



## Custer County Conservation District Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2022

The June 9, 2022 meeting of the Custer County Conservation District was called to order in the Pine Room, Custer County Annex, at 9:02 AM by Dave Thom.

In attendance were Dave Thom, Oonagh Wood, Paul Nettinga, Tamarah Caster, Stuart Adrian, Justin Boerboom, Joel Milos, and Mike Baldwin.

All motions were approved unanimously unless otherwise noted. For the purpose of continuity, these minutes are not necessarily in chronological order.

A request was made to add Riparian Workshop, Forest Plan Revision, and County Fair to the agenda under Old Business. The meeting minutes from May 12, 2022 and revised agenda were approved after a motion by Oonagh and a second by Tamarah, motion carried.

### **Partnership/Guest Reports:**

- NRCS Representatives: Justin Boerboom and Joel Milos – Report attached
  - Additional notes:
    - Joel Milos is the new District Conservationist in the Rapid City office.
    - There were approximately 10-12 applications for the Rangeland and Riparian Health CIS. Ranking deadline is July 1 and NRCS used the original CIS proposal to develop the ranking criteria.
- NWTF Forester:
  - Faryn Klebe was unable to attend but shared an update with Mike which he shared with the Board.
  - Faryn is working on the cultural resource surveys for the CIS contracts and the planned riparian workshop has been scheduled for October 13th & 14th at the Game Fish & Parks Outdoor Campus in Rapid. It will be primarily focused towards landowners. One day will be for restoration in forested areas and the other in grassland areas. We are contemplating moving the dates because the SAF conference coincides with those dates. This will be discussed at our next meeting. Also, Faryn signed up a new tree farmer that lives in Custer County.

### **Financial Report:**

- Account balances:
  - Main Checking = \$16,340.51,
  - Grant Checking = \$1,633.41,
  - Savings = \$37,105.46.
- Bills to approve:
  - None at this time
- Deposits:

- \$75.00 reimbursement for Mike's online training.
- Motion by Oonagh, second by Tamarah to approve financial report, motion carried. Oonagh asked about scholarship payments to the recipients. Mike is still waiting on enrollment confirmation from the students. He will reach out to them as a reminder.

### **Correspondence:**

- SD Erosion Training – Justin provided background information on soil erosion complaints and responsibilities of the Board. Board is encouraged to attend training in Rapid City next Tuesday, June 14.
- USDA seeking proposals for Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership – Dave suggested a CCCD Board member work with NRCS and USFS to develop a proposal to treat lands in the county. Joel and Justin will work on contacting USFS.
- SDGFP Private Lands Habitat Biologist – Tom Miklos is a new private lands biologist and will cover a portion of Custer County; however, Ben Pucket will still cover the majority of the county.

### **Old Business:**

- Supervisor elections:
  - Public notice of election to be published for two weeks in the Custer Chronicle paper. Tamarah is working on her petition.
- Custer County Fair:
  - Board reviewed plan for booth at the County Fair this summer (August 11-14). The booth would not have to be attended all days. Paul will no longer be able to help staff the booth. Oonagh said that she could help Friday afternoon. Joel offered to work on Friday and Dave offered to help on Saturday.
  - NRCS can help with booth setup on Thursday and may be able to bring the mini rainfall simulator. They will also have pamphlets to share.
  - Booth will have a focused interest (e.g., soil health, CIS projects) including new material, partnerships with other agencies, county map with CIS and other project areas. Also, will have a drawing.
  - Motion by Oonagh, second by Paul to purchase a \$200 gift certificate from Dakota Greens as a prize drawing, motion carried.
- National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Riparian Workshop:
  - Dave and Mike participated in a virtual meeting with NWTF and others to discuss a riparian workshop for landowners. The workshop is scheduled for October 13 and 14 in Rapid City at the GF&P Outdoor Campus West. The workshop will be a mix of agency talks and field trips. A follow-up planning meeting is scheduled for June 21.
- BHNF Forest Plan Revision:
  - Mike discussed recent meetings he attended in reference to the Forest Plan Revision. He is also trying to review the draft Assessments that USFS released to cooperating agencies. Public release of the draft Assessments is expected soon.

**New Business:**

- CIS Proposal for irrigation improvement project:
  - The Board discussed how much money to request for the project. Justin's opinion was to request between \$1 and \$1.5 million due to the costs associated with center pivots, pipelines, etc. A motion was made by Paul, seconded by Tamarah to request \$1.5 million in the proposal, motion carried.

**Other Business:**

- Miscellaneous office manager updates:
  - CCCD webpage visit counter:
    - A Google Analytics page was created by Mike and is now tracking site use of the District's webpage.
  - Newsletter:
    - Electronic copies of the spring/summer newsletter were sent out on May 24. Mike is still waiting on the hard copies to be printed. They will be mailed as soon as possible.
  - Meetings/Training:
    - Mike provided a review of upcoming meetings that he will be attending.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 14 @ 9:00 AM – Commissioner's Conference Room, Custer County Courthouse

**Critique:**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.



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**June 9th, 2022**

***NRCS Field Office Report to the Custer County Conservation District***

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2018-2021: 8 Active Contracts
  - Includes CIS contracts
  - Planning for field season activities
  - Annual practice reminder letters were sent in February
- 2022
  - Obligation Deadline: 6/3/2022
  - CIS FY 2022 Deadlines

	Resilient Forest Landscapes (CIS 2020)	Jasper Fire (CIS 2021)	Rangeland Health (CIS 2021)
Outreach	12/1/2021	N/A	2/1/2022
Batching	3/1/2022	12/1/2021	4/1/2022
Ranking	5/1/2022	2/1/2022	7/1/2022
Obligation	7/1/2022	4/1/2022	8/1/2022

Forest CIS:

- Mapped the applications and were able to create a cost estimate for what the producers are thinking of doing. We were able to narrow it down to 2 applicants that we will prioritize high. Faryn working on finalizing prescriptions. FO working towards obligation.

Rangeland Health:

- Currently working with applicants on their 1st consultation (what practices they would like to incorporate/resources concerns they are seeing)
  - Ranking deadline set for 7/1

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 2018-2022: 12 Active Contracts, additional 2 CSP-GCI
  - Planning for field season activities
  - Annual practice reminder letters were sent in February
- 2022 Classic
  - Ranking Deadline: 3/18/2022
    - Received additional funding (5/3/2022), we were able to fund 1 application
  - Obligation Deadline for those just funded: 6/3/2022
- 2023 Renewal
  - Application Deadline: 4/15/2022
  - Letters went out to eligible participants

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Grassland CRP Signup 204: 4/4/2022 – 5/13/2022

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

- Finishing up designs on approved projects

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Meetings/Trainings/Correspondence/Other

- District Conservationist, Rapid City FO: Joel Milos, Started: 6/6/2022
- Hot Springs FO
  - Brad Humbracht is on detail with the Forest Service until June
  - Acting DC (Melissa Greenwalt) started in late March
- CIS Proposal Process changed: call for Pre-Proposals 3/4/2022, selection by 4/1/2022, full proposals due 7/1/2022
  - 1 of the requests for full approval is the Custer County Irrigation Project that the office will be working on
- USDA Seeks Proposals for Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership
  - Prioritizes reduction of wildfire risk, protect water quality/supply, and improve wildlife habitat in municipal watershed areas
  - Proposals from partners are due by August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for FY23.

/S/

Joel Milos

District Conservationist