

**Minnehaha Conservation District
September 8th, 2025, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

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

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Rick Bonander and Travis Entenman

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang and Brian Top

Advisors absent: None

Others present: John Parker, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Jay Gilbertson

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

Minutes of August 11th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Severtson. 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 Pfeifer. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 25 certified wetland determination requests.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No update

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Sign up deadline is October 3rd. Working through certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Sign up deadline is October 3rd. Working through certification.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:

SRAM & RAM: Working with a couple producers. Taking pictures and droning some of the sites.

EQIP/RCPP: Waiting to see if we can either extend the current RCPP or if NRCS will require a new one.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Downtown Riverfest on September 20th. Attended Grill & Grow on August 14th. Conservation in the City on September 13th. MSP to approve and write check in the amount of \$85,989.79 to EDWDD for wages and benefits from January 1st through June 30th by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes. MSP to approve Voucher 28 for an alternative water development project totaling \$6,829.43, (of which we will cost share \$5,122.08), and chip clips for Downtown Riverfest by Pfeifer and Severtson. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: Past Events: – Grill & Grow – August 14th at Pfeifer's Implement from 11AM-2PM; stop and go event with various conservation partners having tables discussing producer programs; Approximately 25 people attended.

Upcoming Events: Conservation in the City – September 13th from 10AM-2PM at Lloyd Landing; Large youth-centered conservation event with conservation activities; Working with multiple conservation organizations for planning and the City of Sioux Falls. **Jefferson High School Field Trip –** September 18th Gevik Site visit with educational stations. **Riverfest –** September 20th at Cherapa Place; Downtown event from 2-8 PM; Planning a booth in collaboration with other conservation groups.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – Paused selling kits until closer to fall for dormant seeding. **Demonstration Gardens** – Work in progress. **Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – Continued maintenance work.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led – Continuing work to set future meetings with other districts. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Continuing work on outreach events; Working on planner training with NRCS (site visits; reviewing program requirements).

OTHER: Soil Health Coalition – Continuing to work on Gevik Site improvements; Signs are draft designed for printing (hoping to finalize this week). **Conversations & Conservation** – Happened on September 4th at Fernson Brewery on Robur Drive at 5:30PM; 6 attended; Planning another for October/November. **Audubon Society** – Continuing to make plans to develop woody encroachment youth outreach. **FBSR River Revival Gala** – September 19th at 6PM; Ticketed evening event and program. **SDACDE Fundraiser** – Multiple opportunities; Talk to Parker or Krone-Hedman if wanting tickets.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Severtson – Assisted with 46th Annual Homesteader Day at Beaver Creek Nature Area on September 7th. 860 people and 17 horses attended the event that featured plowing with horses and other pioneer activities.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 18 sites to do (2500 acres) as soon as crops come off (in October and November). **Trees:** 11-12 potential tree plans for next year. Several possible tree belt cleanup projects for November and December. **Grass:** 30 acres to finish this fall. 2-3 tree row projects to plant. 400 acres of cover crops planned. **Gevik Site:** Revamped trail, fixed access road and washed-out areas. Getting wiring installed for the kiosk.

2. Fall Convention – September 21 - 23, Huron

Heber, Parker, Langner, Krone-Hedman and Bonnett plan to attend.

3. NACD National Convention – San Antonio, TX – February 14 - 18, 2026

Heber and Parker are planning to attend.

4. Ag Day at Pfeifer's

Grill & Grow event on August 14th. Various conservation partners had tables to discuss producer programs. It was a good event.

5. Land and Range Judging – September 24th

This event will be held from approximately 9:30AM – 1:30PM with various schools from the region attending. A new scoring system will be used (machine scoring) that should reduce the time needed before scores can be entered in the spreadsheet and tabulated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning and Zoning Notice – Postponed until next meeting

2. Future Plans of the District (Possible Closed Session)

Parker discussed his plans to reduce his hours of employment after January 1, 2026, to 2 days per week. Board members decided to plan another meeting where all board members can be present to discuss this scenario soon. Heber will work on getting the meeting set up.

Executive Session (if needed) – not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 3:58 p.m. by Severtson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary

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