

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
February 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:** Rick Bonander, Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

**Supervisors absent:** None

**Advisors present:** Brian Top

**Advisors absent:** Kathleen Mackeprang

**Others present:** John Parker, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Jay Gilbertson

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

**Minutes of January 12th meeting:** MSP to approve by Bonander and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

**COMPLIANCE:** Nothing new to report

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** No new sign up

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP):** Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide \$17.7 million. Big Sioux - \$457,638. Regenerative Ag Program – Brookings Area - \$1.3 million.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Working on planning. FY26 allocation statewide \$31.8 million. Big Sioux - \$910,210. Regenerative Ag Program – Brookings Area - \$1.6 million.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:**

**SRAM & RAM:** Will be finishing a RAM project in Lincoln County and 2 SRAM projects in Minnehaha County in February. SRAM manuscript for journal publication through SDSU.

**EQIP/RCPP:** No update.

**OTHER RELATED ITEMS:** BSRP Steering Committee Meeting on March 17.

MSP to approve and sign checks for 3 Alternative Water Source Projects totaling \$31,537.88 by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign check for \$42,571.17 to EDWDD for employee wages and benefits (July – Sept. 2025) by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes. MSP to approve Voucher 31 in the amount of \$45,304.94 for employee wages and benefits (Oct. – Dec. 2025) by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve Advance Voucher for Segment 5 in the amount of \$20,000 by Pfeifer and Bonander. All ayes.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:**

**OUTREACH: Sioux Empire Farm Show** – January 28-30 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center. Had information at 2 tables. Large turnout. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** – March 2-4 (Set up on March 2; event on March 3-4). Always needing more volunteers. **Branch Out! Earth and Arbor Day Festival** – Friday, April 24 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pasley Park. Multiple activities and booths put on by the City of Sioux Falls Parks & Recreation. **Party for the Planet** – Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Sertoma Park. Event with multiple activities from local groups.

**CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program, Demonstration Gardens and Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – planning for spring.

**GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Continuing current work and waiting to hear about funding status regarding recent application.

**OTHER: MCD Newsletter** – Currently being mailed out. **Soil Health Coalition** – Working to finish up signs/Gevik Site improvements.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes**

**Krone-Hedman** thanked all who came to the holiday gathering at Minerva's in January.

**Update from Supervisors**

**Bonander** turned in signatures to be a candidate for the Minnehaha County Commission race.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Bio-solids:** \$30,000/year income to the district, compared to \$90,000 in previous years.

**Trees:** 30 acres planned. Tree plans will be completed by mid-March. No fruit trees or native grass plants are available this year. **Grass:** 175 acres in small seedings have been added.

**Gevik Site:** Finishing up information area; getting trail signs.

**2. Review and Approve 2026 Budget**

Parker presented the budget to the board. MSP to approve 2026 Budget by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

**3. Water Festival – March 2-4**

Event will be held at the University of Sioux Falls. Setup is on March 2; the event is on March 3-4. If you can volunteer, please let Krone-Hedman know.

**4. Research Farm Annual Meeting – March 18th**

Wednesday, March 18 in Brookings, SD at the ARS Laboratory. Lunch at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. meeting. Heber will leave on March 30 for a trip to Washington D.C. with another ARS board member. They will meet with legislative staff Monday – Wednesday and have a meeting with the USDA on Thursday to lobby for more funds for the research farm. More scientists and summer workers are needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Tractor Rental**

Parker presented information he has received from John Deere about tractor rental rates for this year. Fortunately, the district has bought a tractor, as it would be priced out at the current rental rates. A second tractor is not needed currently.

### **2. Elections**

Bonander and Severtson are on the ballot this year for re-election to their positions. Petitions are due to the County Auditor's office by July 1.

### **3. Bookkeeping Services**

Current bookkeeper is planning to leave employment by June 1. Discussion was held about possible replacements.

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

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING** - None

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MSP to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** March 9th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center  
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary