

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 14th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Schmidtbauer called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Susan Kruse

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Dana Loseke, Kelly Lyons, and Mark McGee

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Jay Gilbertson, Rick Bonander and Allen Severtson

Agenda: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

Minutes of May 17th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

The office is still at 50% capacity, 6 employees in the department.

WETLANDS: We currently have 25 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Completing final status reviews. General sign-up deadline is 7/23. Continuous sign-up deadline is 8/06. All participants will need to sign up with a new offer in both programs. Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) sign-up is from 5/10 to 7/16.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Working on 1 preapproval; 1 plan needs approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Minnehaha Sustainable Agriculture Initiative has been approved. Need to work on details, signup timelines, and outreach information. Getting active contract practices implemented and certified.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Receiving calls from producers about water availability for livestock due to lack of water in stock dams. Presentation on 6/17 in Pipestone, MN about SRAM to the Southwest Minnesota Assoc. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Working with 6 producers on pipeline and tank projects. MSP to approve SRAM and RAM payments to 8 producers (totaling \$172,245.00) by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Discussed topics to be included in the next email newsletter. Planning a July webinar series on sustainability and conservation in your own backyard. A CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) project was approved for \$150,000 over 3 years to cover high tunnels, cover crops and filter strips. Outreach was done at Queen Bee Day at Remedy Brewing and the Farmer's Market at Look's Market on Wednesdays.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 4 fields to start soil sampling for the 1st round of application. Trees: 61 acres were planted, with fabric currently being applied. Grass: All CRP grass and some warm season grasses have been planted. 50 – 60 acres are planned for August. 15’ and 30’ drills are being rented. Several mowing and spraying projects to do. Gevik Site: Mowing has been completed. Neighboring cattle have been removed.

2. Building Improvement Information – Shed

Work is on hold, due to busy season. Lumber has been purchased.

3. Area Meeting – June 21st at 10:00 a.m. in Parker Community Center

Parker, Heber, Ruesch, Wehmeyer and Krone-Hedman plan to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gevik Site Engineering Consultant (Review website: www.thinkconfluence.com)

Parker discussed a proposal for professional services that he received from Chad Kucker for the Confluence company to create a master plan for the site, based on the vision of the Gevik Site committee. The focus is on making the site user-friendly, but not commercial. Heber thought that the planners should be given dollar amounts to be spent. Kruse volunteered to serve on the committee. MSP to move forward with Confluence proposal in the amount of \$2,750.00 by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

2. Vacant Board Position Candidates Review

Ads ran in county newspapers for 2 weeks. 4 interested people contacted Parker about the position. The appointment would last until the November 2022 election. Parker will collect letters of interest from the candidates to forward to the Board members. The issue will be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

3. Leadership Training in Pierre – June 28 – 30 (Employees and Board Members)

Parker and Grootenboer will attend. Let Parker know if you are interested.

Executive Session (if needed) – Not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

1 plan for a CSP contract was presented. MSP to sign agreement by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. Ayes – Schmidtbauer and Entenman. Abstain – Heber. Motion failed. Heber suggested that the Board authorize Parker to sign the agreements. This subject will be discussed later.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 12th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary