

**Minnehaha Conservation District
June 13, 2022, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center and Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Schmidtbauer called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer (Schmidtbauer left the meeting at 4:29 p.m.)

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Rick Bonander and Allen Severtson

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, and Brian Top

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

Minutes of April 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve May and June reports by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay May and June bills by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 24 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): 3 General offers were approved. 18 continuous offers have been received.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Working through documentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Additional applications were funded throughout state, none in Minnehaha. Working through certifications.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: All 12 applications are preapproved for funding. Working through the obligation process.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Working on 1 SRAM in Lincoln County and 1 RAM in Moody to get contracts signed. Working with producers to seed grass on RAM and SRAM. Screening and ranking process for RCPP is in place. New employee resigned, searching for another employee. Steering Committee Meeting is on June 28th at Dell Rapids City Council Chambers. MSP to approve Voucher #10 for \$21,146.76 by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve writing SRAM checks totaling \$161,497.50 by Kruse and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve writing RAM checks totaling \$100,503.70 by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve signing checks for fence, grass seeding and livestock water totaling \$10,685.07 by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign a livestock water contract by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Have been participating in outreach events, including Queen Bee Day. Working on the website, adding to the Gevik section. Working with Parker on reviewing Gevik Site proposed improvements.

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: Caught up and billed out. Trees: 2 ½ weeks of fabric to do. One site to plant yet. Left-over tree sale to be held this week. Grass: 120 acres of cereal rye cover crop planned. Mowing and spraying CRP properties and City of Sioux Falls properties. Gevik Site: Being mowed. Working on a meeting time to discuss improvements.

2. CO2 Pipeline Information

The district signed up to receive PUC hearing committee notes. Bonander reported on the PUC Board response so far. He noted that Summit has been given an extension on their permit application deadline. Navigator got POET to join their pipeline program. On June 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the City/County Meeting Room, the Minnehaha County Commission will meet about a moratorium on the pipeline.

3. Area Meeting – June 21 in Montrose at the American Legion at 10:00 am

All Vermillion-Big Sioux area conservation districts attend. Parker, Ruesch and Wehmeyer plan to attend. Also on that day, Heber will attend the Research Farm meeting at SDSU and either Top or Entenman will attend an SDSU workshop on conservation implementation.

4. Community Garden Working with City of Sioux Falls

City of Sioux Falls has allocated a 5 – 10-acre parcel for the garden. A contract is being developed. Hope to start gathering materials this year and operate next spring.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tractors and Trucks (Future)

District is leasing 1 tractor from John Deere and 1 Kubota from Pfeifer's. Parker suggested we may want to consider purchasing one of our leased tractors, rather than leasing every year and being uncertain about what we can find. We may want to consider purchasing a new or used truck in the future as well. Parker will present more financial details at the next meeting.

Schmidtbauer left the meeting.

2. Election – Ballot and Signatures

2 board positions are open this year. If planning to run, paperwork needs to be notarized and back to the county auditor by July 1st before 5:00 p.m.

3. Leadership Meeting in Pierre – June 27, 28 & 29

Parker and Langner plan to attend if their work is completed. The Big Sioux Watershed meeting is on June 28th as well, so Parker would need to get a substitute for that. Entenman would be willing to substitute at the Big Sioux Watershed meeting if needed.

4. Unfunded Cooperative Agreement (with NRCS)

This is an agreement between the NRCS and the district about what the NRCS provides for the district (office space, computers, network, office supplies, etc.) and what the district provides to NRCS (storage of UTV's, equipment, etc. at the district shed). No funds are exchanged. MSP to approve the agreement by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Executive Session (if needed) – none

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - none

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

MSP to adjourn at 4:37 p.m. by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, July 11, 2022, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary