

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 12th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent:

Advisors present: Susan Kruse

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

Others present: John Parker, Eric Grootenboer, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Brian Top and Rick Bonander

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

Minutes of June 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer and Deron Ruesch:

The office is still at 50% capacity: 6 employees in the department. Willow Creek Watershed Tour/Meeting was held on 6/29.

WETLANDS: We currently have 16 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Competing final statues reviews; General sign-up deadline is 7/23; Continuous sign-up deadline is 8/06. Grassland sign-up deadline is 8/20. Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) sign-up is from 5/10 to 7/16.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Finished 1 preapproved application; waiting on approval.

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

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Discussion about a producer opting to cancel his contract after the process was completed and possibly enacting a penalty for backing out of a contract after it is signed and complete. Berg will work on changing the contract and present to the board later. 2 producers interested in SRAM on skunk creek. Working Lands Easement (WLE) completed on 6/23. Alexa spoke about the website for the Big Sioux River Project. MSP by Schmidtbauer and Heber to approve checks for items 1 – 4. Items 1 & 2 were checks for a 15-year RAM contract on 47 acres and items 3 & 4 were in connection with the WLE. All ayes, except Entenman abstained from voting on item #3. Total checks written: \$64,573.87.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) proposal was approved for high tunnels, filter strips, etc. The area of interest is east of I29, north of highway 42 in Minnehaha county. Webinars will be held on 7/28 (green roofs and rain barrels) and 7/29 (native grasses, pollinators etc. in back yards).

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Heber spoke about attending the Leopold Award event, including a tour of the ranch, about 40 miles west of Pierre.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Caught up until small grain is harvested. Trees: Planting and fabric application is complete for about 63 acres. Grass: Finished until the 1st week of August. Sowed 700 acres with the 30' drill and 325 acres with the 15' drill. Spraying and mowing to complete. Gevik Site: Mowed.

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

Met with Chad Kucker and an intern from Confluence. Site maps presented at the meeting were shared and discussed. The committee will meet soon to consider the ideas and add more ideas.

3. Vacant Board Position Candidates Review

Susan Kruse, Rick Bonander, and Allen Severtson had all indicated an interest in serving on the board. Heber noted that Susan Kruse has attended meetings regularly as an advisor and has used conservation practices on her land. Schmidtbauer agreed and expressed appreciation for the interested and qualified candidates. Pfeifer was also pleased with the candidates and would like the candidates who are not chosen for the position to consider participating as advisors. Parker mentioned that Dana Loseke has resigned his advisor position, as he is moving from the area.

MSP to appoint Susan Kruse as a board member by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. Bonander agreed to be an advisor.

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

This annual meeting was attended by Parker, Heber, Ruesch and Wehmeyer. Discussion was held about approaching the legislature about more revolving fund loan money for districts to buy equipment or coolers and grant programs for customers. The State Riparian Grant program was discussed. Heber had made a motion to raise the speech contest award amount and it passed.

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

Parker and Grootenboer attended. It was good training on innovative ideas for districts, as well as bookkeeping strategies.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Approval for District Manager to Sign Conservation Plans and Provide a Report at Next Meeting

MSP to approve the District Manger signing conservation plans and reporting at the next meeting by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

2. 2021 South Dakota Governor's Agricultural Summit (July 8-9)

Parker and Top attended half days. They toured Brian Alderson's cattle barn and Cherry Rock Farms. Governor Noem spoke at the District and Hunter Roberts, Secretary of SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, spoke about the Riparian Buffer Initiative.

Executive Session (if needed) – not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Parker mentioned the State Conservation District Convention will be held September 19 – 21 in Spearfish. Land Judging will be held on September 28th.

MSP to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 9th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – at Tim Wakefield's Property in Garretson, SD
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary