

**Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting
District Conservationist Report- January 10, 2019**

- Swampbuster/Sod/HEL
 - Wetland log is at 0 CWDs on the roster.
 - 1026s.
 - HEL workload
 - Backlog is growing- we are going to try a new process in which each field does not need to be run through our software unless a number of criteria are met. This should cut down drastically on the amount of time it takes to address them. I'll review with FSA upon their return to ensure this will meet their needs as well. Jenna has started assisting with these requests as it is a division of compliance.

- Conservation Programs
 - CRP
 - Waiting to hear more after the furlough is over and we learn more about the new Farm Bill.

 - CSP
 - 9 FY2019-1 renewal applications
 - Working through CAET
 - Working on plans and just waiting to hear when we can continue...
 - 11 annual payments remaining- need modification on 2 before we can pay; the rest either haven't signed yet or we are waiting on second level review. Current with all eligible payments.
 - Working on wrapping up annual status reviews- 16 left out of 87

 - EQIP
 - Working on annual status reviews for 2019 for existing contracts and also checking out a few completed practices
 - 5 contracts with 2019 expiration dates
 - Need to ensure we stay on top of these to get practices implemented in a timely fashion.
 - 22 applications for FY2019
 - Some are low scoring carry-overs from 2018 and some are new inquiries
 - We have been on-site with well over half of the applicants and have a good start on conservation plans for those we have met with.
 - We have made contact with each applicant and are waiting to hear back on when we can meet to review their objectives. Some will require design so they will not likely rank high this funding year.
 - Several Ag Waste systems that need TSP assistance and a few animal mortality facilities that local engineering staff is working with.

 - WRP/ACEP-WRE
 - Marcus Rock, ESS out of Parker, has been helping out with easement workload in Kaytee's absence. He will continue to support the Brookings office until a replacement is hired.

- Staff Report(s)
 - Louis Eastwood, new Soil Conservation Technician, joined the Brookings FO staff on January 7, 2019. He comes to us from the State of SD where he was most recently working as a state park technician in the Pierre area. Welcome to Brookings Louis- we are glad to have you!
 - New District Conservationist Jeremy Sova is slated to report to the Brookings Field Office on January 22nd, 2019. He comes to us from Michigan where he has been a District Conservationist for approximately 10 years.

- Conservation Plans for Review
 - None at this time