

**Minnehaha Conservation District
December 8th, 2025, 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: Brian Top

Advisors absent: Kathleen Mackeprang

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

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

Minutes of September 16th Special Meeting: MSP to approve by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

Minutes of November 12th meeting: MSP to approve by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Severtson and Entenman. 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: 2025 Compliance Reviews completed

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No new sign up currently

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Sign up deadline extension to January 15th. Working through payments. FY26 allocation statewide is \$17.7 million.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Sign up deadline extension to January 15th. Working through certification/payments. FY26 allocation statewide is \$31.8 million.

MISCELLANEOUS: USDA has funding through FY2026. Farm Bill 2018 was extended for one more year.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: Will be finishing a RAM project in Lincoln County in January. Will be finishing a RAM project in Moody County in January. SRAM manuscript for journal publication through SDSU.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: 2 outstanding alternative water projects. Finished 3 alternative water projects. Finished 1 ag waste storage system. Steering Committee Meeting – December 16th in Dell Rapids from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MSP to approve 4 alternative water projects and 1 ag waste storage system by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve Voucher 29 for a total of \$281,906.21 for 3 alternative water projects, wages and benefits, and 1 ag waste storage system by Entenman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Good Earth Christmas Tree Decorating took place on December 9th with approximately 15 local groups. Holiday open house will be December 13th. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** will be held on March 2-4. Always needing more volunteers and presenters.

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

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Waiting on payments from NRCS to process before getting reimbursements. Working on continuing planner training now that the government shutdown is over.

OTHER: Soil Health Coalition – Working to finish up signs for Gevik site improvements. **Conversations & Conservation** – Planned for Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Fernson Brewery on Robur.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes

Berg mentioned an article published in the Argus Leader about Governor Rhoden and State Senator Chris Karr sparring about SD water policy. **Parker** mentioned news about development of a new soy-based firefighting foam that does not contain PFAS. **Ruesch** mentioned that NRCS/SDACD will have a booth at the Sioux Falls Winter Farm Show.

Update from Supervisors – Entenman had an opinion piece published in the Searchlight and the Argus Leader about wetlands and the changing definition of “waters in the US”. He was also in Pierre last week to attend the SDACD meeting. They planned for the State Convention to be held in Oacoma at Cedar Shores in 2026. **Heber** mentioned the January 21st Research Farm Focus Group Meeting to be held at the ARS Lab in Brookings from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Weather has stopped work for now. 24 locations to do in the spring. No new contract needed with the City for 2026. **Trees:** 5 tree plans for next year so far. Interest is not as strong as in years past. **Grass:** Same as last month. **Gevik Site:** Not much activity. Discussion about possibly replacing the bird viewing house that is wearing out. Parker will visit with the Bird Club.

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

Parker plans to attend.

3. Grant Information

Krone-Hedman reported on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal

One year membership runs from November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026. Price increased to \$232.00/year. MSP to renew membership by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

2. Review 2026 Budget

Parker will send this out to the board for review next month.

3. Annual Plan of Work

Parker handed out copies for the board to review and discuss further in January.

4. Long Range Plan of Work

Parker is working on plans with the board.

Executive Session (if needed) – Not needed.

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 12th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary