Minnehaha Conservation District
May 11th, 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, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang

Advisors absent: Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Denny Brunsting

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

Minutes of April 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Bonander. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:
COMPLIANCE: Working on easement monitoring and Certified Wetland Determinations (AD-1026)
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Second batch period ended May 1st – no offers. Grassland CRP offering period runs from May 4th to May 29th
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Working on preapprovals
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working on preapproval/obligations

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:
SRAM & RAM: Working on a Working Land Easement Contract along the Big Sioux River; working on a Livestock Water Development; Many producers reaching out about SRAM/RAM
EQIP/RCPP: No update
OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Tanner Clausen starts on May 18th; Dreckman will help with the Big Sioux Empire Water Festival in Brookings on May 12th

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:
OUTREACH: Branch Out! Earth and Arbor Day Festival – April 24th. Attended by approximately 300 during 2 hours. Made bookmarks, gave out 40 MCD brochures and other handouts (NACD Stewardship Week materials, tree planting tips native grass information, woody encroachment information, pollinator information). **Party for the Planet** – April 25th at Outdoor Campus with approximately 200 people walking through during the 4 hours. Had a game, gave out 15 MCD brochures, and pollinator handouts.
CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – Sales are going well and much interest in kits right now. **Other Demonstration Areas:** Checking into making Galway Park Garden into just a pollinator garden instead of rain garden due to maintenance and function concerns. Waiting for grant for making full plan for urban garden area. **GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant -** still waiting to hear on funding status of next grant cycle. Continuing to make plans for outreach and training for current grant cycle. **OTHER: Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area** – Continuing to work on site improvements. Kiosk is in place and have sent Soil Health Coalition further information for improving kiosk. Signs are designed and waiting to hear feedback/find out about printing. **Conversations and Conservation:** Planning next event at Fernson Brewery, date to be determined after Memorial Day. All those who are affiliated with or work in conservation are welcome.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Denny Brunsting introduced himself to the board. He works part-time for the district in the spring and is interested in being an advisor to the board.

Update from Supervisors – Entenman helped with the **Party for the Planet**, which had 200+ participants and the **Earth Day Clean-up Event**, which had 500 participants and removed 2 ½ tons of trash. **Bonander** mentioned that he will be participating in a County Commission Candidate Forum at the Scheels Training Room on May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site)**
   Bio-solids: No activity. No soil sampling until late summer/fall. **Trees**: 45 acres to plant (15 acres completed). **Grass**: Going well; should be done by May 21st. **Gevik Site**: Meeting scheduled about unauthorized ATV driver issues.

2. **Bookkeeping Services (Direct Deposit and Bill Pay)**
   Direct deposit forms need to be turned in.

3. **Potential Land Sale**
   Parker updated the board with latest information.

4. **Grant Information**
   Still waiting to hear about status of grant.

5. **Election Update**
   Petition signatures need to be in to the County Auditor by July 1st for the two positions open on the Conservation District Board. An ad will be published in the newspaper in the last week of May and 1st week of June.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Future Ideas for District Services**
   Parker led discussion about possible services that the district could add to their offerings. He would like to get a bio-degradable fabric to sell. Other services mentioned were watering and drip line set-ups, growing midsize trees, horse farm pasture aerating, tree moving, grinding tree stumps, soil sampling, overseeding, and compost supply. The projects that could be done using a wide range of skid-steer loader attachments should be investigated. Finding labor may be the biggest issue with all these items.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 8th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary