

Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting
NRCS Monthly Board Report
July 7, 2021

Assistance/Progress

- CRP
 - 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.
 - We have also been busy reviewing seeding documentation and checking fields that were seeded this spring.

- CSP
 - CSP-2021-1 Classic applications
 - We had 3 applications that were pre-approved in Brookings.
 - Hopefully by the time you read this report, most if not all will be obligated contracts.
 - CSP 2022 Renewals
 - We have not heard anything on these yet but expect to hear something in the coming months.

- EQIP
 - Payments have been made for the recently completed windbreaks, except for one. We are having an issue in our computer program, but I'm hopeful that will be resolved before you read this report.

- WRP/WRE/FPE
 - WRE applications selected for funding
 - One 30 year to permanent conversion and one new offer have received tentative offers in Brookings. Things are starting to move forward on these.
 - David continues to work on several CUA requests.

- HEL/Wetland Determinations
 - 0 HEL determination requests on the log.
 - 1 wetland determination request on the log (~40 days old).
 - 1 wetland determination for the consultants to complete.
 - 3 wetland determination appeals.
 - Craig has finished the field visits for the FSA Compliance checks (randomly selected tracts for HEL/Wetland compliance).

- CIS Proposal
 - The Oakwood Lakes CIS proposal has been selected for funding.
 - *PS – I hope the person giving the report on my half can do a celebratory dance, since I'm not there to.*

Other Items of Interest

- 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 concludes her time as acting State Conservationist on July 3rd. Jeanne Hamilton will then take over as acting STC. From what I have heard, it may be fall before we have a permanent STC.
- We completed the 2021 Cropland Roadside Transect Survey.
- Big Sioux RCPP
 - It appears that the RCPP is finally going to happen after all, but there will not be a sign-up this fiscal year.
- We have been getting a large number of calls from producers that are concerned about having adequate water for their livestock. At this time, it appears we won’t have any financial assistance to help with that until FY2022. If you know of someone who is having issues, have them contact us. We would still like to know how many producers are out there that might need help. It is possible that FSA may have a program to help if the drought continues. We can also meet with the producers now to help speed things along when programs become available.