

**Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting**  
**NRCS Monthly Board Report**  
**August 4, 2021**

**Assistance/Progress**

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- CRP
  - We completed 180 emergency haying/grazing plans for 101 participants.
  - We have been busy reviewing seeding documentation and checking fields that were seeded this spring.
  - The SHIPP sign-up deadline was July 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Continuous CRP and CLEAR 30 sign-ups end Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Grassland CRP sign-up ends Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>.
  
- CSP
  - Letters were sent to participants to remind them to turn their records in.
  - CSP-2021-1 Classic applications
    - We had 3 applications that were pre-approved in Brookings.
  - CSP 2022 Renewals
    - We have heard we will not address these until the new FY.
  
- EQIP
  - Payments have been made for the recently completed practices.
  - Completed several modifications.
  - Have received several new applications.
  
- WRP/WRE/FPE
  - WRE applications selected for funding
    - No update since last month on these.
  - David continues to receive CUA requests and has been trying to turn those around as fast as possible.
  - Craig and David are working on finishing up their easement monitoring.
  
- HEL/Wetland Determinations
  - 1 HEL determination request on the log.
  - 3 wetland determination requests on the log, with Craig hoping to complete those by the end of the FY.
  
- CIS Proposal
  - The Oakwood Lakes CIS proposal has been selected for funding.
    - The next step is to start the outreach.
      - As of now, we are allowed to do in person meetings as long as it is held outdoors and there are less than 50 people.

## 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. The President recently required employees to get vaccinated. For those that choose not to get vaccinated or show their vaccination status; they will be required to wear a mask, physically distance, and comply with weekly testing requirements. This policy will also apply to our partners. I expect there will be additional guidance on this new policy forthcoming. Also, if the county enters the high or substantial community spread, we will all be required to wear masks in the office.
  
- Jeremy's Work Cell – 605-633-0527
- Megan's Work Cell – 605-220-4716
- David's Work Cell – 605-680-3996
  
- Jeanne Hamilton is serving as acting STC.
- Louis' last day was 7/30. He is now the CET in Watertown but will still provide engineering assistance to Brookings.
  - Deron has indicated they intend to backfill the position soon.
- 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.

