

**Minnehaha Conservation District
October 13, 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, Kathleen Mackeprang, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Travis Entenman and Brian Top

Advisors absent: None

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Dennis Brunsting, and Stephanie Wollman.

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

Minutes of September 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Mackeprang and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

COMPLIANCE: Certified Wetland Determinations and HEL Determinations being worked on.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Nothing new.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Planning for FY27 applications. Making payments for CY26.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Planning for FY27 applications. Working on certification/payments.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Tanner Clausen:

SRAM & RAM: Currently working on 4 SRAM/RBI projects. Waiting for bills on 2 alternative water projects.

EQIP/RCPP: Still waiting for response.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Will be attending the Farm Show in January. Currently doing EPA Tour throughout the watershed. MSP to approve and issue check for \$4,248.05 for a contract on 160 acres of cover crops by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to approve a maintenance contract on a project by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Christmas at the Capitol 2026 - November 20-22 set-up dates. SDACDE will have a tree this year. Will assist with ornament making, etc. **Good Earth Holiday Tree** – November 30 set-up. Tree displaying area for area organizations. Holiday event on December 5.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – Sale continuing, to pause at the end of October. **Other Demonstration Areas** – TBD.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: DANR Natural Resources Grants – applied for 2 grants on October 1 - Minnehaha Wildlife Habitat Project and Minnehaha Technical Assistance Expansion Project. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – applied for no-cost extension through December 31. Extension was due on September 25. Tentatively received information to proceed forward. Applied for bridge funding while waiting to hear on TA2025 grant. Expecting to hear

soon. Contacted about TA2025 Revision. Revision was submitted on October 7. Should hear preliminary funding decisions by November 4.

OTHER: Devey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area – continuing to work on Gevik site improvements.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Bonander encouraged everyone to vote 3 weeks from today. **Heber** mentioned that the conservation district has 2 open positions on the ballot, with 3 candidates running.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Service Report (biosolids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site)

Biosolids: Contract was removed from the City budget for 2026, except for \$4,500.00. Could be added back on for 2027. **Trees:** 25-30 acres planned for next year. The price of trees went up for next year. **Grass:** 100 acres planned for spring. **Gevik Site:** 1 more mowing needed. Signs are mounted on backings; hope to install by next week.

Some spraying jobs are being completed.

2. Potential Land Sale

Several people toured the conservation district building set-ups at Brookings and Moody counties on October 6th. Notes were presented about observations that were made on the tour. Discussion was held about the cost of building a new building. Brunsting mentioned some estimates that he had obtained. A committee will work on deciding how much land is needed and the cost of a new building.

Mackeprang left the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Bonander left the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Entenman left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

3. State Convention – Sept. 20-22, Cedar Shores

Parker, Heber, Krone-Hedman and Langner attended. Fewer districts participated this year, and fewer than 100 people came. Meeting was not as informative as in past years.

4. Future Business Ideas

Ideas mentioned were more seed sales, overseeding services, more spraying, selling and servicing live traps, and selling tree gift certificates. More personnel would be needed to carry out some of the ideas.

5. Training Modules

Reminder to continue working on these. A request was made for the link to training resources to be emailed out to the board members and advisors.

6. Technical Assistance Grant Update

We applied for 2 grants: **Wildlife Habitat Grant** (for native grasses and forbs plantings), 60% to be paid by the customer and 40% to be paid by the grant and **Educational Outreach Grant**.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

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

DRAFT