

Custer County Conservation District

Meeting Notes

Pine Room Custer County Annex Custer, SD. 57730
605-673-5680

The November 13, 2020 meeting of the Custer County Conservation district was called to order at 9:01 AM by Stuart Adrian.

In attendance were: Caley Buckert, Mike Baldwin, Stuart Adrian, Oonagh Wood, Paul Nettinga, Stephenie Rittberger, Tom Patterson, Deanna Keizer, Sam (NRCS intern), Julie Wheeler and Justine Reid. Available via teleconference: Dave Thom, Matt Walsh

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

November 9, 2020 meeting minutes and this meeting's agenda were approved after a motion by Paul with a second by Dave.

Partnership Reports:

- NRCS Representative: Justine Reid report- Report attached
- SDDA Forester: Matt Walsh- Report attached

Financial Report:

- Account balances
 - Main Checking
 - \$8,642.74
 - Grant Checking
 - \$1458.41
 - Savings
 - \$41,099.35

Correspondence:

- NACD Pollinator Guide CurriculumK-8th - available for those who are interested

Old Business:

- Approval of CCCD Thinning Grant Applications- Motion by Oonagh, second by Paul
 - Approval letter to be sent
 - Work needs to be completed and report turned into CCCD by June 1.
 - Total of 80 acres.
 - Charles Miners
 - 18 Acres
 - Paul and Penny Svenkseon
 - 20 Acres
 - Mike and Angela Jarding
 - 20 Acres
 - Randy Guggisberg
 - 7 Acres
 - Kyle Heyen and Traci Comstock

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- 15 Acres
- NRCS CIS-
 - Custer Highlands/Elk Mountain
 - Caley to work with SDACD on postcard mailing
 - Target date for mailing- **January 15**
 - Interest date- **February 15**
 - Batching date for NRCS- **June 1**
 - Less wordy- needs more exciting “draw in” wording
 - Eastern Custer County
 - Quickly discussed CIS application- will need to be worked on this winter and turned in in the spring. Call for applications should be coming soon.

New Business:

- Tree Orders for 2021
 - Hot Springs has the order form, just need to get in touch with them
- USFS RAC Grant
 - Mike is applying for the grant through the Weed and Pest Department to treat weeds on public land adjacent to private lands.
- Fall Newsletter
 - Discuss more next meeting possibly a Winter/Spring
- Community Wildfire Protection plans
 - Add for 2021 when doing goals at December or January meeting
 - Fire Districts Group- Jim Strain

Other Business:

- Steph let us know that landowner work shops can be advertised through the community education notice that goes out in the spring and fall

Next meeting: Friday December 11th 9:00-11:00 AM - Pine room

Adjournment: 10:33 PM

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RCF Report for Custer County Conservation District 11/12/2020

- Thinning projects for approval
 - Two thinning projects to be approved by the board. Kyle Heyen for 15 ac of thinning along Stagecoach Springs Rd, and Randy Guggisberg for 6.5 ac of thinning and .5 ac of meadow enhancement along Pleasant Valley Rd. Approval of these two thinning projects would allocate the final 22 ac of funding the County Conservation district has available. The Heyen recently had fire on their property and the thinning would not only better prepare them for the next one but would help to remove standing dead hazard trees left by the last fire.
- Covid updates
 - There has been a potential positive covid case within our office. Currently the employee is isolating, and no other employees have had symptoms. Mask's will be worn during landowner meetings and social distancing will continue to be used.
- CIS project update
 - 1 landowner within the CIS project area has applied for EQIP funding and has said that their neighbors may be interested as well. I am currently working with the landowner and gave them business cards to distribute to any neighbors who are interested so they can give me a call.
- EQIP/thinning projects
 - Lots of Requests for thinning coming in. Currently working with 6 new EQIP Applications to get prescriptions and practices setup.

Matt Walsh
RCF Service Forester Hot Springs