

Custer County Conservation District
Meeting Notes
25363 US Hwy 385 Custer, SD. 57730
605-673-5680

The August 13, 2020 meeting of the Custer County Conservation district was called to order via teleconference at 2:06 PM by Dave Thom.

In attendance were: Caley Buckert, Dave Thom, Justine Reid, Oonagh Wood, Tamarah Caster, Matt Walsh, and Stuart Adrian

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

July 9th meeting minutes and this meeting's agenda were approved after a motion by Tamarah with a second by Oonagh.

Partnership Reports:

- NRCS Representative: Justine Reid- District Conservationist- Report attached
- NWTF Forester: Faryn Klebe- Has not been able to find any final report on the share drive and Jason could not find one either. I am working on getting a report ready for the French Creek project. My plan is to call all the landowners and get information from them to finish the report. There is also some information on the share drive that I believe will help me in completing my report.
- SDDA Forester: Matt Walsh- report attached

Financial Report:

- Pay NWTF by check – Dave and Oonagh to stop and sign check
- \$13.00 late fee
 - Motion by Oonagh and second by Stuart for Caley to pay online, and approval for Caley to pay future bills online.
- Account balances
 - Main Checking
 - \$12,126.02
 - Grant Checking
 - \$1458.41
 - Savings
 - \$41098.32

Correspondence:

Old Business:

- Supervisor Candidate
 - Justin to reach out to possible candidate and invite to next meeting
- French Creek Riparian update

Custer County Conservation District
Meeting Notes
 25363 US Hwy 385 Custer, SD. 57730
 605-673-5680

- Faryn is working on it
- CIS Outreach plan and actions
 - Dave to work on letter
 - Caley to rework mailing lists forested areas within priority areas
 - 5 acres and under
 - 2 acres and under
 - *Send out to supervisors*
 (try sending Oonaghs with personal e-mail)
- SD Conservation commission thinning grant outreach and response
 - Landowners:
 - Charlie Miners 18 acres
 - Paul and Penny Svenkenson 20 acres
 - Mike Jarding 20 acres

New Business:

- Weed and Pest Update
 - Caley finally hired a seasonal sprayer, ROWS are being sprayed. Caley is still playing catch up though
 - Caley resigned from the County and her final day will be September 3, she will be talking with the commission about working part time until the position is filled
 - Caley to do list:
 - Computer stuff in one place
 - Meet with supervisors after Wednesday commission meeting
 - Work on end of year vouchers for supervisors
- 2020 SDCD Accomplishments report
 - E-mail ideas- Dave to draft
- SDACD photo project
 - Met earlier in the day to tour and take photos

Other Business:

- Landowner Workshop
 - school is not available
 - uncertainty in finding location and if people would come
 - Motion by Stuart and second by Tamarah to postpone the workshop until Spring 2021
- Motion was made by Tamarah with a second by Oonagh to cover expenses brought forth with teleconferences.
 - Example: Phone bills

Next meeting: Thursday, August 13 2:00-4:00 PM County Weed and Pest Shop

Adjournment: 3:43 PM

Custer County Conservation District

Meeting Notes

25363 US Hwy 385 Custer, SD. 57730
605-673-5680

August 13, 2020

NRCS Field Office Report to the Custer County Conservation District

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2012 – 2019: 10 Active Contracts
 - Field work for checkouts is in full swing.
- 2020: 3 New Contracts (2 Custer)
 - Getting signatures and obligating
 - 1 Forestry, 2 High Tunnels
 - *Hot Springs has 5 going to contracts for Custer – all Forestry*

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 2015 - 2019: 28 Active Contracts
 - Documentation review earlier and payments earlier
- 2020: 1 New Contract (0 Custer)
 - Getting signatures and obligating
 - *Hot Spring has maybe 1 going to contract for Custer*
- 2021 Renewals: 7 Applications (1 Custer)
 - Screening soon
 - *Hot Springs has 7 applications for Custer*

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – FSA Program

- Status reviews on existing contracts
- 1 General, 2 Grasslands
- High workload in Resource Unit – staff flexibility

Meetings / Trainings / Correspondence / Other

- Justine has National Leadership Development Workshop Series – one day a month for 3 months
- Dan Tomlinson's last day in office is August 11th
- Cassie Bell has a Women's Workshop and Introduction to Agronomy training in August
- COVID-19: no change in status; masks and social distancing required in offices

Custer County Conservation District
Meeting Notes
25363 US Hwy 385 Custer, SD. 57730
605-673-5680

RCF Report for Custer County Conservation District
08/07/2020

- **EQIP**
 - EQIP approval has happened currently working with 4 landowners to mark boundaries.
 - Should be a few more approved by beginning of September
- **County Thinning Grant**
 - Attached preliminary map of Svenkenson/ Jarding thinning application locations, working with them to finalize their application and come up with a prescription.
 - Contacted Julie Oswald about potential doing some thinning she is on the fence on whether she wants to do it this year.
 - Possibly have another landowner lined up to apply recently purchased 80 ac on pleasant valley road.
 - Will continue calling old applicants to find someone interested in final ~ 22 ac
- **Women and Wildland Fire Home Defense Workshop**
 - Tentatively 9/30-10/2
 - Looking for locations to hold event (outdoor, house in trees, parking)
 - Working with women on woodlands forestry guild
 - 3 sessions, 10 participants max, 1 northern hills, 1 mid hills, 1 southern hills
 - Attached tentative flyer
- **FSP**
 - Currently finishing up a 150 ac FSP of off VIP road on the boundary of Custer State park along Spokane creek
 - Will then begin two FSP's for neighboring properties at Custer/ Fall River line totaling ~4,000 ac
- **RCF Staffing Updates**
 - Patricia Weyrich is the new rural forestry team lead she started on July 13th
 - Krista Erdman is the new Northern Hills Service Forester

Matt Walsh

RCF Service Forester Hot Springs