



Custer County Conservation District Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2021

The October 14, 2021 meeting of the Custer County Conservation District was called to order in the Pine Room, Custer County Annex Building, at 9:04 AM by Dave Thom.

In attendance were Dave Thom, Oonagh Wood, Paul Nettinga, Tamarah Caster, Justine Reid, Stuart Adrian, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Dave asked to amend the agenda by adding the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Timber Program to New Business. Motion by Paul to approve amended agenda, seconded by Tamarah, motion carried.

The meeting minutes from September 9, 2021 were approved after a motion by Tamarah and a second by Paul, motion carried.

Partnership/Guest Reports:

- NRCS Representative: Justine Reid – Report attached.
 - Additional notes:
 - CIS Resilient Forest contract –
 - More money was used for the two funded contracts than what was initially allocated in year 1 of the project. It is not clear whether the extra funds came from future allocation(s) to the grant or if another pool of money was made available.
 - Additional set of postcards to be sent out by December 1 to residents in the three highest priority areas. Currently have 6-7 applications in the Rapid City office for FY2022 funds, but would like additional applicants. Mike will work with Justin about revising the previous postcard.
- NWTF Forester:
 - Faryn was unable to attend, but after the meeting reported “I am working on a couple management plans now in Custer County to help them with their ag status and one will go towards the CIS for next year”.
- SDDA Forester: Report attached
 - Matt was unable to attend but provided a report which was reviewed with the Board by Mike.
- Forest Service general:
 - Julie Wheeler, USFS Buffalo Gap National Grassland: Julie was unable to attend, but did not have anything to report.

Financial Report:

- Account balances:
 - Main Checking = \$12,269.80,
 - Grant Checking = \$1,633.41,
 - Savings = \$37,102.98.
- Bills to pay/approve:
 - NACD annual dues:
 - Board agreed to pay \$250.
 - SDACD Convention expenses:
 - Registration for Mike and Dave was \$330, Mike's hotel fee was (\$101.99), mileage for Mike was \$42.84), and mileage for Dave was \$58.80.
 - Total cost = \$533.63.
- Motion by Oonagh, second by Paul to approve financial report as presented and approve payment of bills, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Forestry Notes, Summer 2021 issue
- Dave discussed the call for comments/suggestions to the 2022 Cost-share docket for the Conservation Commission approved practice costs. He asked the Board to think about any desired changes for the 2023 docket.

Old Business:

- Board Supervisor vacancy:
 - Dave summarized his conversation with Greg Neugebauer, Hermosa area resident, about the vacant Board position. Greg expressed his desire to serve on the CCCD Board. Motion by Paul, seconded by Oonagh to appoint Greg to the vacant position, motion carried. Appointment will serve through 2022.
 - Dave and Mike will research information, training opportunities, etc. for Greg.
- SDACD Convention:
 - CCCD originated and Hills Area approved resolution to “seek additional legislative appropriation of \$100,000 for the Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Fund for resilient forest projects, such appropriation to be in addition to recent annual appropriations of \$500,000 for projects state-wide” was approved during the SDACD business session.
 - Extension request for our 2021-22 thinning grant was approved during the SDACD business session.
- CIS project updates:
 - Updates were discussed in Justine's report. Additionally, Mike has drafted a fact sheet for the Rangeland and Riparian Health project. Fact sheet will be published on the NRCS CIS webpage.

New Business:

- 2021-22 State thinning grant:

- Extension request:
 - Board agreed to have Dave sign the revised grant award/acceptance form with a new end date of 6/30/2023.
- New landowner applications:
 - Adrian Ranch, LLC application – Motion by Paul, seconded by Tamarah to approve thinning application for 18 acres, motion carried.
 - Piper application – Board discussed whether to approve the application (only 1.5 acres) and decided to table the decision until the next meeting for further consideration.
- U.S. Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest, Forest Timber Program:
 - Dave discussed potential reduction in timber harvest rates within the timber program and the upcoming revision to the Forest Plan.

Other Business:

- Newsletter:
 - Mike is drafting the newsletter. He was unsuccessful in finding Angie’s email distribution list, but did find the 2018 address list. Contacts/addresses were checked for accuracy. There is approximately 190 people on the address list.
 - Motion by Oonagh, seconded by Tamarah for Mike to mail hard copies of newsletter to current distribution list, motion carried.
- Miscellaneous updates:
 - District manager for Fall River CD is stepping down. If a replacement is not found soon, it might affect their tree sale. If so, we can order trees through Pennington CD.
 - No-till drills – residents of Custer County now have the option of renting a no-till drill from either Fall River CD or Pennington CD.
 - Scholarship – Mike reviewed the scholarship application used by Day County CD. They have given out 5-6 scholarships per year. Their application criteria is less restrictive than ours, so the Board may want to consider revising our application requirements. Mike will add this to next month’s agenda.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 18 @ 9:00 AM, Pine Room, Custer County Annex Building.

Adjournment: 11:05 AM



October 14, 2021

NRCS Field Office Report to the Custer County Conservation District

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2018 – 2021: 9 Active Contracts
 - Hot Springs – 2 Resilient Forest contracts: \$30,000 and \$15,000
- 2022
 - Workload tool – major changes!
 - Batching Deadline: 12/3/21
 - Ranking Deadline: 2/18/22
 - Obligation Deadline: 6/3/22
 - CIS FY 2022 Deadlines

	Resilient Forest Landscapes (CIS 2020)	Jasper Fire (CIS 2021)	Rangeland Health (CIS 2021)
Outreach	12/1/21	N/A	2/1/22
Batching	2/1/22	12/1/21	4/1/22
Ranking	4/1/22	2/1/22	7/1/22
Obligation	7/1/22	4/1/22	8/1/22

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 2017 - 2021: 23 Active Contracts, additional 2 CSP-GCI
 - Letters went out to all contract holders, documentation due by 9/17/21
 - Calendar Year (CY) 2021 payments by 11/30/21
- 2022 Renewals: 7 applications
 - Ranking Deadline: 11/19/21
 - Obligation Deadline: 12/17/21
- 2022 Classic
 - Batching Deadline: 12/3/21
 - Ranking Deadline: 3/18/22
 - Obligation Deadline: 4/29/22

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) [joint NRCS/FSA program]

- Drought this summer, over 50 applications

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands [joint NRCS/FSA program]

- 3 accepted offers

Meetings / Trainings / Correspondence / Other

- Soil Conservationist, Laura Muse, on maternity leave
- COVID-19: 25% staffing, guidance very fluid right now

/S/

Justine Reid
District Conservationist

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An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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RCF Report for Custer County Conservation District

Oct 14, 2021

The following is a summary of assistance provided to the Custer county conservation district and projects being worked on within the county.

- Thinning project updates:
 - 2021:
 - Stuart Adrian's application for 18 ac. Is located along the Custer/Pennington County line. Another 18ac project in the same area just across the county line was approved by Pennington conservation district. Making this a 36-ac thinning project, in total, if approved. The map and prescription are attached.
 - Matthew Piper application is for 1.5 ac. Technically due to its size being under 5 ac it does not fit the requirements. The application does say it can be considered and his neighbors may be interested in thinning but haven't gotten anything solid set up with them. I would like the boards thoughts on this before moving forward with the project.
- FSP:
 - Working on getting a few plans updated and out to landowners right now. Then will be working back down my list of interested landowners.
- EQIP CIS:
 - Both projects that were approved this year have been flagged out and may just be waiting on the archeology approvals. Otherwise, they are done and ready to go on our end and just waiting for the landowners to start work.
- Upcoming Workshops:
 - Forest Carbon Educational Series: 4 workshops on various topics about carbon and carbon markets. The flyer is attached.
 - The first is this Saturday from 9-10am email: Patricia.Weyrich@state.sd.us to register.
 - Estate planning: two day in person event in Rapid city Hosted by SDSU Extension. Oct. 21-22
 - Email heather.gessner@sdstate.edu for more info

Matt Walsh

Service Forester