



## Custer County Conservation District Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2022

The October 6, 2022 meeting of the Custer County Conservation District was called to order in the Commissioner's Conference Room, Custer County Courthouse, at 9:02 AM by Paul Nettinga.

In attendance were Oonagh Wood, Paul Nettinga, Tamarah Caster, Greg Neugebauer, Stuart Adrian, Joel Milos, Laura Bosworth, Julie Wheeler, and Mike Baldwin.

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

The meeting minutes from September 8, 2022 and today's agenda were approved after a motion by Oonagh and a second by Tamarah, motion carried.

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

- NRCS Representatives: Joel Milos – Report attached
  - Additional notes:
    - Laura Bosworth was introduced as the new state level forester for NRCS.
- Buffalo Gap National Grassland: Julie Wheeler –
  - Grazing on the grassland was better than anticipated. Some water issues were encountered and accommodations were made.
  - Received a request from Boy Scouts group in Rapid City to assist with bat boxes.
  - Prairie dogs to be treated on 3-4 towns in Custer County.
  - Advertising for seasonal help for next year (2-3 positions). They were not able to hire seasonals this year.

### **Financial Report:**

- Account balances:
  - Main Checking = \$15,594.25,
  - Grant Checking = \$1,633.41,
  - Savings = \$35,633.53.
- Bills to pay and/or approve:
  - SDACD State Conference fees:
    - Hotel (\$219.90), registration (\$190), mileage (\$179.76), meals (\$54)
  - Vector Design Print and Tech – \$10.65
- Motion by Greg, second by Tamarah to approve financial report, motion carried.

### **Correspondence:**

- 2022 Conservation Tour in Harding County – invitation received late due to incorrect mailing address. Updated address with sender.

- Crazy Horse newsletter – summer progress issue was received.
- SD mileage reimbursement rate increase – State increased mileage from \$0.42/mile to \$0.51/mile. Board typically follows State mileage rates for their meeting mileage rates. Will discuss whether to increase rates at 2023 budget meeting.
- Board Training with Conservation Districts by SDSU – 10/13, 9:00-11:00, online. SDSU Extension will be covering the Fundamentals of Successful Boards.
- Forestry Management Plans by NRCS – 11/17, 9:00-10:30, online. Laura Bosworth, SD NRCS State Forester will lead a training session on writing forestry management plans.
- Pennington CD banquet and field tour – invitation to attend, no cost and do not need to be a resident of Pennington County.

### **Old Business:**

- SDACD Video project:
  - This project highlighted the District's work and its partnerships with Federal and State agencies as well as private landowners. Filming occurred on 9/28. Joe Dickie (videographer with Windigo Images) and Blaine Brakke (SDACD) met with the following video participants to record interviews: Dave Thom, Justin Boerboom, Faryn Klebe, Mike, Patricia Weyrich, Penny Svenkeson, and Mike Jarding.
  - Expected video release is December or January.
- SDACD State Conference:
  - Mike attended the conference in Oacoma on Sept. 18-20.

### **New Business:**

- Dakotas Society of American Foresters (DSAF) conference:
  - October 12-13 in Custer at the Custer Beacon. Dave and Mike will speak on the 13<sup>th</sup> during the field trip to highlight our resilient forest grants and about partners working together to accomplish similar goals.
  - Attendance by the Board and registration fees were discussed. Motion was made by Paul to pay registration cost for any Board member that wants to attend, seconded by Oonagh. Motion carried.
- NWTF Riparian Workshop:
  - October 13-14 in Rapid City at the SD GF&P Outdoor Campus West.
  - Mike will attend on Friday (10/14) and will speak about CCCD grant programs.

### **Other Business:**

- Miscellaneous office manager updates:
  - Thinning grants:
    - Conservation Commission fall grant application was submitted. Total requested was \$99,950, which included \$500 for administrative costs. Applications will be reviewed by the Commission in November.
    - Reyelts was notified of his approved thinning grant application.

- A new thinning grant cost-share application was received. Applicant is aware that we do not have funds at this time, but that we applied for a new grant with the State.
- Have not received an update on Matthew Piper's approved 1 ac thinning grant. Will need to follow up with forester.
- Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership proposal – per Dave's request, Mike spoke with Justin Boerboom on possibility of a late submission. Justin said this was not possible.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, November 10 @ 9:00 AM – Basement Meeting Room, Custer County Courthouse.

**Critique:**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.





**October 6th, 2022**

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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2018-2021: 6 Active Contracts
- 2022:
  - Forestry CIS: **Funded two contracts for \$17,089** treating 25.1 acres total. Included Forest Stand Improvements and Woody Residue Treatment.
  - Range/Riparian CIS: **Funded one contract for \$123,457** treating 3,395 acres. Included cross fencing, livestock shelter structure, shallow well/pump, livestock pipeline and stock tanks, prescribed grazing, and a stream crossing, streambank/shoreline protection, and exclusion fences along Battle Creek.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 2018-2022: 13 Active Contracts, additional 2 CSP-GCI
  - 4 Contracts are in final year – no renewals.
  - **Working towards certifying enhancements/practices for FY22 – needed applied by September 30th.**
- **FY23 CSP-GCI: Letter's have been mailed to those who may be eligible. Deadline to apply is October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Grassland CRP Signup 204: 4/4/2022 – 5/13/2022
- None selected for Custer County that RC FO is managing.

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

- Finishing up designs on approved projects, and staking out projects.

Meetings/Trainings/Correspondence/Other

- Inflation Reduction Act, ~\$20 Billion for USDA Conservation Programs
- Notice for approved FY23 CIS proposals expected in coming weeks
- **Youth & Family Services' 5th Annual Harvest Festival was September 10th in Box Elder. NRCS had outreach table and inflatable soil health tunnel.**
- **NRCS/FSA has outreach table at Western Junior Livestock Show this week.**
- **November 4<sup>th</sup> – NRCS will be present at RCAS' Career Fair (1,100 8<sup>th</sup> graders registered to attend)**
- **November 7<sup>th</sup> – Pennington CD's Annual Tour & Banquet. RSVP to Lindsay by October 24<sup>th</sup> (605-441-5046)**
- **November 17<sup>th</sup> – NRCS Technical Training via Teams on writing Forest Management Plans**

/S/

Joel Milos

District Conservationist

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