

**Minnehaha Conservation District
December 13th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
At the District Shed and via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Rick Bonander

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, Mark McGee, and Allen Severtson

Others present: John Parker, Eric Grootenboer, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Jay Gilbertson, and Brian Top

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

Minutes of November 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 27 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Completing status reviews for 16 expiring contracts in 2023.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Working through payments/documentation; Initial planning for two 2022 applicants. Deadline unknown.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Getting active contract practices implemented and certified; initial planning for 2022 applicants (2 general applications) underway; General EQIP deadline was December 3rd.

EQIP COVER CROP INITIATIVE – NEW PILOT PROGRAM: Minnehaha/Big Sioux Resource Unit volunteered to take part; Cover crops only, grazing allowed only; Application deadline is December 23rd.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Initial planning on 24 RCPP applications (Ag. Waste/Grazing System); Application deadline was December 3rd.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: 2 contracts to be signed for SRAM packages on Skunk Creek; 57 applications received for EQIP/RCPP (22 cover crops); 8th Annual Big Sioux River Summit was held on December 7th, as well as the Steering Committee meeting; MSP to approve and write check to East Dakota Water Development District for 3rd quarter wages reimbursement in the amount of \$39,215.16 by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top: \$2 million was received to spend by the project. 57 applications were received (24 in Minnehaha County). 22 were for cover crops and there were also some ag. waste/grazing systems.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Working on the final stages of drafting the City's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (48-page draft); Green infrastructure spaces are being worked on; Discussions will be held in January about possible outreach efforts concerning the Sustainability Plan and NRCS work.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: New 2022-2023 contract will be returned to the City this week. Billing will be complete for 2021 at year end. Great participation by producers in the program. Trees: Working on tree plans for 2022 – interest is high. Nursery is starting to run low on some trees. Grass: Dormant seedings completed. 100-125 acres planned for spring. Gevik Site: Confluence is working on the final plan of proposed changes. Parker gave a presentation on the Gevik Site to the Soil Coalition in December.

The Water Summit on December 7th was well attended. Parker made a presentation. The Water Festival will be virtual as well as in person in March 2022 at the University of Sioux Falls. 2000 students are signed up already.

2. Building Remodeling Update

The building is mostly complete. The furnace and bathroom are installed. There is plenty of room for meetings.

3. Future Equipment Needs

The newly purchased Kubota tractor was picked up. Brookings Equipment has signed us up for 2 Ford Tractors for next season. The tractors are 115 HP and 150 HP, available for 150 hours for the season, with a fee of \$225 for delivery and pick up. We will have a couple International Harvester tractors available as well (higher HP). We will probably not pursue getting a Bobcat at this time.

4. Budget Plan 2022

Parker presented the plan. This will be reviewed and finalized next month.

5. Soil Health Convention – January 18-19, 2022 in Aberdeen, SD

Let Parker know if you are attending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Endowment

\$8,000 in contributions have been given to the Minnehaha Conservation District.

2. Renewal of Seed Dealer Permit – South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

MSP to approve renewal of the Seed Dealer Permit (\$75 fee) by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

3. Renewal of Nursery License – South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

MSP to approve renewal of the Nursery License (\$200 fee) by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

4. Sediment & Erosion Regulation Review

Parker presented the document and invited participants to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 4:02 p.m. by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 3:00 pm – District Shed

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary