

**Minnehaha Conservation District
February 9th, 2026, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
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, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Brian Top

Advisors absent: Kathleen Mackeprang

Others present: John Parker, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Jay Gilbertson

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

Minutes of January 12th meeting: MSP to approve by Bonander and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

COMPLIANCE: Nothing new to report

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No new sign up

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide \$17.7 million. Big Sioux - \$457,638. Regenerative Ag Program – Brookings Area - \$1.3 million.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide \$31.8 million. Big Sioux - \$910,210. Regenerative Ag Program – Brookings Area - \$1.6 million.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: Will be finishing a RAM project in Lincoln County and 2 SRAM projects in Minnehaha County in February. SRAM manuscript for journal publication through SDSU.

EQIP/RCPP: No update.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: BSRP Steering Committee Meeting on March 17.

MSP to approve and sign checks for 3 Alternative Water Source Projects totaling \$31,537.88 by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign check for \$42,571.17 to EDWDD for employee wages and benefits (July – Sept. 2025) by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes. MSP to approve Voucher 31 in the amount of \$45,304.94 for employee wages and benefits (Oct. – Dec. 2025) by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve Advance Voucher for Segment 5 in the amount of \$20,000 by Pfeifer and Bonander. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Sioux Empire Farm Show – January 28-30 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center. Had information at 2 tables. Large turnout. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** – March 2-4 (Set up on March 2; event on March 3-4). Always needing more volunteers. **Branch Out! Earth and Arbor Day Festival** – Friday, April 24 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pasley Park. Multiple activities and booths put on by the City of Sioux Falls Parks & Recreation. **Party for the Planet** – Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Sertoma Park. Event with multiple activities from local groups.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program, Demonstration Gardens and Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area – planning for spring.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Continuing current work and waiting to hear about funding status regarding recent application.

OTHER: MCD Newsletter – Currently being mailed out. **Soil Health Coalition** – Working to finish up signs/Gevik Site improvements.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

Krone-Hedman thanked all who came to the holiday gathering at Minerva's in January.

Update from Supervisors

Bonander turned in signatures to be a candidate for the Minnehaha County Commission race.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: \$30,000/year income to the district, compared to \$90,000 in previous years.

Trees: 30 acres planned. Tree plans will be completed by mid-March. No fruit trees or native grass plants are available this year. **Grass:** 175 acres in small seedings have been added.

Gevik Site: Finishing up information area; getting trail signs.

2. Review and Approve 2026 Budget

Parker presented the budget to the board. MSP to approve 2026 Budget by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

3. Water Festival – March 2-4

Event will be held at the University of Sioux Falls. Setup is on March 2; the event is on March 3-4. If you can volunteer, please let Krone-Hedman know.

4. Research Farm Annual Meeting – March 18th

Wednesday, March 18 in Brookings, SD at the ARS Laboratory. Lunch at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. meeting. Heber will leave on March 30 for a trip to Washington D.C. with another ARS board member. They will meet with legislative staff Monday – Wednesday and have a meeting with the USDA on Thursday to lobby for more funds for the research farm. More scientists and summer workers are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tractor Rental

Parker presented information he has received from John Deere about tractor rental rates for this year. Fortunately, the district has bought a tractor, as it would be priced out at the current rental rates. A second tractor is not needed currently.

2. Elections

Bonander and Severtson are on the ballot this year for re-election to their positions. Petitions are due to the County Auditor's office by July 1.

3. Bookkeeping Services

Current bookkeeper is planning to leave employment by June 1. Discussion was held about possible replacements.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 9th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary