

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 14, 2022, Monthly Meeting
At the District Shed and via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer (Kruse left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.)

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Rick Bonander, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, Mark McGee, and Allen Severtson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Jay Gilbertson, and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer and Kruse. All ayes.

Minutes of February 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

Minutes of March 1st Special meeting: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer and Kruse. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 19 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): General CRP signup ended 3/11/22; Grassland CRP signup will be from 4/04/22 to 5/13/22.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Continued planning for 2 applicants in 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Continued planning for 5 high priority applications in general for 2022.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Continued planning on 14 applications (Ag Waste/Grazing System/Cover Crops). 5 program contracts presented for board approval.

Per Ruesch, the office doors were unlocked to the public on 3/14/22. Staffing is still at 75%.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Surveying 1 SRAM. Working on contracting for SRAM and RAM. 2 SRAM and 1 RAM pending in Lincoln County. Held 2 interviews for an additional employee. 2 SRAM contracts that were approved at the last meeting are presented to the chairman for re-signing with the producer signature. MSP to approve and sign Voucher #8 by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top: RCPP ranking on hold due to software issues.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Helped prepare for the Water Festival. Worked with the City of Sioux Falls on the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan that was released to the public on 3/01/22. Working on community garden space with the City. A contract to review will be received soon to lease 5 acres for 5 years, with a possible 5 more acres available. Half would be plots to rent to the public and half would be a demonstration/education area. The City

owns the land involved. Discussion was held with Michelle Burke, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, about extending the Urban Educator grant for another year.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site, etc.)

Bio-solids: Signed contract received from City of Sioux Falls for 2022-2023. \$152,000 allocated. Trees: 35 acres planned, with about 24 more possible contracts. Grass: 375 acres planned for rental drills. The 6' and 12' drills have 225-250 acres planned. Gevik Site: Plans on hold for now.

Two more interviews planned for the Field Technician position. Seasonal crew is in place.

2. Supervisor Training Module

Information was sent out to board members and advisors. Discussion held about completing the units. Email any questions to Parker.

3. Water Festival – March 8-9, 2022

Successful festival was held. 1250 4th graders attended in person at the University of Sioux Falls campus and 1250 4th graders attended virtually. Some board members and advisors helped with setup and operation. The virtual quiz bowl went very well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rate Increase for Services (Fuel Charge)

Tree price was increased this year. Discussion about increasing cost due to fuel prices. MSP to add fuel surcharge of \$50.00/service when gas is over \$4.00/gal. by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to add 10% increase in price of services for the year by Schmidtbauer and Kruse. All ayes.

2. Equipment (Look at selling the 16' trailer and purchase a 20' trailer)

16' trailer was purchased in 1998, has stress cracks and fabric rolls hang over the end about 4 ft. Parker discussed selling the 16' trailer and purchasing a new 20' trailer that would be safer and better able to haul the fabric rolls. MSP to proceed with sale of 16' trailer and purchase a new Ludens trailer in the amount of \$7,200.00 by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. All Ayes. MSP to purchase a new color printer for the shed in the amount of \$429.00 (including one toner) by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. Discussion about future replacement of some older vehicles the district owns.

Kruse left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

3. Bio-Solids Contract with City of Sioux Falls

New contract was signed by the City of Sioux Falls.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING – 5 plans to sign

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 11th, 2022, at 3:00 pm – District Shed and via Zoom
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary

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