

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 8th, 2026, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 2:58 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang

Advisors absent: Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Tanner Clausen, and Jaelynn Dreckman

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

Minutes of May 11th 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 Entenman. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

COMPLIANCE: Working on easement monitoring and certified wetland determinations (AD-1026).

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Nothing new currently.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Working on preapprovals/obligations. Additional funding has been requested.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working on preapprovals/obligations. Additional funding has been requested.

MISCELLANEOUS: Ruesch and Wehmeyer talked about the ranking process for CSTwP and EQIP and their request for more money to be able to fund more customer's projects.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Tanner Clausen:

SRAM & RAM: Working on SRAM/RBI projects for 2 producers.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Steering Committee meetings – moving to 2 per year.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Queen Bee Day – May 30 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Approximately 500 attended. Had one small game and gave out various pollinator information. Had approximately 20 good conversations about conservation services and available programs. Upcoming events to be determined.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – sales are ongoing. Other demonstration areas – waiting to hear from residents or other participants on whether restoration efforts should take place this year.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Still waiting to hear on funding status of next grant cycle. Continuing efforts with current grant until it finishes on June 30th.

OTHER: Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area – Continuing to work on Gevik site improvements.

Waiting to hear feedback regarding kiosk updates and printing of signs. **Conversations & Conservation** – Planning next event to be determined within the week. All those affiliated and who work in conservation are welcome.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Bonander won his primary election for Minnehaha County Commissioner and will be on the ballot this fall. This will create an opening on the board for his position in the fall.

Entenman mentioned that Friends of the Big Sioux River has water testing results (E.coli, nitrate and total suspended solids) from the Gevik site and Wall Lake available. He will be featured in a publication later this week. **Heber** mentioned the Eastern South Dakota Soil & Water Research Farm in Brookings will hold a field day on July 8th starting at 9:30 a.m. A meal follows. Jaelynn Dreckman has been working on the web site for the research farm.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: No activity. **Trees:** Trees are all planted. End of season sale of leftover trees will be held on June 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Crews are working on laying fabric on planted sites. Bonander mentioned that hog CAFO's should be contacted about the benefits of planting trees around barns, creating a discussion. **Grass:** Caught up with planting for now.

Gevik Site: Meeting will be held soon about signage and kiosk.

2. Potential Land Sale

No news

3. Grant Information

Still waiting to hear about the grant for this cycle.

4. Election Update

Anyone interested in running for the board supervisor position this fall needs to get petition signatures turned in to the County Auditor Office by July 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Positions

Bonander will be running for County Commissioner this fall, so his position on the Conservation District will be up for election. Entenman announced that he has moved to Lincoln County, so he is resigning effective today, June 8th. He would like to stay on as a board advisor. MSP by Heber and Severtson to accept Entenman's resignation and appoint Kathleen Mackeprang as Board Supervisor to fill Entenman's position from July 1 to December 31. All ayes.

2. Leadership Training – June 25-26 – Chamberlain, SD

Parker and Langner plan to attend.

3. Area Meeting – June 17 – Brookings, SD

Meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. No meal will be served.

Executive Session (if needed) – MSP by Severtson and Bonander to go into executive session at 4:08 p.m. to discuss personnel situation due to grant funding. All ayes. Chairman Heber declared the executive session ended at 4:35 p.m. Board decided that if the grant is not received by June 30th, Krone-Hedman's position would end on June 30th. The district would hire her for an additional 2 weeks to wrap up. She would also work hourly after July 10th for website, Facebook, etc.

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING: None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 13th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary