

Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting
NRCS Monthly Board Report
May 4, 2022

Assistance/Progress

- CRP
 - The CRP General sign-up ended on 3/11. We are awaiting word of which offers have been selected for funding.
 - The Grassland CRP sign-up began on 4/4 and continues thru 5/13.
 - Work continues on reviewing expiring contracts and getting them ready for renewal.
 - Writing CCRP plans.

- CSP
 - FY22 CSP Classic.
 - Our approved application is now a contract.
 - CSP FY23 Renewals
 - Of the 13 expiring contracts eligible for renewal, 10 submitted applications.

- EQIP
 - EQIP Conservation Incentives Contract
 - We had 1 application which has been pre-approved. Waiting for it to be moved to approved so we can get signatures on the contract.
 - EQIP Classic
 - Wrapping up planning on our 1 preapproved application that wants to move forward with funding.

- Big Sioux RCPP
 - Ranking deadline as 4/29.

- WRP/WRE/FPE
 - FY22 Easement Monitoring.
 - Onsite monitoring is due 8/1.
 - Continue to process CUA requests as they are received from the participant.
 - Pre-survey meeting for a WRP application that was selected last year.

- HEL/Wetland Determinations
 - 29 HEL requests, less than 1 month old. Most are just field boundary changes.
 - 4 Wetland requests, about 1 month old.
 - Craig has started to assemble folders for the FSA compliance checks that he will be completing this summer. Letters should be going out to selected operators in the next week.

- Upper Deer Creek CIS Proposal
 - We sent 114 letters to producers in the Upper Deer Creek Watershed to gather their input on what may all be needed to make the CIS proposal a success. I asked that they respond by May 10th, so hopefully we start to hear from a few producers.
- Oakwood Lakes CIS Project
 - Ranking template has been released.
 - Planning/Engineering work has begun on applications.
 - I pulled water quality samples on Monday to help establish our baseline and dropped those of with Jay Gilbertson for testing.

Other Items of Interest

- We are now back to 100% staffing!!! Max telework has now ended and we must follow our “normal” telework agreements. Field staff are on ad-hoc telework agreements.
 - Jeremy’s Work Cell – 605-633-0527
 - Megan’s Work Cell – 605-220-4716
 - David’s Work Cell – 605-680-3996
 - Emily’s Work Cell – 605-318-1805
- I will be working the NRCS booth at the Garden Discovery Festival at McCrory Gardens on May 15th.

Plans for Board review & approval

- One plan for a contract that was approved through the CSP Classic sign-up.