

**Sherman County  
Local Work Group  
Notes**

**February 13, 2018**

7:30 AM

Sherman County Service Center

The meeting convened at 7:30 AM. The minutes of the meeting held in December 2016 were reviewed and discussed. Kristie gave an overview to the group on the purpose of the meeting and the importance of local input to help NRCS prioritize to be strategic with Federal funding.

Priority Resource Concerns from 2016 were discussed. The progress of implementing direct seed in the county met the goal of 80% or more of cropland acres. The CIS submitted for 2017 funding for CRP take-out was not funded.

Kristie gave an update on existing conservation efforts and reported to the group that annually we pay out \$3.5 Million dollars for CSP efforts. She also informed the group that when thinking of priorities in the county that we need to be aware of the types of practices funded within CSP and the importance of not “double dipping.”

The LWG discussed options for 2019 funds. One of the discussions from last year was we could move our efforts to 6<sup>th</sup> field HUC's and start treating the entire watersheds. SWCD and Watershed Council are focusing their efforts on the Lower Grass Valley Watershed. Kristie updated the group on the efforts from the Basin staff and showed maps produced for inventory purposes. The group discussed potential habitat for species in the area. Kristie will work with Jeremy Thompson on which species would be best to target in this watershed.

Field borders were also discussed to reshape and seed to grass to prevent weed growth and sluffing of banks. The other part of the discussion was to reshape ephemeral gullies from past farming practices to make them more farmable and help to decrease continuous erosion on these areas.

Wildlife Habitat for mule deer focus was discussed along with the CRP take out acres. The group would like to focus on these areas to enhance habitat and provide water sources for wildlife. The group also discussed making the expired CRP stands more adequate for livestock production by providing water sources as well as cross fencing to utilize the grass stands better. Other discussions on the CRP expired fields were to do some nutrient management/soils inputs to improve soil health on the land that has sat idle for 20-30 years.

One focus for 2019 EQIP funding in Sherman County will be focusing on the lands that are expiring from CRP to best utilize them as well as protect the resources as best we can. Field borders could be a part of this focus area. We would incorporate wildlife habitat into this CIS along with Soil Health ideas. We are hoping to be able to partner with County Road

Department in order to establish grass on the shoulders of the roads and field borders without annual reshaping or spraying.

The second focus will be in the Lower Grass Valley Watershed to focus on priority areas that the Basin Staff show as a concern.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 AM.