

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

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent: Travis Entenman, and 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, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Jay Gilbertson, and Brian Top

Agenda: MSP to approve by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Minutes of August 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay September and October bills by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 17 certified wetland determination requests in progress

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No update

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Certification completed; working on payments

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

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Working through certification and payments; Sign up deadline for 2023 is October 21st

Working on Urban Ag. Coalition with the City of Sioux Falls and the NRCS Urban Conservationist.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: RAM project seeded cropland to pasture in Lincoln County. Working on SRAM site to get trees established next year. Two ag. waste systems have started construction. Postcards have been sent out to approximately 2,400 producers about the next RCPP sign up. Completing two watering facilities for this fall and working on two more. Working with producers on cover crops. Interviewed and filled two open positions. MSP to approve check to reimburse EDWDD for 6 months of employee wages and benefits (\$80,486.51) and reimbursement check to customer for livestock water facility (\$3,954.31) by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve contracts for two water facilities by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Attended Bugalooza at the Butterfly House and Aquarium on 8/13/22 with about 500 in attendance and Pollinator Day at Good Earth State Park on 9/03/22 with approximately 75 in attendance. Webinar held on 9/09/22 with a review of native grasses (8 attended). Plan to present at the Big Sioux Water & Sustainability Summit on 12/08/22.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Continued meetings for pollinator plot kits. Waiting for contract to be returned from the City for Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area.

NRCS PARTNERSHIP: Urban Agriculture – Met with Rachel Frei, NRCS Urban Conservationist, about plans and initiatives moving forward. CIS Proposals – Met to discuss 3 possible proposals for submission in next funding cycle.

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: Finished 500 acres of sampling. 2000-2500 acres left to do after corn harvest.
Trees: 15 acres committed. Grass: Finished work on a large seeding project. 100 acres of CRP planned for next year. Gevik Site: Soil Health Coalition would like to talk to the board about ideas for the site (presentation and meeting place).

2. CO2 Pipeline Information – No new information

3. Community Garden Working with City of Sioux Falls

Waiting for contract to come back from the City of Sioux Falls.

4. Review Tractor Bid to Include Cab and Truck Information

The tractor sales offer that the board approved in August did not include a cab, so Parker presented a new sales offer from John Deere that includes a cab. MSP to purchase a John Deere 5120 utility tractor with cab at Kibble Equipment for \$80,692.38 by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes. No new truck information was available.

5. Fall SDACD Convention Overview

Parker, Heber, Kruse and Langner attended. Heber reported that he attended the commission meeting and business meeting. He noted that most grant applications got approved unless they were amended. There are 3 commission openings next year. They are still trying to make it easier for districts to combine. There was an interesting presentation on no till gardening. Parker liked the cutting-edge research presentations. The convention was well attended and very interactive.

6. Soil Judging Overview

The competition was held north of Brandon with 177 students from 17 schools. McCook Central won, with Tri-Valley coming in 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Property Insurance Review

Parker discussed two issues that had come up from the walk-through review. One item has been completed and the other will be done. Parker would like to review property items with one or more board members at some point.

2. Gevik Wetland Mitigation Information

Parker and Top spoke about this. Top mentioned that the Gevik site was originally put in for DOT mitigation, so this may not be a good fit for wetland mitigation.

3. County Funding for 2023

\$2040.00 annual allocation will be received in 2023.

4. Intent to Mine

MSP stating that the board reviewed the “intent to mine” documents by Heber and Pfeifer. Ayes – Pfeifer and Heber. Abstain – Schmidtbauer.

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pipeline Safety information; Soil Health Coalition Dues and School; Certificate of Achievement (Completion of Board Development Modules) – Bonander and Kruse; Endowment Fund Century Club (Minnehaha Conservation District)

MSP to adjourn at 4:52 p.m. by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 14th, 2022, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary