

**Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting**  
**NRCS Monthly Board Report**  
**March 2, 2022**

**Assistance/Progress**

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- CRP
  - A CRP General sign-up was announced and began on 1/31 and continues thru 3/11.
  - A Grassland CRP sign-up was announced and will begin on 4/4 and continue thru 5/13.
  - Work continues on reviewing expiring contracts and getting them ready for renewal.
  
- CSP
  - Completed the last of the payments for FY2021.
  - FY22 CSP Classic sign-up ended on 1/21.
    - We have 3 applications.
    - We will be screening these in the coming weeks.
  - CSP Renewals
    - A bulletin was recently released announcing the opportunity for 2018 CSP contracts that expire this fall to apply for the CSP Renewal sign-up.
      - The deadline to apply is 3/18.
      - Brookings has 13 expiring contracts that could be eligible for the sign-up.
  
- EQIP
  - EQIP Cover Crop Initiative
    - Our one pre-approved application was moved to the approved status and contract signatures were obtained, now we are just awaiting obligation.
  - Batching date for applications was Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Our deadline to have the EQIP applications ranked is March 4th.
  
- Big Sioux RCPP
  - Batching date was Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - We have 2 applications in Brookings Co.
    - We are waiting for training on how to move forward with these applications.
  
- WRP/WRE/FPE
  - David is still on paternity leave; he is scheduled to return to work on 3/8.
  - We recently announced the easement monitoring assignments for FY22.
    - Offsite monitoring is due 3/11, the district has notified me they have completed their assigned monitoring.
    - Onsite monitoring is due 8/1.

- HEL/Wetland Determinations
  - 1 HEL and 3 wetland requests, all requests less than 30 days old.
- CIS Proposal
  - The batching date for applications was January 21.
    - We ended up with 5 applications.
    - We will be ranking this later this month.
  - A bulletin was sent out for FY22 Call for Proposals.
    - The deadline is March 4<sup>th</sup> to submit a 2-page pre-proposal.
    - We have put together a pre-proposal for grazing related practices in the NE part of the county that we will be submitting.

### **Other Items of Interest**

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- We are back up to 75% staffing levels in the office, which means we can have 6 people at a time.
  - Jeremy's Work Cell – 605-633-0527
  - Megan's Work Cell – 605-220-4716
  - David's Work Cell – 605-680-3996
- Tony Sunseri has officially started his new position as our State Conservationist.
- Emily Knutson, our new Soil Conservation Technician, started on 2/28. Please give her a big welcome to the Brookings Field Office.

### **Plans for Board review & approval**

- One plan for a contract that was approved through the EQIP Cover Crop Initiative.