

Minnehaha Conservation District
October 14th, 2025, Monthly Meeting
Tree Shed Office, 1120 E. 72nd St. North
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm

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

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

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang and Brian Top

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason

Others present: John Parker, Mike Langner, Alina Krone-Hedman, Barry Berg, and Jaelynn Dreckman.

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

Minutes of September 8th meeting: Due to the government shutdown, minutes are unable to be accessed at this time due to them being on a computer located at the USDA Service Center.

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

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

NRCS activity report:

No NRCS staff present or report given due to government shutdown. A brief discussion was held about impacts of the government shutdown on MCD activities, including being unable to utilize the USDA Service Center at this time.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: Segment 5 of the project is starting.

EQIP/RCPP: No update.

Other Related Items: Work is being done to update the website, including new photos and a new video. Various social media campaigns are in progress. Additionally, outreach is continuing to be performed, including having participated in Riverfest. Grazing management contract was brought forward for \$5122.08 for Ty Klein. MSP to approve contract by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

Outreach: September was a busy month with Conservation in the City, and event coordinated by MCD, NRCS, FBSR, and the City of Sioux Falls. The event took place on September 13 at Lloyd Landing and was well attended, with steady engagement throughout its 4-hour run time. It is hoped to make the event an annual event in the future. MCD also participated in attending Riverfest as part of a partner booth on September 20, Krone-Hedman spoke at the SDACD Annual Convention on pollinators on September 22, and spoke at the Minnehaha Bird Club's October meeting on October 7. The Gevik site was utilized on

September 18 by Jefferson High School for a field trip. Upcoming outreach includes participating in the Good Earth Holiday Tree event, taking place throughout December, with set up on December 2.

City Partnership: Kits are done being sold for the year and all other projects are going to be analyzed for work come spring.

Grants/Funding Partnerships: SDACD Locally Led: Final work and hours were reported for this grant.

NACD: Continuing work on training and planning outreach. Several site visits were completed prior to government shutdown, with hopes to resume training to help with conservation planning when shutdown concludes. Next grant application is due November 6. MSP to apply for TA grant by Severston and Entenman.

Other: Work is continuing at Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center in partnership with the SD Soil Health Coalition. MCD newsletter is starting to be worked. Continued work is being done to see about possible partnerships with the Audubon Society. Planning for this year's SEWF has started, with need for presenters and volunteers.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes –Parker discussed possible updates through the City of Sioux Falls, including potential changes in how city funding is accessed and if that could affect SEWF funding. He also discussed Range & Land Judging, which took place September 24 with 171 students attending from 21 schools. **Krone-Hedman** discussed SDACD Annual convention, which took place September 21-23 in Huron, SD and was hosted by the Vermillion-Big Sioux Area.

Update from Supervisors – Bonander discussed the good turnout of Riverfest and how this year's event being closer to the river positively contributed to the experience. **Entenman** discussed Riverfest as well and hopes to see it's continued success, along with informing the board that there is expected to be changes to the Big Sioux Stewardship Summit regarding involvement from the City of Sioux Falls. **Heber** proposed working on plans for this year's holiday meet-up.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Working on reading for collected soil samples.

Trees: Taking orders for Spring 2026.

Grass: Currently have approx. 12 acres planned for 2026.

Gevik Site: Working on setting up getting concrete poured for kiosk.

Sioux Empire Water Festival: Planning for 2026 has started. In need of new presenters.

Other: Looking for feedback on if there are any new services not currently provided by MCD.

2. NACD National Convention – San Antonio, TX – February 14 - 18, 2026

Possible funding assistance available if wishing to attend.

3. Planning and Zoning Notice

Notice was given regarding a planned shed rehab near the Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center and an extension of an existing sand gravel pit by Maple Street & Ellis Road.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Budget

A breakdown was shared with the board to review and discuss at a later date.

2. Waterfest 2026

This year's event is planned for March 3-4, with set-up on March 2.

3. Government Shutdown

Affects were discussed throughout the meeting. If needing to contact MCD in person, utilize the tree shed office at Tree Shed Office, 1120 E. 72nd St. north

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm – MCD Tree Shed
Submitted by Alina Krone-Hedman in absence of Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary