

**Minnehaha Conservation District
February 13th, 2023, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse (joined at 4:16 p.m.), Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Rick Bonander and Allen Severtson

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, and Mark McGee

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Mike Langner, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Brian Top, Amber Lively and Jen Bleyenbergh, County Liaison

Agenda: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

Minutes of January 19th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 22 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Continue work on CREP signup with a 25,000-acre enrollment goal. Must be open to public hunting; 40-acre minimum. Increased rental rates/incentive rates.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): 4 applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): 25 applications – 8 in CIS area (3 high tunnels and 5 cover crops). Additional Inflation Reduction Act funds expected in future; ACT Now Funding – shelterbelt renovation potential.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: 9 applications – 2 grazing, 7 cover crops. Need to get ranking template approved.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Amber Lively: Working on one new application for SRAM in Moody County on the Big Sioux River. Discussion about SRAM and RAM payment increase. Tiered payments will be based on proximity to Sioux Falls from 75 miles at northern end of watershed by Estelline. 25-mile increments starting from the top; \$100/acre/year, \$120/acre/year, \$140/acre/year. Waiting for DANR approval. One Ag. Waste System finishing up in Minnehaha County; one Ag. Waste System in Brookings County planned. Working with several producers for alternative water facilities for grazing. MSP to approve \$2,230.27 check for livestock water facility payment by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to

approve reimbursement check to EDWDD for wages and benefits in the amount of \$57,366.50 by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Outreach: Past outreach includes the District Newsletter released mid-January via website, Facebook and standard mail, the Soil Health Conference on 1/24/23 – 1/25/23 (information table and discussion), Project Food Forest on 1/28/23 (information table). Upcoming Events are Urban Agriculture Coalition Gardening Event on 2/27/23, Sioux Empire Water Festival on 3/07/23 – 3/08/23 and Earth Day on 4/22/23 at Good Earth Day and SODak350 Event. **City Partnership:** Native Prairie Restoration (continued work on pollinator kits and locations for planting to be released in early April). Continued work on Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area. **NRCS Partnership:** CCG Grant (extension vs. re-application) and CIS Proposals (3 planned to submit). **Other:** Urban Agriculture Coalition – meetings to create events, upcoming work on workshops, website, and land mapping. **Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center:** Nature summit on 1/31/23. **Additional Grant Application:** NACD grant application in the amount of \$60,000.00 due on 3/13/23. **Future Education Work:** Continued work on coloring book and digital outreach.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Heber reported on his research about the history of the Eastern South Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm. He will be making a presentation at the 3/15/23 meeting in Brookings. 144 acres were purchased with the help of 15 conservation districts in the state, including Minnehaha County. He will also be making a trip to Washington DC to encourage continued funding for the ARS lab in Brookings from 3/4/23 – 3/9/23. Schmidtbauer mentioned an event occurring on 2/13/23 at Raven. Entenman mentioned a Friends of the Big Sioux River film fest and auction that will be held on 2/16/23.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Waiting for contract to come back from the City of Sioux Falls. 3 new producers were added. Trees: Langner has been working on tree plans. 45 acres planned so far. Grass: A few new plans added. Gevik Site: Working with Earth Group on creating education areas for seminars and lessons to be held.

2. Election Update

2/13/23 is the last day for absentee voting and 2/14/23 is the general election.

3. 2023 Budget – Final Reports Review

Approved last month at the board meeting and will be forwarded to the State of South Dakota.

4. Soil Health Conference – January 24-25, 2023

Parker, Langner and Krone-Hedman attended and presented an information table. Over 400 people attended the first day. Event had many good speakers. Will be held in Rapid City next year.

5. Water Festival – March 6-8, 2023

Will be held at the USF campus in Sioux Falls. This will be the 30th year of the festival. 2,300 students from 47 schools, with 110 teachers and 75 presenters and volunteers are expected.

6. Employee Evaluations – February Meeting

Board met in an executive session at the end of the meeting.

7. Vehicle Information

Parker presented price information on new and used vehicles from his research. A new 2023 Ford one-ton diesel truck was priced at \$57,000.00 through the state program. He will continue to gather more information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Plan of Work - Approval

MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

2. Long Range Program - Approval

MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. All ayes.

3. Intent to Mine Reviews

The board reviewed maps of 4 sites of existing and proposed mining sites in the county.

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Discussion about the NACD Urban Community Conservation Grant being applied for that helps with technical assistance funds. Due on 3/13/23. MSP to apply for the grant by Kruse and Heber. All ayes.

Executive Session (if needed)

MSP to go into executive session at 4:24 p.m. by Kruse and Entenman. All Ayes. The Chairman declared that the board was out of executive session at 4:41 p.m.

MSP to approve a 3.5% increase in salary for staff by Heber and Kruse. All ayes.

MSP to adjourn at 4:42 p.m. by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary