

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 12th, 2023, Monthly Meeting
District Shed
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Supervisors present: Rick Bonander, Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: None

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Deron Ruesch, Casey Wenzlaff, Barry Berg, Amber Lively, and Jay Gilbertson

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

Minutes of April 17th meeting: MSP to approve, with changes to new business item #3 as noted by Heber, by Entenman and Bonander. 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 Entenman and Bonander. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Casey Wenzlaff:

WETLANDS: 35 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): 3 applications funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Carbon Smart Initiative Fund Pool. 1 contract approved through the IRA ACTNow Fund Pool for Shelterbelt Renovation.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP) – REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP): Funded 1 Ag. Waste System in the amount of \$449,000.00. 4 Contracts obligated and approved for FY 2023 (grazing and cover cropping systems.)

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Contract management only.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Working on Continuous CRP applications. No CREP offers. No Grasslands CRP offers. Doing status reviews for expiring contracts.

Deron Ruesch introduced himself to new board members and talked about ACTNow Shelterbelt Renovation, Conservation Implementation Grant (CIG), and high tunnel programs.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:

SRAM & RAM: 4 SRAM contracts completed in 2023 (168 acres, 25.914 linear feet, 4.9 miles). SRAM & RAM totals through 2023: 93.7 miles, 3,742.3 acres.

EQIP/RCPP: Nothing at this point

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: May 9th – Big Sioux Water Festival in Brookings, SD. McKenzie and Amber hosted an educational session entitled “What is a Watershed?”. Started “Wildflower/Wildlife Wednesday” campaign on Social Media. Working on a website revamp.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Working with several producers for alternative water facilities for grazing. Preliminary planning for the “This is our Water” meeting on August 23.

MSP to approve and sign 5 SRAM contracts by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign Voucher 15 expenditures totaling \$221,325.71 by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Participated in Queen Bee Day on May 20th. Distributed Prairie & Pollinator Garden Kits and information on pollinators, native plantings, pollinator seed, etc.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – Sold out of the first 50 kits in one week. Created 50 more and have approximately 10 left. Getting information back from people who purchased kit to be used for possible adjustments in the future. Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area – Setting up meeting with City of Sioux Falls Water Department. Planning to start by the end of June with ground preparation, tree planting. Have obtained a high tunnel quote.

NRCS PARTNERSHIP: Extension request to be sent out this week. Discussions held for future grant application regarding the Urban Conservation Demonstration & Awareness Project.

OTHER: Material development on no-till gardening, backyard cover crops, at home composting, raised beds and low tunnels still planned for 2023. Hope to have a Soil Health event in the fall at the demonstration site. Have received significant social media growth, about 180% growth in the past year. Waiting to hear back on NACD grant.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Bonander spoke about the CO2 Pipeline ordinance passed by the Minnehaha County Commission. There is a 330 ft. set back required from the property line. Summit is suing various landowners in the eminent domain process.

OLD BUSINESS

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

BIO-SOLIDS: Caught up until the small grain and corn silage come off the land. **TREES:** 49 acres planted before Memorial Day. Fabric is going well; should finish this week. **GRASS:** Planted 475 acres of CRP. Have one planting to complete this week and some fall seeding. **GEVIK SITE:** Keeping mowed and in shape. Waiting for grants that would involve work there.

2. Vermillion-big Sioux Area Meeting – June 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. (Golf Course in Howard)

Heber, Entenman, Bonander, Severtson, Ruesch, Lively, Parker, and Langner plan to attend. Heber will give a presentation on the research farm in Brookings.

3. Property Insurance Review

Board members reviewed figures listed on the 2023 Annual Rating Supplement and discussed changes to be made.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Endowment Honoree

Donald Threadgold is being nominated by the Miner County Conservation District to be honored with the endowment. MSP to send \$100.00 for the endowment by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

2. Research Farm Open House Reminder – July 11th, Brookings, SD

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING

Board approved signing conservation plans. Heber signed conservation agreements presented by NRCS.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 10th, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary