildlife Service) provided reports to the Commission.

**New Business:**

None.

**Next Meeting Date:**

A next meeting date would be June (if needed). Time, place to be determined.

**Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 12:35 PM CDT**

APPROVED