

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 11, 2022, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer (joined at 3:20 p.m.)

Supervisors absent: Susan Kruse

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, Alexa Kruse, Casey Wenzlaff, Brian Top, and Austin Carlson

Agenda: Parker added Austin Carlson to the Public Comments section of the meeting. MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

Minutes of June 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. 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 Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 18 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No updates

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Working through documentation

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Continue working through certifications

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Working through signature/obligation process on approved applications

OTHER ITEMS: An outreach event about Soil Erosion will be held on July 19th (9:30 – 2:00) at the American Legion in Dell Rapids. Wenzlaff spoke about details of this meeting and mentioned that a sponsor for lunch was needed. MSP to pay up to \$350 for the meal at the outreach event by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. Ruesch mentioned that the Elk Point office will get a Pheasants Forever employee and an Urban Conservationist position is open in Sioux Falls.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: SRAM and RAM monitoring and program milestones: 2021 - RAM 64.1 acres, 13,764 L. ft.; SRAM 119.7 acres, 25,518 L. ft.; 2022 - RAM 37.7 acres, 8,281 L. ft.; SRAM 147.2 acres, 21,871 L. ft. Since the start of SRAM in 2013 during Segment 2 we have completed: RAM - 390.1 acres 95,492 linear feet. SRAM - 2,905.2 acres 361,794 linear feet. 3,295.3 acres and 86.6 miles combined. Second signup for RCPP sometime this fall. 3 water facilities in process.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Upcoming outreach events: Boadwine Farms on July 16th (will give out soil health materials and seed packets, as well as survey about CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) projects; and July 12th at 6:00 p.m. – Urban Ag. Coalition Meeting at Sioux Falls Library. This group will have a steering committee as well as subcommittees. Parker and Krone-Hedman are still working on creating a demonstration space.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Austin Carlson, Area Representative for the Soil Health Coalition, spoke about the upcoming Soil Health School, a 2 ½ day event with in-class and field learning sessions about resource stewardship. This will be held near Garretson on August 31 – September 2. He mentioned that the board may want to sponsor tuition for a participant. District sponsorship in 2018 funded tuition for two producers. The cost is \$150 plus \$75 for a second person in the operation. All meals and class materials are covered. MSP to sponsor up to \$225 for a participant family by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

Update from Supervisors – Heber attended the annual Research Farm Field Day in Brookings on June 21st. There were about 80 attendees who toured research projects, such as 4 & 5 crop rotation demonstrations and bio-mass research.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Caught up until harvest. Trees: Planting complete except for 8 acres to be done this week. About 52 acres total planted. Grass: 65 acres planned for August. Gevik Site: Mowed. Need to spray the trail. Will plant apple trees next week. Mowing was completed on CRP plots and a 2021 native grass planting at the Good Earth State Park.

2. CO2 Pipeline Information

Summit Carbon Solutions has sent out flyers and fact sheets about their project. There are now three pipelines proposed, one on the west side and two on the east side.

3. Community Garden Working with City of Sioux Falls

The contract is still being worked on, being reviewed by the City of Sioux Falls and the State's Attorney.

4. Tractors and Trucks (Future)

Parker presented information about options for purchasing a truck through the state program, as well as options for John Deere tractor that the district has leased and a Case IH tractor. Pfeifer presented information about purchasing the Kubota tractor and loader that the district used earlier this season or a new model. Parker will continue to research options and get more information.

5. Leadership Meeting Report

Parker and Langner attended two days. There were good speakers from Agassi Seed, Millborn Seed, John Ball from SDSU and NRCS. Parker discussed the possibility of the district offering a tree renovation grant to replace trees lost in storms and a grant for replacing emerald ash borer trees in shelterbelts. MSP for the district to apply for the two types of grants by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Fall Convention will be September 18 – 20 in Oacoma. NRCS will hold two orientation sessions for new employees the 1st and 3rd weeks in August. Training will be held at the Gevik site.

MSP to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 8, 2022, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary