Minnehaha Conservation District
August 10th, 2026, Monthly Meeting
Winter-Green Acres Event Center, 100 Spruce Dr., Crooks, SD
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm

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

Supervisors present: Rick Bonander, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Kathleen Mackeprang

Advisors present: Brian Top

Advisors absent: Travis Entenman

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Tanner Clausen, Jaelynn Dreckman, Jay Gilbertson, Stephanie Wollman, and Cole Neibauer

Agenda: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Bonander. All ayes.

Minutes of July 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Severtson. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:
COMPLIANCE: Completed easement monitoring. Completed FSA compliance reviews. Working on certified wetland determinations and HEL determinations.
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Nothing new.
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Completed preapprovals/obligations.
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Completed preapprovals/obligations.
MISCELLANEOUS: Ruesch discussed the reorganization plan for South Dakota that was revealed in a call last week. A follow-up call will be held this Thursday. Letters to employees will go out this Friday.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Tanner Clausen:
SRAM & RAM: Working on 2 buffer projects and 1 alternative water project. Finishing another alternative water project.
EQIP/RCPP: Finishing annual and final reports from the previous RCPP. Applying for the current RCPP program by the end of August.
OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Attended Ag Appreciation Luncheon at the Sioux Empire Fair on August 5th.
MSP to approve and sign Termination Contract for 10 acres of an SRAM contract that will be repaid to the Big Sioux River Project by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:
OUTREACH: Ag Appreciation Day – August 5th at the Sioux Empire Fair, tabled with BSRP about Locally Led and available conservation programs. **Locally Led Meeting** – Held August 10th at Winter-Green Acres in Crooks, SD. Discussed countywide conservation concerns and solutions, along with available programs with producers, community members, and individuals concerned with conservation. **Dakotafest** – August 18-20 in Mitchell, SD. Will attend on August 19th at SDACD booth to discuss statewide conservation. **Prairie Fest** – August 22nd at Good Earth State Park. Plan to table on various conservation concerns and gain information for Locally Led at this family friendly educational event regarding South Dakota's grasslands. **SDSU Specialty Producers Night -** September 15th in Brookings, SD. Plan to table with NRCS on available programs and services at this event for community and local producers.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program - sale continuing. **Other Demonstration Areas –** still waiting on what is next.
GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: NACD Technical Assistance Grant – continuing efforts after receiving no cost extension through September 30th.
OTHER: Water Festival meetings start in September. **Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area -** continuing to work on site improvements. Kiosk to be updated bi-annually. Signs planned to be printed and installed by next meeting. Areas for new signs marked last week. **Brandon Valley Newspaper Ad -** Locally Led information was run in the August 5th blanket issue.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Jay Gilbertson has a staffing agreement form between EDWDD and the Big Sioux River Project. **Krone-Hedman** mentioned that the Friends of the Big Sioux River Revival Gala will be held on September 25th. This is a ticketed event, fundraiser with an art auction. Also, Riverfest will be held on September 19th downtown by the river.

Update from Supervisors – Severtson mentioned that Pioneer Days will be held at the Beaver Creek Nature Center on September 13th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. There will be horse teams working and crafts for kids.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site)**
   Bio-solids: Deep soil sampling for the City of Sioux Falls will start after harvest. 18 farmers are lined up. **Trees**: 10 customers for next year so far. Working on biodegradable fabric options. **Grass**: 100 acres of CRP planned. CRP mowing is being done. **Gevik Site**: Flags for signs were put out last week. Signs will be installed before Labor Day. 37 bales of hay were cut. Looking into a new structure for the Bird Blind. This is a 12' X 14' shed that is 14' tall. The Bird Club would cover some of the cost.

2. **Potential Land Sale**
   Appraisal proposal was received by the City of Sioux Falls.

3. **Erosion Issue**
   Parker talked with the Hartford Township official and gave them the erosion procedure outline. The township is visiting with the landowner about the problem to determine the next steps.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **State Convention – Sept. 20-22, Cedar Shores**
   The convention will start at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20th and run until noon on Tuesday, September 22nd. Parker, Langner, Krone-Hedman, Heber and Ruesch plan to attend.

2. **Future Business Ideas**
   Parker said that we should advertise online and on the website. We should change the sign out front so people can find the Conservation District. According to the City of Sioux Falls, there should be 7-8 more years of bio-solid soil sampling. **Krone-Hedman** would like to see a sheet about seed mixes available for people to buy. She also mentioned the possibility of doing more grass seeding projects as a subcontractor on City projects and other projects.

Executive Session (if needed) - None
CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None
OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
MSP to adjourn at 4:09 p.m. by Bonander and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 14th, 2026, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary