

**Minnehaha Conservation District
September 11th, 2023, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Susan Kruse, Kelly Lyons, Mark McGee, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Others present: John Parker, Mike Langer (arrived late), Alina Krone-Hedman, Casey Wenzlaff, Barry Berg, Amber Lively

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

Minutes of August 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman 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 by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Casey Wenzlaff:

WETLANDS: 36 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Actively certifying and paying for practices. Taking application for 2024 funding. Deadline is November 3rd.

EQIP RCPP: Actively certifying and paying for practices. Taking applications for 2024 funding. Deadline is October 27th.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Actively certifying practices. Taking applications for 2024 funding. Deadline is November 3rd.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Completed continuous and general CRP applications. Working on finishing up status reviews for expiring contracts.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Amber Lively:

SRAM & RAM: Meetings set up for later this fall for 2 producers who indicated interest in SRAM after attending Grazing Lands Field Event. Several others have also recently indicated interest.

EQIP/RCPP: RCPP Fall Batching Deadline is October 27th.

Other Related Items: Participated at Riverfest on August 19, with approx. 100 individuals participating in how the Big Sioux River is utilized activity. SRAM Grazing Lands Field Event "This is Our Water" was held

on August 23 with approx. 40 individuals in attendance. Grasslands Video Shoot took place on August 29th where various topics were discussed including SRAM and the Legacy Park project. SDSU: RANG 374 (Habitat Management) Class of approx. 60 students met on September 7th to discuss subjects such as SRAM and water quality. SRAM 10-Year Review Article Collaboration being done with SDSU Extension, with approvals submitted September 7th. Upcoming BSRP Steering Committee Meeting occurring from 9-11 AM on September 25th at the Minnehaha Community Water Corporation at 47381 248th Street, Dell Rapids. Load Reductions from STEPL. Annual GRTS report due October 15th.

MSP to approve and sign Voucher 17 expenditures by Entenman and Bonander. MSP to approve and sign checks for ABC Rentals and Jen Holdings LLC by Entenman and Heber.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

Outreach: Attended Pollinator Day at Good Earth State Park on September 2nd and distributed pollinator information to approx. 50 participants. Plans for outreach at Local Foods Conference in Sioux Falls on November 17-18 and at Big Sioux River and Sustainability Summit on December 7.

City Partnership: Planned discussion meeting for September 28th on future green infrastructure site maintenance. Working on updating Prairie and Pollinator Program based on feedback and survey results.

NRCS Partnership: Continued discussion about grant application regarding next phase of Urban Conservation Demonstration & Awareness Project.

Other: IronFox Farm is looking for volunteers on September 15th and 29th during students days. Let Alina know if interested, so she can let IronFox know.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – None.

Update from Supervisors – Bonander mentioned that Navigator and Summit Pipeline Companies had their permits denied. Parker and Severtson discussed 45th Annual Homesteader Day at Bever Creek Nature Area that occurred on September 10th.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Continuing work on soil sampling is underway.

Trees: 12 acres on the books already for next planting season.

Grass: Approx. 10 acres for planting coming up. Requests are low currently.

Gevik Site: Dealing with a badger that was present at the site. Working to remove and relocate.

Other: Drip Irrigation presentation was given to review components, set-up, and what trees were available to be sold.

2. Certificates of Deposit and Checking Account

Parker has not taken out funds for additional certificates of deposit due to anticipating tractor coming in early. Tractor is expected in October.

3. Pheasant Fest – March 1-3, 2024 at Denny Sanford Premier Center

Booth is reserved through SDACD Employee Association funding. Bried discussion was held of possible activities at booth, with Parker suggesting further discussion be designated for a future meeting or to plan a specific event planning meeting for a future date.

Berg and Lively left meeting at 4:10PM.

4. Fall Convention – September 17-19, 2023 in Aberdeen SD

Heber discussed several events on the agenda with both he and Parker discussing the importance of the event. Supervisors were told to tell Parker ASAP if they plan to attend, and in what capacity.

5. Advisors

Discussion occurred regarding what would be needed as a commitment from someone wishing to be an Advisor. It was decided to clear the names of the current Advisor List and request anyone wanting to be one, or wanting to continue to be one, to contact the district.

Bonander left meeting at 4:24PM.

6. Newsletter

Discussion was had to continue having the letter printed for the upcoming January release, and then look at ways to do digital letters for the future, including trying to have smaller ones released via email after the initial January letter. Decision was planned to be discussed later.

Langner joined meeting at 4:31PM.

7. Tree Stock

Outline was shown and discussion was had regarding future tree availability.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Land Judging

Upcoming on September 26, with the site being worked on with the City of Sioux Falls for finalization.

2. Big Sioux Steering Committee Meeting

Reminder given meeting is on September 25th at the Minnehaha Community Water Corporation.

3. Truck Tires and State Bid (Graham Tire)

Parker presented Supervisors with 3 bids for review regarding tires for 2 district trucks needing new tires by Spring 2024. Discussion on which tires will be purchased to happen at a later date.

4. John Deere Tractor

Reminder given that the tractor is anticipated in October.

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:38 p.m. by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Alina Krone-Hedman in absence of Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary