

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
July 11, 2022, Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer (joined at 3:20 p.m.)

**Supervisors absent:** Susan Kruse

**Advisors present:** None

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

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Casey Wenzlaff, Brian Top, and Austin Carlson

**Agenda:** Parker added Austin Carlson to the Public Comments section of the meeting. MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

**Minutes of June 13th meeting:** MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 18 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** No updates

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP):** Working through documentation

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Continue working through certifications

**BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP:** Working through signature/obligation process on approved applications

**OTHER ITEMS:** An outreach event about Soil Erosion will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> (9:30 – 2:00) at the American Legion in Dell Rapids. Wenzlaff spoke about details of this meeting and mentioned that a sponsor for lunch was needed. MSP to pay up to \$350 for the meal at the outreach event by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. Ruesch mentioned that the Elk Point office will get a Pheasants Forever employee and an Urban Conservationist position is open in Sioux Falls.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:** SRAM and RAM monitoring and program milestones: 2021 - RAM 64.1 acres, 13,764 L. ft.; SRAM 119.7 acres, 25,518 L. ft.; 2022 - RAM 37.7 acres, 8,281 L. ft.; SRAM 147.2 acres, 21,871 L. ft. Since the start of SRAM in 2013 during Segment 2 we have completed: RAM - 390.1 acres 95,492 linear feet. SRAM - 2,905.2 acres 361,794 linear feet. 3,295.3 acres and 86.6 miles combined. Second signup for RCPP sometime this fall. 3 water facilities in process.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:** Upcoming outreach events: Boadwine Farms on July 16<sup>th</sup> (will give out soil health materials and seed packets, as well as survey about CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) projects; and July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – Urban Ag. Coalition Meeting at Sioux Falls Library. This group will have a steering committee as well as subcommittees. Parker and Krone-Hedman are still working on creating a demonstration space.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes** – Austin Carlson, Area Representative for the Soil Health Coalition, spoke about the upcoming Soil Health School, a 2 ½ day event with in-class and field learning sessions about resource stewardship. This will be held near Garretson on August 31 – September 2. He mentioned that the board may want to sponsor tuition for a participant. District sponsorship in 2018 funded tuition for two producers. The cost is \$150 plus \$75 for a second person in the operation. All meals and class materials are covered. MSP to sponsor up to \$225 for a participant family by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

**Update from Supervisors** – Heber attended the annual Research Farm Field Day in Brookings on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There were about 80 attendees who toured research projects, such as 4 & 5 crop rotation demonstrations and bio-mass research.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Bio-solids: Caught up until harvest. Trees: Planting complete except for 8 acres to be done this week. About 52 acres total planted. Grass: 65 acres planned for August. Gevik Site: Mowed. Need to spray the trail. Will plant apple trees next week. Mowing was completed on CRP plots and a 2021 native grass planting at the Good Earth State Park.

**2. CO2 Pipeline Information**

Summit Carbon Solutions has sent out flyers and fact sheets about their project. There are now three pipelines proposed, one on the west side and two on the east side.

**3. Community Garden Working with City of Sioux Falls**

The contract is still being worked on, being reviewed by the City of Sioux Falls and the State's Attorney.

**4. Tractors and Trucks (Future)**

Parker presented information about options for purchasing a truck through the state program, as well as options for John Deere tractor that the district has leased and a Case IH tractor. Pfeifer presented information about purchasing the Kubota tractor and loader that the district used earlier this season or a new model. Parker will continue to research options and get more information.

**5. Leadership Meeting Report**

Parker and Langner attended two days. There were good speakers from Agassi Seed, Millborn Seed, John Ball from SDSU and NRCS. Parker discussed the possibility of the district offering a tree renovation grant to replace trees lost in storms and a grant for replacing emerald ash borer trees in shelterbelts. MSP for the district to apply for the two types of grants by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**Executive Session (if needed)** - None

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING** - None

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Fall Convention will be September 18 – 20 in Oacoma. NRCS will hold two orientation sessions for new employees the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks in August. Training will be held at the Gevik site.

MSP to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, August 8, 2022, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary