

**Minnehaha Conservation District
March 13th, 2023, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center and via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

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

Supervisors present: Rick Bonander (via phone & zoom), Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Travis Entenman

Advisors present: None

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Deron Ruesch, Casey Wenzlaff, Barry Berg, Jay Gilbertson, Jen Bleyenber, Drew DeGroot, Amber Lively, McKenzie Blaine and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve (with additions) by Heber and Severtson. All ayes.

Minutes of February 13th meeting: MSP to approve (with corrections mentioned by Heber) by Heber and Severtson. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Casey Wenzlaff:

WETLANDS: 25 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): General signup runs from 2/27/23 through 4/07/23. Contracts beginning in 2023 – 1 continuous contract and 1 general contract.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): 4 applications on file.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): 25 applications on file. All 7 CIS applications have been pre-approved.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: RCPP applications have been ranked; awaiting pre-approval to move forward.

Outreach: Conservation Coffee Break was held on 3/01/23. 6 people attended besides agency personnel. Women in Science booth was manned on 3/06/23. Sioux Empire Water Festival was held on 3/07/23 and 3/08/23.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Changes to the SRAM payment structure were approved by DANR. Tiered payments will be based on proximity to Sioux Falls from 75 miles at northern end of watershed by Estelline. 25-mile increments starting from the top; \$100/acre/year, \$120/acre/year, \$140/acre/year. 2 SRAM projects and 1 RAM project waiting for surveying this spring. 1 Ag. Waste System finishing up in Minnehaha County. 1 Ag. Waste System in Brookings County planned to go through RCPP. Working with several producers for 5 alternative water facilities for grazing. Steering

Committee meeting on 3/23/23 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in Dell Rapids. MSP for approval and signature for Voucher 14 (\$117,553.24 total reimbursement) by Heber and Severtson. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: **Outreach:** Urban Agriculture Coalition Gardening Event held on 2/27/23. Sioux Empire Water Festival held on 3/07/23 and 3/08/23. Upcoming event is Earth Day on 4/22/23 and Good Earth Day. **City Partnership:** Continued work on Native Prairie Restoration and Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area. **NRCS Partnership:** Funding discussions underway. **Other: Urban Agriculture Coalition** discussion about merging with Sioux Falls Thrive, Continued Nature Summit work (possible help with Pasque Hill at Beaver Creek. **Grant Applications:** Submitting NACD grant. Helping IronFox with Urban Agriculture and Innovation Implementation Grant. **Soil Health Event:** Trying to plan for late spring. **Handouts Development:** working on Wild Dutchman Seeds for a handout that they would give to us for price of packaging and shipping costs.

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: On hold for the season. Trees: 35-40 acres planned. Some trees may be difficult to get. Grass: 400 acres planned on 12' drill, plus 200 acres for CRP. 750 acres planned for the larger drills. Gevik Site: Still working on plans for improvements.

2. Review Truck Information

Parker had sent supervisors information about a 2010 1-ton diesel truck with 116,000 miles that is available from a private seller for \$26,273.00. MSP to purchase the truck for \$26,273.00 by Heber and Bonander. All ayes.

3. Water Festival – March 6-8, 2023

Over 2,400 students attended this 30th year of the festival. 69 volunteers plus 10 members of the committee participated in the successful event.

4. Research Farm Annual Meeting – March 15, 2013

Heber presented the two power point presentations that he will do at the annual meeting in Brookings. One report was about the history of the research farm and one report was about the Washington, D.C. trip that he participated in last week. In Washington, D.C. they met with staff from the senator's and representatives' offices and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Board Officers

Rick Bonander and Allen Severtson were elected to the board in the February election. They each took their oath of office and were sworn in. Motion to nominate Heber for chairman by Severtson and Bonander. Motion to nominate Entenman for Chairman by Pfeifer and Severtson. Votes for Heber: aye by Bonander, Severtson and Heber. Heber was elected to Chairman. MSP

to nominate Entenman for Vice-chairman by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to nominate Fletcher as Secretary/Recorder by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to nominate Parker as Treasurer by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

2. 2023 Real Estate Assessment Notice

Parker discussed the 2023 Real Estate Assessment notice that had been received for land and structures at the Conservation shed. This property is exempt from taxes as it is government/state owned.

3. Wildlife Federation Camp at Camp Bob Marshall

Parker presented information received about the 2023 camp to be held June 4-10 at Camp Bob Marshall for students that have completed the 8th grade through 12th grade. The District has sponsored one or two memberships in the past. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. We are looking for interested students.

Executive Session (if needed) – MSP to go into executive session at 4:44 p.m. for Subsection 125.2 by Pfeifer and Severtson. All ayes. Chairman declared the board was out of executive session at 5:04 p.m. No action taken.

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - none

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 17th, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary