

**Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting**  
**NRCS Monthly Board Report**  
**June 2, 2021**

**Assistance/Progress**

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- CRP
  - CRP (General/Continuous) – Information has started to trickle out since the sign-ups were put on hold. We expect more information to come out in the coming weeks and a sign-up announcement shouldn't be too far off.
  - Staff has been busy completing status reviews of contracts that are in the final year. For the most part, the results have been positive. There are a few cases of trails and/or food plot issues.
  - Last week, FSA brought over the paperwork for the 9 seedings that were seeded in 2019, so we will be reviewing those for establishment.
  
- CSP
  - CSP-2021-1 Classic application deadline was March 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - We ended up with 5 applications that screened high and will proceed to ranking. The ranking deadline is June 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - The Big Sioux RU has been allocated \$359,058 for CSP Classic this sign-up which will likely only fund 2-3 applications in the RU.
    - The state has requested additional funds and we should know soon if our request has been granted.
  
- EQIP
  - The one preapproved application we had decided to not accept funding this year and defer their application to next year.
  - The state did receive additional EQIP funding, but we did not have any additional selections in Brookings.
  - 2 Animal Mortality Composting Facilities were completed and we are just awaiting SD DANR approval before completing payment.
  - 1 High Tunnel System was completed and payment submitted.
  - 2 Windbreaks were planted by the district and will be paid as soon as the fabric is installed and we receive the paperwork.
  
- WRP/WRE/FPE
  - WRE applications selected for funding
    - One 30 year to permanent conversion and one new offer have received tentative offers in Brookings.
  - David continues to work on CUA requests.
  
- HEL/Wetland Determinations
  - 0 HEL determination requests on the log.
  - 1 wetland determination request on the log.
  - Craig will start doing the FSA Compliance checks (randomly selected tracts for HEL/Wetland compliance) in the coming weeks as planting wraps up.

- CIS Proposal
  - At last weeks Conservation Conversation, it was mentioned that they are close to making a decision on which projects will be funded. Hopefully we will hear something soon.

## **Other Items of Interest**

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- We are still at 50% staffing levels in the office for the foreseeable future, which means we can have 4 people at a time. This time our partners are included in the count for that number. Vaccinated employees still count against the 50%. There is no timeframe for when this directive will end. We received the updated “playbook” last week, which had only minor changes.
  - Jeremy’s Work Cell – 605-633-0527
  - Megan’s Work Cell – 605-220-4716
  - Louis’s Work Cell – 605-220-4715
  - David’s Work Cell – 605-680-3996
- Laura Broyles will continue as acting State Conservationist until July. There has been no word if a selection has been made for the position.

