

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 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: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson.

Supervisors absent: Rick Bonander and Jim Pfeifer.

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang and Brian Top.

Advisors absent: None.

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

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

Minutes of February 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Severtson. 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 by Severston and Entenman. All ayes.

NRCS activity report:

COMPLIANCE: Certified Wetland Determinations in process (approx. 10)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Currently have approx. 16 applications.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Have approx. 27 applications in the Resource Unit. Currently moving forward through processing and ranking.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Large number of applications in the Resource Unit (approx. 209). Currently moving forward through processing and ranking.

MISCELLANEOUS: NRCS employees assisted at the Sioux Empire Water Festival March 2-4, with 7 total presenting or assisting elsewhere between Minnehaha County and Lincoln County offices. NRCS will also have 2 employees presenting at Women in Science occurring on March 11 and will have an employee at Tri-Valley Career Day on April 8. A reminder was stated that the next BSRP Steering Committee is March 17 and that FFA State Convention is April 21. Deron Reusch also discussed attending a training session in Chamberlain with various other state conservation employees and SDACD board members that discussed locally led. There will be additional sessions on March 24 and 25. The hope is to revitalize local working groups, with plans for at least 1/3 of districts to develop plans for local working groups.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: RAM project in Lincoln County is finishing up. There are two SRAM projects in Minnehaha County totaling 100 acres and one possible upcoming project in Moody County. An SRAM Re-enrollment Meeting will be held on March 11.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Jaelynn presented in the Exhibit Hall at the Sioux Empire Water Festival March 2-4. It was discussed that the event seemed to be overall a success. Additionally, it was reiterated that the Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee meeting is March 17th. MSP to approve, write and sign check for \$45,304.94 to EDWDD for wages and benefits for October-December 2025 by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve, write, sign and hold check for \$30,672.00 for Marck Crisp SRAM project by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve, write, sign and hold check for \$26,370.59 for Joseph Redder for an Alternative Water Source project by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve, write, sign and hold check for \$12,289.87 for Vince Klein for an Alternative Water Source project by Severtson and Entenman. All Ayes. MSP to approve, write, sign and hold check for \$9,684.49 for Steve Bacon for an Alternative Water Source project by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve, write, sign and hold check for \$203,234.75 for Ross Brown for an Ag Waste System by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign Voucher 1 for \$86,450.00 for Bernie Citta for a SRAM project by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes. It was also noted that funds for several projects were accidentally sent to the city of Dell Rapids, but the situation was in the middle of being remedied.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

Outreach: MCD put on the Sioux Empire Water Festival March 2-4 at USF. There were approximately 2,258 students in 103 classes from 44 schools in attendance. Overall, the event seemed to go well with minimal issues. Thanks were given to NRCS and Board members for taking the time to assist with the event. Upcoming Events include: **April 24** - Branch Out! Earth and Arbor Day Festival from 5:00PM-7:00PM at Pasely Park and **April 25** – Party for the Plant from 10:00AM-2:00PM at Sertoma Park.

City Partnership: Preparing pollinator kits for selling starting next month. Looking at other projects to assess plans.

Grants/Funding Partnerships: Still waiting to hear about application status for new TA Grant application. Continued work is being done toward training for conservation planning and planning is being done regarding spring outreach.

Other: Plans will be made by next meeting for the next Conversations & Conservation. Further work is being done to finish up improvements at Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Parker briefly discussed attending the NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, discussing several sessions he sat in including one on grants.

Update from Supervisors –Entenman also discussed attending the NACD Annual meeting, noting there were approx. 12 delegates from South Dakota. He then discussed the SD Grasslands Summit where he brought up the partnership collaboration meeting, saying how much of it was discussing finding a good spot to gain voice. Overall, there was a solid turnout from districts. Additionally, it was brought up the SDACD meeting will be Sunday, March 15 at 8:00PM.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Waiting on weather to improve before starting this year.

Trees: Approx. 45 acres committed for Spring 2026.

Grass: Have several small plantings planned, but waiting for spring weather to be contacted on more.

Gevik Site: Meeting with the Soil Health Coalition on March 10 to discuss status of improvements projects. Also, are looking at possible measures to help mitigate issues with dogs (too frequent of off-leash animals, large amount of pet waste not being picked up).

Sioux Empire Water Festival: Discussed in Urban Educator Report. Thank you to all who helped this year.

Other: Spring Help is needed.

2. Research Farm Annual Meeting – March 18

Happening Wednesday, March 18 in Brookings, SD. Lunch will be at 12:00PM, with meeting to follow at 1:00PM.

3. NACD National Convention Report

Parker and Entenman attended and discussed during public comment period.

4. Bookkeeping Services

Continuing to check into possible new bookkeeping parties and gauge interest.

NEW BUSINESS

1. South Dakota Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp

A brief discussion was held about the camp and this year's increase in costs to be \$600 per camper. MSP to fund one camper for the camp by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes.

2. Potential Land Sale

Discussions are still ongoing regarding MCD land and future with upcoming city projects.

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder that Hefty Days will be July 30 this year.

MSP to adjourn at 4:26 P.M. by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 13, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center/Benson Rd.

Submitted by Alina Krone-Hedman in absence of Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary