

**Minnehaha Conservation District
August 11th, 2025, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:01 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, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Cole Heisey

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

Minutes of July meeting: MSP to approve by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 28 certified wetland determination requests. 3 FSA-569 – potential violations.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): 15 offers were accepted.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Signup deadline is October 3rd. Working through certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Signup deadline is October 3rd. Working through certification.

MISCELLANEOUS: Met with Conservation District employees to keep moving forward with NACD grant. Grass ID training on August 12th. Working on developing tree ID training. Attended Ag Appreciation Day at Sioux Empire Fair on August 6th.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: Received some calls with interest and in-person inquiries at the last event.

EQIP/RCPP: No update.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Planning our booth for Downtown Riverfest on September 20th. Attended Ag Day Luncheon at Sioux Empire Fair on August 6th. Attending Ag Day on August 14th with Minnehaha Conservation District. A Pipeline project is still waiting to be completed. Working on final report for Segment 4. MSP to approve and sign voucher for \$85,989.79 for EDWDD for wages and benefits for Berg and Dreckman by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: (Past Events) - 5th Annual SDSU Extension Specialty Crop Field Day in Brookings on July 29th. Had a table with NRCS and interacted with approximately three dozen producers/individuals.

(Upcoming Events) – Grill & Grow – August 14th at Pfeifer's Implement from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Stop and go event with various conservation partners having tables discussing producer programs. **Party on the Prairie** – August 27th at Good Earth State Park at 4:00 p.m. Grasslands Coalition. Dinner and speakers. Looking at having a table or being involved in some way. **Conservation in the City** – September 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Lloyd Landing. Large youth-centered conservation event with conservation activities. Working with multiple conservation organizations for planning and the City of Sioux Falls. **Riverfest** – September 20th at Cherapa Place downtown from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Possible booth in collaboration with other conservation groups.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – Pausing selling kits closer to fall for dormant seeding. **Demonstration Gardens** – Work in progress. **Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – Continued maintenance work.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led – Continuing to work on setting future meetings with other districts. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Continuing work on outreach events in August. Working on planner training.

OTHER: Soil Health Coalition – Continuing to work on Gevik site improvements. Hoping to have signs designed for printing by August 15th. **Conversations and Conservation** – Planned for Thursday, September 4th at Fernson Brewery on Robur Drive at 5:30 p.m. All conservation individuals welcome.

Audubon Society – Made educational items available for upcoming youth camps. Planning to develop woody encroachment youth outreach. **NACD Summer Meeting** – happened July 25-29 in Milwaukee, WI. **Harrisburg North Middle School Volunteer Day** – September 25th. Looking for projects for groups of 15-20 youth. **Upcoming conservation Events to Note: Dakotafest** – August 19-21 in Mitchell. Various ag booths. **SD Soil Health School** – September 3-5 in Huron. Hands-on producer seminars. **FBSR River Revival Gala** – September 19th at 6:00 p.m. Ticketed dinner and program. **SDACDE Fundraiser** – Multiple opportunities. Talk to Parker or Krone-Hedman if you want tickets.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – **Cole Heisey**, County Commission liaison, reported that the commission did not find any increased county budget for external agencies this year, including the Minnehaha Conservation District. The \$2,000 annual allocation will remain. He will attend the SD County Officials Convention in Pierre. He is on the property tax committee and will be working on legislative proposals. **Parker** will attend Dakotafest in Mitchell on the afternoon of August 19th.

Update from Supervisors – **Entenman** is assisting with the Party on the Prairie event on August 27th at Good Earth State Park. **Severtson** mentioned the Homesteader Day event at Beaver Creek Nature Center on September 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be stagecoach rides and horses plowing. **Bonander** will attend the legislative Ag. Oversight Committee meeting on property taxes in Pierre on August 14th.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 5-year deep soil samples will be collected. **Trees:** Survival count starting this week. Working on tree plans for next year. **Grass:** More planting to do in the next week. Positive results this year. **Gevik Site:** Signs for the trails should be printed soon. The power source issue for the kiosk should be resolved soon. Will be working on fixing the trail.

Spraying and mowing are completed, with some shelter belt cleanup to do.

Parker mentioned that the ads run on Big Sioux Media broadcasts of Tri-Valley School events had 36,000 live views and 43,000 total views in the past year. MSP to pay the Big Sioux Media for future advertising by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

2. Fall Convention – September 21 - 23, Huron

Vermillion-Big Sioux Area Conservation Districts are hosting. Entenman will lead the invocation. Let Parker know if you want to attend and stay overnight.

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

The deadline for early registration is December 15th. Let Parker know if planning to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ag Day at Pfeifer's

Grill & Grow event will run from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on August 14th. A brat lunch will be served. Various conservation groups will attend this come and go event.

2. Land and Range Judging – September 24th

Pits will be dug on the Friday before, with scoring on Tuesday, September 23rd by NRCS.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 3:56 p.m. by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 8, 2025, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary