

**Minnehaha Conservation District
April 11, 2022, Monthly Meeting
At the District Shed and via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer (Kruse left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.)

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Rick Bonander

Advisors absent: Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, Mark McGee, and Allen Severtson

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Mike Langner, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, and Jay Gilbertson

Agenda: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Minutes of March 14th meeting: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 23 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Grassland Signup from 4/04 through 5/13. Working through continuous offers. Waiting on general offer approvals.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Preapprovals are completed; One application was preapproved for Minnehaha. Working through contract paperwork. Additional funding requested by state.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Preapprovals are completed; no applications were preapproved for Minnehaha. Additional funding requested by state.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Continued planning on RCPP applicants. Waiting on the ability to rank applications.

There are 13 CRP re-enrollment program contracts for approval.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Producer with RAM contract started in 2016 asked if he could buy back 1 acre and remove trees to crop land. Board agreed to not allow this buy-back. 1 SRAM and 1 RAM contract completed in Lincoln County and 2 SRAM contracts completed in Moody County. Working with producers to seed grass and plant trees on RAM and SRAM. NRCS is ranking for RCPP contracting. Hired new employee with a start date of 4/18. Talks with project administrator to increase program rates. A RAM contract was converted to cropland in 2019 along with CRP that was terminated. RAM payment could be prorated from 2016 through 2019, since the owner died. Estate would have to pay back \$2,395.80 for the 11 years existing on the contract. Berg will draft a letter for the next meeting.

MSP to approve and sign 1 RAM and 3 SRAM contracts by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign reimbursement check to EDWDD for \$39,277.91 (for salaries and benefits) by Schmidtbauer and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign Voucher #9 for Urban BMP work and SRAM and RAM projects in Lincoln County (total amount \$341,568.85) by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: A blog is being created for the website. Service prices were updated on the site as well. Collaboration with the City of Sioux Falls are underway for urban garden/demonstration area, Urban Agriculture Coalition and Earth Day newsletter. Upcoming events are Good Earth Day on 4/23 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Good Earth State Park and farmer’s market table at the Brandon Farmer’s Market, 1 Saturday/month from May-October. Starting weekly meetings about Gevik Site improvements. Working on possibility of agricultural tours throughout Minnehaha County.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Parker noted that a sediment issue (that is already being addressed) has been brought to his attention. Dust was blowing from a construction site. Parker will find out if the party wants to file a formal complaint with the County Planning & Zoning Board.

Update from Supervisors – Heber reported that he attended the Annual Research Farm Meeting in Brookings on 3/16. The research farm was created in 1959 when 15 conservation districts paid \$15 dues to be a member. Each county district loaned \$1,000.00 to the farm to purchase land. The loans have since been repaid. USDA leases the land and uses it to do research. Reports were heard from the scientists about their projects. A Field Day for the public will be held on 6/21 at 10:00 a.m., where research plots can be reviewed after a meeting. Entenman noted that an Earth Day clean-up will be held on the Big Sioux River on 4/23.

OLD BUSINESS

1. New Field Technician Hire – Mike Langner

Parker introduced Langner, who lives in Valley Springs and was previously a grounds manager for the Brandon Valley School District.

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

Bio-solids: Sampling is being completed on about 550 acres. Trees: Trees will be arriving next week. There are 50-65 acres for the district to plant. Grass: 30’ drill is rented out for 400-500 acres. There are 400 acres of seeding planned for the 6’ and 12’ drills. Leased tractors are not available until June and July. Pfeifer may have one tractor that can be used for about 6 weeks. He said the district may want to consider purchasing a tractor in the future. Gevik Site: Trees and fence are being moved by an adjacent landowner.

3. Equipment (Ordered 20’ Trailer and Purchased Brother Printer)

A 20’ Ludens trailer was ordered for \$6,675.00. This should be in by the end of April. We have a 16’ trailer to sell or trade in. A Brothers printer was purchased for the shed that will be linked to NRCS computers for printing and scanning.

4. CO2 Pipeline – East and West Side of Minnehaha County – Rick Bonander

Bonander spoke about the proposed project and showed a video of a CO2 pipeline rupture. He stated that landowners are not in favor of running CO2 pipelines close to Dakota Access pipelines and close to their homes. Once the PUC approves the project, Eminent Domain can be used to obtain land. Due to the way the easement is written, the landowner takes most of the responsibility for ruptures and damage caused. Summit is the largest of several projects that are

proposed. Their pipeline would run from Ames, IA up to Bismarck, ND. Bonander suggested that people talk to their County Commissioners about their concerns. A news conference has also been proposed.

Kruse and Bonander left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. South Dakota Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp

This camp is held annually at the Bob Marshall Camp in the Black Hills. The cost of camp for one camper is \$350.00. MSP to sponsor one camp registration by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING – MSP to sign CRP conservation plans by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pfeifer thanked the group for their expressions of sympathy upon the death of his mother.

MSP to adjourn at 4:51 p.m. by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 9th, 2022, at 3:00 pm – District Shed and via Zoom
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary