



September 30, 2022

SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear State Conservation Commission Members,

The Conservation Districts are already planning for the 2023 tree planting season. Part of that planning process is reviewing our financial records to decide on how to make our businesses profitable yet manageable for producers to plant trees. Since 2020, nurseries and truckers have increased their rates quite significantly, which has been ultimately passed on to our producers. The SDACDE would like to recommend an increase on the docket for the rates of Machine Planted trees, shrubs, and Fabric installation to the following:

Machine planted trees	.39/ft
Machine planted shrubs	.42/ft
Fabric installation	.71/ft

The rate of fabric installation is being requested due to the high increase to fabric and staple costs. A 6' x 500' fabric roll has increased just this year by \$12 per roll. A box of staples has gone up by \$13 a box. The District Area cost averages, (from the SDACD surveys), are attached.

Pipe is another area that has increased from \$5 to \$9 per linear foot for 2023! The docket for 2022 is \$2.70 per linear foot and cost share is 30%, so we would like to recommend raising it by \$.30/linear foot to \$3.00 (which is still low.) The districts do not benefit from the pipeline cost, but this increase would help producers during this drought time to install livestock pipeline.

The SDACDE appreciates your time as you review these current cost share docket revisions. As conservation districts we are beginning to walk through a time of rising costs that we have not seen in past years. We are working hard to help our producers with shelterbelts and livestock water practices by offering cost share. The financial assistance that your funding offers is often one of the main reasons they commit to moving forward with their projects.

We recognize you are responsible for being a good steward of the funds you are entrusted with; we too are trying to help as many producers as possible with cost share that assists with their high cost of installation.

Respectfully submitted,
The SDACD Employees
Jean Fagerland
Jean Fagerland, SDACDE Coteau Area Director

AREAS	TREES	SHRUBS	FABRIC	TUBES	COMMENTS
Vermillion/Big Sioux	0.39	0.47	0.71		Survey last updated 2019
Hills	0.45	0.46	0.73		Survey updated 2020
North West	0.38	0.38	0.75		Survey last updated 2021
Praire Area	0.32	0.33	0.64		Survey last updated 2019
South James	0.32	0.37	0.65		Suvey updated 2020
Coteau	0.49	0.50	0.79		Survey updated 2022
Area Average	0.39	0.42	0.71		<i>6' x 500' roll of fabric increased by \$12/roll---2023</i>
					<i>Box of staples increased by \$13/box---2023</i>
22 Commission Docket	0.37	0.38	0.66		
Requested Increase	0.39	0.42	0.71		



Bennett County Conservation District
706 W. Bennett Ave., Suite 2
Martin, SD 57551
Phone/Fax (605)685-1243

September 28, 2022

State Conservation Commission
Div. of Resource Conservation & Forestry
SD Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources
523 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Due to the rise in tree prices, we are requesting the unit cost for Tree Plantings be raised.

We ask that the unit cost of Shrubs and planting should be raised from \$0.38/LF to at least \$0.45/lf and Trees and planting be raised from \$0.37/lf to at least \$0.46/lf.

We are also asking that the unit cost for handplants be raised from \$2.00 each for bareroot stock to at least \$2.50 each.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth E. Bolzer".

Kenneth Bolzer
Chairman



Roberts Conservation District
2018 SD Hwy 10 Sisseton SD 57262
605-698-7639 EXT 3
Email: robertscd@sdconservation.net
www.sdconservation.org/robertscd

September 13, 2022

Dear Conservation Commission and Commission Advisors,

Within the last 2 years, the SD Conservation Districts have felt the drastic price increase in supplies. I felt it necessary to share these costs for your decision-making regarding future docket pricing.

- Tree fabric in the 6x500' rolls (what we all use for machine tree/fabric plantings) has increased by \$28 per roll wholesale from the same vendor.
- 5' Tree tubes have increased \$1.75 per tube wholesale within the last year also from the same vendor.
- Standard sized sod staples (8x2x8) have increased \$29 per box of 500 from the same vendor.
- We have also noticed an increase in tree seedling costs. 2 years ago, we could purchase (wholesale) a conservation grade tree (Redosier Dogwood) from Big Sioux Nursery at \$0.85 each, now they are \$1.07 (that is an increase of \$0.22)

I have averaged out the "Coteau Area" pricing, so you know what we are charging for machine plantings, fabric, and our minimum rate. We are charging (on average) \$0.47/ lf on machine tree plantings, \$0.785 on machine fabric, and the minimum required is \$417.27.

Hopefully these updated numbers assist you with your decisions.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kristin Pester
District Manager
robertscd@sdconservation.net
605-698-7639 ext 3