

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
January 12th, 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:** Rick Bonander, Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

**Supervisors absent:** Jim Pfeifer

**Advisors present:** Kathleen Mackeprang

**Advisors absent:** Brian Top

**Others present:** John Parker, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Jaelynn Dreckman, Jay Gilbertson, and Cole Heisey

**New Officer Election**

MSP to nominate Gordon Heber as Chairman by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

MSP to nominate Travis Entenman as Vice-Chairman by Bonander and Severtson, followed by

discussion. MSP to nominate Rick Bonander as Vice-Chairman by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

MSP to nominate John Parker as Treasurer by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

MSP to nominate Denise Fletcher as Secretary by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

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

**Minutes of December 8th meeting:** MSP to approve by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

**COMPLIANCE:** Certified Wetland Determinations in process (15-20). Easement monitoring will be coming out next month.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** No new sign up currently.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP):** Sign up deadline extension to January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide is \$17.7 million.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Sign up deadline extension to January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide is \$31.8 million.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Will attend the Sioux Falls Farm Show on January 28-30.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:**

**SRAM & RAM:** Will be finishing a RAM project in Lincoln County and 2 SRAM projects in Minnehaha County in February. SRAM manuscript for journal publication through SDSU.

**EQIP/RCPP:** No update

**OTHER RELATED ITEMS:** Finished 2 alternative water projects. Next Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Attending Sioux Falls Farm Show on January 28-30.

MSP to approve Voucher 30 in the amount of \$69,332.45 for two alternate water projects and one RAM project by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve, sign and date BSRP Segment 4 extension from 8-01-25 to 12-31-25 by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes. MSP to approve, sign and date BSRP Segment 5 from 1-1-26 to 7-31-30 by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

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

**OUTREACH: Good Earth Christmas Tree Decorating** took place on December 9<sup>th</sup> with approximately 15 local groups. Tree was taken down on January 5<sup>th</sup>. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** – March 2-4. Always need more volunteers.

**CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program, Demonstration Gardens and Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** - Planning for spring.

**GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Received partial payments from NRCS of requested fund reimbursements. Working on continuing planner training. **2026 NACD Technical Assistance Application** – Application was submitted for January 8<sup>th</sup>. Anticipated funding notification by end of March 2026.

**OTHER: MCD Newsletter** – In design stage and hoped to be sent to printer by next week. **Soil Health Coalition** – Working to finish up signs/Gevik site improvements. **Conversations & Conservation** – Postponed from December 11<sup>th</sup> to January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Fernson Brewery on Robur. Several people joined. Another is anticipated to be planned in early spring.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes**

**Heisey** mentioned that he was appointed as the County Commission Liaison to the Minnehaha Conservation District again for 2026. He invited the board to bring any concerns to him. He said the commission is planning 5-30 years into the future. They are looking at the need for more office space. He also talked about issues coming up in the legislature this year, including data centers and property tax.

**Update from Supervisors – Entenman** mentioned that he moved into Lincoln County recently. He would like to stay on the board as an advisor. He was accepted into the NACD national leadership program. He will attend the national NACD convention in San Antonio next month. He will attend the SD Tourism Conference in Pierre next week, and the SD Grassland Initiative Summit in March in Mitchell. He will give an update about conservation districts at that event. **Heber** mentioned the Research Farm Focus Group meeting (to get feedback for the ARS Research Lab) on January 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. in Brookings. He will also participate in the Research Farm delegation trip to Washington D.C. in the first week of April. They have an April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with USDA representatives. He will attend the March 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Research Farm in Brookings.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Bio-solids:** No activity. **Trees:** 20-25 acres planned for this year. Many calls were received. **Grass:** Low activity this year. Will be promoted in the newsletter. **Gevik Site:** Signs are being worked on. **Water Festival:** March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. Set up on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. About 2200 students and 120 teachers. \$27,500 in donations so far for this year. About 20 presenters were enlisted.

Spring help is needed. Will be advertising.

2. **NACD National Convention – San Antonio, TX – February 14 – 18, 2026**  
Parker and Entenman are attending.
3. **Grant Information**  
NACD Technical Assistance Grant was applied for this month. This would fund two positions.
4. **Review 2026 Budget**  
Put on hold until February.
5. **Annual Plan of Work**  
Krone-Hedman discussed changes made to the document. MSP to approve by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.
6. **Long Range Plan of Work**  
Krone-Hedman discussed changes made to the document. MSP to approve by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Election of Research Farm Representative**  
MSP to nominate Heber as a director on the Research Farm Board by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.
2. **Research Farm Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in Brookings, SD. Lunch at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. meeting. Heber will attend.
3. **Employee Reviews** – see below.
4. **Review of Advisor Position**  
Discussion was held about advisors to the board.

**Executive Session (if needed)** – MSP to go into executive session to discuss Item #3 (Employee Reviews) by Severtson and Bonander at 4:31 p.m. All ayes. Executive session ended at 4:40 p.m. MSP to give a 5% raise effective January 1<sup>st</sup> to Parker, Langner, Fletcher and Jaeger by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING** - None

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** February 9th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center  
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary