

**State Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Web Meeting**  
**April 22, 2020**

**Call to Order:** The meeting called to order at 9:10 AM CT by Chairman Doug Hansen.

**Members Present :**

Mike Konechne, Gene Williams, Tom Glover, Doug Hansen, Bill Coburn, Charlie Moe, Gerald Thaden, Bruce Haines, and Dusty Rodiek

**Members not present: None**

**Others present:** RCF staff, Bill Smith, Bailey Gullikson, Kim Paxton, and Brian Scott. A list of others attending is available upon request.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Chairman Hansen asked the Commission members if they had any conflicts of interest to disclosure at this time. The Chairman also reminded the Commission that they would need to abstain from voting on grant applications sponsored by their districts.

**Approval of February Minutes:**

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to approve the February 20, 2020 minutes as submitted. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye.

**Motion Carried.**

**Request for New Business to be placed on the agenda:** None

**Upcoming travel:** Bill Smith informed the Commission about the upcoming SDACD Area Meeting schedule; however, said that time, we are not sure if these will be face-to-face meetings or virtual meetings because of COVID-19. Commissioners should try to attend at least one of the meetings in their area.

**Correspondence:** None

**Loan Report:** Bailey Gullikson gave the loan status report.

**Revolving Loan Applications:** Hughes submitted a loan application for trees and fabric. A motion was made by Bruce Haines and seconded to approve the Hughes Conservation District Loan application in the amount of \$50,000.00.

A substitute motion was made by Mike Konechne and seconded to deny the approved loan request. Roll Call vote on the substitute motion to deny the application: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion Carried.** Reason for denying the application was that this appeared to be more in line with a grant application. Hughes County is recommended to rewrite the loan application and make it into a grant application.

**Grant Program/Updates/Changes/Amendments/Report:**

Brian Scott gave a Grant Status Report.

The Jones Conservation District requested a one-year extension on grant # 2018-CSW-019A (Multi-Practice Grant VI). Charlie Moe made a motion and seconded to grant the extension. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

The Pennington Conservation District requested a one-year extension on grant # 2018-CSW-039 (Thinning Grant). Gene Williams made a motion and seconded to grant the extension. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

The Roberts Conservation District requested a one-year extension on grant # 2019-CSW-051 (Shelterbelts Grant). Charlie Moe made a motion and seconded to deny the request. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

The Roberts Conservation District requested a one-year extension on grant #2019-CSW-049 (Conservation Ed and Public Awareness Grant). Bruce Haines made a motion and seconded to approve the request. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

**Reversions:**

The Butte Conservation District requested that the funds from grant # 2020-CSW-003 (Envirothon) be reverted since the state and national Envirothon competitions were canceled due to the COVID-19. Bill Coburn made a motion and seconded to revert the funds. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

The Hamlin Conservation District requested that funds from grant # 2019-CSW-044 (Tree Planting) be reverted. Charlie Moe made a motion to approve the request and seconded. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Gene Williams and seconded to revert the following funds:

Marshall Conservation District grant 2017-CSW-019 in the amount of \$99.49; Davison Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-09 in the amount of \$203.16; Moody Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-024 in the amount of \$10,248.30; Brule-Buffalo Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-028 in the amount of \$465.01; Brule-Buffalo Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-029 in the amount of \$147.50; Charles Mix Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-030 in the amount of \$150.00; Lake Conservation District grant 2018-CSW-038 in the amount of \$15,000.00; Bennett Conservation

District grant 2019-CSW-03 in the amount of \$5,122.47; Butte Conservation District grant 2019-CSW-06 in the amount of \$730.67; Hamlin Conservation District grant 2019-CSW-016 in the amount of \$56.99; McCook Conservation District grant 2019-CSW-025 in the amount of \$1,125.67; Sanborn Conservation District 2019-CSW-032 in the amount of \$3,881.43; Hamlin Conservation District 2019-CSW-044 in the amount of \$10,800.00; and Butte Conservation District 2020-CSW-03 in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a total amount of \$68,030.69. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

### **2020 Spring Grant Round Review and Funding**

A motion was made by Bruce Haines and seconded to deny Beadle Conservation District's Lake Osceola Improvement Project grant application in the amount of \$79,225.00. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried. The reason for denying funding is lack of information and they should stay focused on conservation grant initiatives.**

A motion was made by Tom Glover and seconded to deny Kingsbury Conservation District's Urban Forestry grant application in the amount of \$27,000.00. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-nay, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-nay, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-nay. **Motion carried. The reason for the denying funding is the concern regarding the amount of funding for tree removals and concerns regarding the commission's jurisdiction.**

A motion was made by Bruce Haines and seconded to approve the remaining grant applications as requested (Brule-Buffalo Conservation District-Renovation & Tree Planting in the amount of \$36,000; Custer Conservation District-Thinning for a Healthier Forest in the amount of \$21,300; Davison Conservation District-Brush Management in the amount of \$10,000; Fall River Conservation District-Keeping it Covered in the amount of \$4,478; Gregory Conservation District-County Projects 6 in the amount of \$27,500; Hanson Conservation District-Brush Management in the amount of \$7,500; Hanson Conservation District-Cover Crops in the amount of \$18,500; Hughes Conservation-Tree Initiative in the amount of \$35,000; Minnehaha Conservation District-Wildlife Habitat Projects in the amount of \$9,868; and Stanley Conservation District-Tree Planting in the amount of \$9,314). Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-abstained, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-nay, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-abstained, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Gene Williams and seconded to approve the Kingsbury Conservation District's Urban Forestry grant application in the amount of \$26,757.94 with the added condition that the trees must be inspected to ensure that they are not a hazard before they are removed. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-nay, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-nay, Doug Hansen-nay, Bill Coburn-nay, Charlie Moe-nay, Gerald Thaden-nay, Bruce Haines-nay, Dusty Rodiek-nay. **Motion failed.**

A motion was made by Dusty Rodiek and seconded to approve the Kingsburg Conservation District's Urban Forestry grant application in the amount of \$9,000.00 with the condition that funds will be used

for new tree planting, education, and salaries and benefits and funds may not be used for tree removals or to pay city employee salaries. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-nay, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-nay, Charlie Moe-nay, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion Carried.**

**Soil Awards:**

A motion was made by Charlie Moe made and seconded to approve the Soil Award nominations received from the Beadle Conservation District-Baruth and Sons; the Bon Homme Conservation District-Frank Pravecek; the Hughes Conservation District-Jim Finley, Jerry Webb, Jim Feller, Don Korkow, and Jerry Pier; the Moody Conservation District-Andy Lacey; and the Roberts Conservation District-Dewain Waletich. Roll call vote: Mike Konechne-aye, Gene Williams-aye, Tom Glover-aye, Doug Hansen-aye, Bill Coburn-aye, Charlie Moe-aye, Gerald Thaden-aye, Bruce Haines-aye, Dusty Rodiek-aye. **Motion carried.**

**Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Update:** Bill Smith gave the Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources update. Additional workgroup meetings will be held virtually this summer and the plan will be completed prior to December 2020.

**COVID-19:** Bill Smith informed the Commissioners that state employees are working remotely. At this time, it is not confirmed when the staff will be back in the office. The estimated date return date to the office will be after June 1, 2020.

Angela Ehlers informed the Commission that districts are in the fields implementing practices this spring. They are using practices to help reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19. Angela demonstrated the COVID-10 resources posted to the SDACD website at: <https://www.sdconservation.org/> then click on the “Information About COVID-19 and SDACD Actions” the upper right hand part of the screen.

**Division Report:** Bill Smith gave the report.

Bailey Gullikson provided an update on the Speech Contest. The date has been changed from April 25 to May 23 and will be done virtually via Zoom. Charlie Moe will be one of the judges.

**Advisory Board Member Reports:**

Kris Dozark gave a report for DENR.

Jeff Zimprich with NRCS gave a report.

**Open Forum and Public Comment:** None

**New Business:** None

**Next Meeting Location and Place:** None set at this time. The Commission will meet at the SDACD Convention in September 20-22, 2020 in Watertown.

**Ending Remarks & Adjournment:** Doug Hansen thanked participants for being patient as we worked with issues.

**Meeting ending time:** 11:55 AM CT

APPROVED