

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
October 10th, 2023, Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Rick Bonander, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

**Supervisors absent:** Travis Entenman and Jim Pfeifer

**Advisors present:** None

**Advisors absent:** Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Susan Kruse, Kelly Lyons, Mark McGee, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

**Others present:** John Parker, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Casey Wenzlaff, Barry Berg, Jay Gilbertson, and Amber Lively.

**Agenda:** MSP to approve by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

**Minutes of September 11th meeting:** Correction made by Heber to make minutes date September 11, 2023 instead of July 10, 2023. MSP to approve by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

**Treasurer's report:** Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

**Bills:** Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer and Casey Wenzlaff:**

**WETLANDS:** 37 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Actively certifying and paying for practices. Taking application for 2024 funding. Deadline is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**EQIP RCPP:** Actively certifying and paying for practices. Taking applications for 2024 funding. Deadline is October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP):** Actively certifying practices. Taking applications for 2024 funding. Deadline is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** Nothing new to report.

**Other Related Items:** Discussion was had regarding advertisement of programs leading up to application deadlines and in the future to gain reach.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg and Amber Lively:**

**SRAM & RAM:** Continuing to work with producers for enrollment in 2024.

**EQIP/RCPP:** RCPP Fall Batching Deadline is October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Related Items:** Gave presentation on SRAM Grazing Lands Field Event "This is Our Water" on September 21<sup>st</sup> to East Dakota water Development District. BSRP Steering Committee Meeting took place September 25<sup>th</sup>. Working with Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons on Water Quality Badge. Planning to have

Pheasant Fest Booth in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dakota Mainstem Pipeline Meetings are continuing. Farm, Ranch, and Rural Community Committee (FRRCC) had recommendations presented. Work is being done with producers on water developments. Nutrient reductions are being done in Tracker and annual GRTS report. Gilbertson discussed possible study with SDSU Extension that will be conducted to gain monetary data on practices.

MSP to approve and sign Voucher 18 expenditures by Severtson and Bonander. MSP to approve and sign checks for EDWDD, Howell Livestock INC., and John Fiegen by Bonander and Severtson.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:**

**Outreach:** Upcoming events to include: Future of Water Event on November 9 at Augustana, Local Food Conference on November 17-18 at Southeast Tech, Big Sioux River and Sustainability Summit on December 7 at Denny Sanford Premier Center.

**City Partnership:** Meeting for September 28<sup>th</sup> on future green infrastructure site maintenance was postponed to future date. Receiving surveys on Prairie and Pollinator Program and selling packets for dormant seeding. Community garden map drawn up for 2024 and ground prep planned.

**NRCS Partnership:** Drafting grant application for next phase of Urban Conservation Demonstration & Awareness Project.

**Other:** Reminder to check website calendar for upcoming events dates. SEWF Kick-off meeting had today, October 10<sup>th</sup> and the event will be occurring March 12-13, 2024.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – None.**

**Update from Supervisors –** Bonander discussed that after denial of permits, Navigator Pipeline Company withdrew, and Summit is choosing to continue. Heber discussed SDACD Annual Convention and general discussion was had on Association meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Bio-solids:** Going strong on sampling while waiting for corn to get out.

**Trees:** 20 acres on the books already for next planting season.

**Grass:** Approx. 30 acres for dormant seeding to be planted.

**Gevik Site:** Looking at funding sources to see what improvements can be made.

**Other:** A review was done on Soil and Land Judging Event.

**2. Pheasant Fest – March 1-3, 2024 at Denny Sanford Premier Center**

SDACD Employee Association funding will cover full booth price. Door prizes and giveaways being discussed. Further time will be allotted for discussion during December MCD Board Meeting.

**3. Newsletter**

Continued discussion with plans for printed letters for the upcoming January release and then look at ways to do digital letters for the future.

**4. Land Judging – September 26, 2023**

Presentation Done during Service Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Budget**

Plan to have for November Meeting and Board members are welcome to participate.

**2. County Appropriation for 2024**

Submitting invoice for \$2,040 and a presentation is planned to be given to the county about MCD in November.

**Executive Session (if needed)** – None

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MSP to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, November 13th, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center  
Submitted by Alina Krone-Hedman in absence of Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary