

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 13th, 2026, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Kathleen Mackeprang, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Rick Bonander and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Travis Entenman and Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Tanner Clausen, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Ryan Leners

Agenda: MSP to approve by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes.

Minutes of June 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Mackeprang and Severtson. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay bills by Mackeprang and Severtson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

COMPLIANCE: Working on Easement Monitoring and 8 1026-CWD's.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Continuous signup deadline – 7/31/26.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Working on preapprovals/obligations.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working on preapprovals/obligations. 3 funded in Minnehaha County. \$5.2 million funded in the entire resource unit.

RCPP: Proposals due 8/24/26 for 2027 funding.

MISCELLANEOUS: **Soil Health School** (put on by the Soil Health Coalition) will be held September 15-17 in Twin Brooks, SD. **Locally Led Conservation** flyers will go out and be posted on various sites. (Input is requested on 5 questions.)

Big Sioux River Project Report by Tanner Clausen:

SRAM & RAM: SRAM/RBI projects in the works for 4 producers. Finalizing 1 SRAM/RBI project. Alternative water for 1 producer.

EQIP/RCPP: Finishing 2 annual and 1 final report from previous RCPP. Planning to apply for another RCPP this August.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Meeting with each district in the watershed.

MSP to approve Voucher 2 for \$18,529.88 for 2 SRAM projects and contracts for the 2 projects by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes. MSP to approve a termination contract for 65.2 acres of SRAM by Mackeprang and Severtson. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Prairie Fest – August 22nd at Good Earth State Park, family friendly educational event regarding South Dakota's grasslands. Plan to table about various conservation concerns and gain information for locally led. Other possible upcoming opportunities: **Dakota Fest, SDSU Specialty Producers Night** and **Local Working Groups**.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program - sales are still ongoing. Other demonstration areas – continuing to wait to see what is next.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Still waiting to hear on funding status of next grant cycle. Continuing efforts after receiving no cost extension until September 30th.

OTHER: Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area – Continuing to work on Gevik Site improvements. Waiting for more information from the Soil Health Coalition. **Conversations & Conservation** – Planning next event for August 6th at Fernson. All those affiliated and who work in conservation are welcome.

Audubon Great Plains Board Meeting – Occurred June 24-25 in Fargo, ND. Discussed plans for future education efforts and concerns regarding conservation in the Great Plains region.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – **Parker** went to the leadership meeting in Chamberlain for 2 days in June. Locally Led Conservation was discussed. John Ball spoke about the need for diversity in tree and grass plantings. **Krone-Hedman** attended a meeting in Fargo, ND for the Great Plains Audubon Board. They are working on a 10-year plan.

Update from Supervisors – Heber attended the Area Meeting with Parker. They discussed the conservation network. 60% of South Dakota Ag land is owned by non-operators. Locally Led Conservation and the questionnaire that is going out was discussed. **Heber** also attended the Research Farm Field Day in Brookings on July 8th. Sunflower production was discussed. 50% of SD sunflowers go to bird seed production. One of their research projects indicated that seed placement could increase production by 15%.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Complete until fall harvest. **Trees:** Planting completed in May. Good response for next year. **Grass:** Some interest in small plantings. **Gevik Site:** Waiting on the Soil Health Coalition for input about the signs. The neighbor has inquired about haying the inner circle of the site. Parker will follow up on this. Flower beds have been weeded and flowerpots added to the front area of the restrooms. Some mowing has been done.

2. Potential Land Sale

City of Sioux Falls should be in contact with Parker soon.

3. Grant Information

Current remaining grant funds have been extended to September 30th for expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Erosion Issue

Parker presented documents outlining 5 different erosion complaints from the Hartford area. The township board is considering the complaints for action. The landowners would be notified and given time to come up with a plan to fix. State laws require the township board to get approval from the Conservation District before it can proceed with fixing the problem. MSP to give the township board permission to 1 – Talk to the landowner and/or tenant. 2 – Identify problem. 3 – Devise plan to rectify. 4 – Set time frame to accomplish project. 5 – If project not completed in said time, clean ditch. 6 – Assess cost to landowner or tenant.

Site 1 – Above MSP by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes. Site 2 – Above MSP by Mackeprang and Severtson. All ayes. Site 3 – Above MSP by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes. Site 4 – Above MSP by Mackeprang and Severtson. All ayes. Site 5 – Above MSP by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes.

2. County Committee Nominations – FSA County Executive Director Ryan Leners

Leners spoke about the County Committee operations. The county is divided into 3 LAAs (Local Administrative Authority). LAA2 is currently up for election this year. Leners asked meeting attendees to recruit possible nominees. The nominees must live in the Minnehaha LAA2 area. Nomination deadline is August 3rd. Ballots go out in November, and the election is finalized in December.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - Heber signed 3 conservation agreements presented by NRCS.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:57 p.m. by Severtson and Mackeprang. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 10th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary