**Hughes County Conservation District**

**171 N. Lincoln Ave. Suite 103**

**Pierre, SD 57501**

**February 4th, 2020**

**Call Meeting to Order:**The meeting was called to order by Ness at 1:08 pm. The following board members were in attendance: Lyle Stewart, Jesse Foster, Darrell Metzinger, and Terry Ness. Office Personnel included: Douglas Boes, April Boltjes, & Triniti Sowards. Guests were Jesse Lisburg with US Fish & Wildlife, Dan Svingen with Forest Service, Bailey Gullikson & Bill Smith with Dept. of Ag.

**Agenda:**There were no objections to the agenda therefore Ness approved.

**Minutes of the last Meeting:**

Metzinger motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Stewart seconded the motion. All present voted Aye and the motioned carried.

**Treasurer’s Report and Reconciliation:**Mahowald was unable to make it to the meeting. So, the board has decided to table the financials for January tell next meeting.

Metzinger motioned to approve to pay the bills, Stewart seconded the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion passed.

**Old Business:**

* HCCD Debit/Credit Card was tabled for the next meeting do to getting some more information from Bill Smith with Dept. of Ag. Bill said that he would do some checking to see if districts can have debit card or credit card.
* Election of Officers was addressed, Stewart motioned for all seats to remain the same as 2018 and that all nomination of officers, Metzinger seconded the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion passed.
* Stewart motioned for Ness to sign the contract with Sully County one the contract is received, Metzinger seconded the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

* Dan Svingen from Forest Services met with the board to discuss if the board would like to do an agreement with HCCD on planting some prairie native grasses in May 2020. This arrangement would be a 1 year, but Dan would like to have an agreement to with HCCD for several years to come. The project is everything that the new farm bill is about. Dept of Ag will get billed and will be sending the payment out and the payment can take up to 2-3 weeks.
* Bill Smith from Dept of Ag talked about the Good Neighbor Agreement. The Good Neighbor Agreement is away that all agencies can work together and help each other. Bill would like to draft up a Good Neighbor Agreement with HCCD and Forest Services. Foster motion get the Good Neighbor Agreement written draft, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Jesse Lisburg from US Fish & Wildlife talked about different projects that they have been working on with producers. Some of the projects was to help birds, wildlife, and to help endangered species. Jesse said that they do not have any projects signed up, but they have some producers that are waiting to find out if they have been approved for any USDA programs.
* MT515D Cat tractor went to Butler in December to get fixed and in January a bill came in for a large sum. HCCD bought a warranty when they bought the tractor and was told the warranty would cover everything. Boes & Foster went to talk to Butler about the bill and warranty. Boes & Foster found out that the warranty does not cover everything that they were told before. Butler did drop the bill to $3,000 and found out that the warranty runs out in the summer of 2021. Butler talked to Foster & Boes about some new tractors that they will be sailing that has a 3year warranty on the tractor.
* Metzinger motioned to approve the 2020 Budget Report, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Foster motioned to approve the 2019 Annual Report, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Stewart motioned to approve the 2020 Work Plan, Foster second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Supervisors election petitions are done every four years and this year Metzinger, Foster & Pries are up for reelection.
* Foster motioned to pay the 2020 SDACD Membership renewal for $975 & $25 for tree research, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Foster motioned to pay the $30 registration fee for 10 kids to go to the 2020 SD Rangeland and Soils Day in Murdo, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Metzinger motioned to up the Auger fee from $25 to $35, Foster second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Stewart motioned to pay $350 to High Plains Wildlife Association to send a kid to the Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp, Metzinger second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet was tabled do to not knowing how many people are going and what the amount needs to be sent.
* Foster motioned to give Boes & Sowards a $.25 pay raise, Stewart second the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was passed.
* The board members have agreed on starting the Equip Proposals with Cropland Soil Health and Grazing Land Plant Productivity that NRCS has put together. The board would like to start the program at the Medicine Creek area and HCCD will work with NRCS on getting the information to the producers about the Equip Proposals.
* The board was informed about the SDACDE Leadership training on March 2nd-4th in Pierre, SD this year. Doug & Triniti will be attending the training.

**Executive Session:**

* Pursuant to Executive Session 1-25-2.4. Ness called for executive session at 3:04 pm until 3:39 pm.

**Secretaries Report:**

* Certified letters were mailed out on January 31st to 3 customers. DC-210 days, NH-180 days, & RL- 180 days.
* Let the board know that the newsletter will be sent to Curt Merriman Printing on February 5th, 2020.

**District Manager Report:**

* HCCD has not received anything for the Sully Co. Conservation tree order/tree plantings.

**Field Office Report:**

* April gave the Field report.

**Plans for Review:**

**New Meeting:**

* March 10th at 1pm

**Adjourn:**

* Ness declared the meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.