

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
November 13th, 2023, Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Rick Bonander, Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

**Supervisors absent:** Jim Pfeifer

**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, Dan Wehmeyer, and Barry Berg

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

**Minutes of October 10th meeting:** MSP to approve by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

**WETLANDS:** 40 certified wetland determination requests in process.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** None

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP):**

Certifying practices. 7 applications in Minnehaha. Approximately \$1.6 million for Big Sioux RU (Minnehaha, Brookings, Moody, Lincoln, and Union counties).

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):**

Certifying and paying for practices. Approximately \$1.5 million for Big Sioux RU. 37 applications for Minnehaha. \$50,000 for CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) – High Tunnels and Cover Crops

**BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP:**

Certifying and paying for practices. Approximately \$867,000 remaining in last year of project.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:**

**SRAM & RAM:** Working with producers for 2024 enrollment.

**EQIP/RCPP:** Screening and ranking discussion.

**OTHER RELATED ITEMS:** Dakota Mainstem Pipeline Meetings. Working with producers on water developments. Finalizing annual GRTS report.

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION:** Girl Scouts Careers in STEM Day on 10/22. Guest Lecture Presentation at Augustana University on 10/23. NRCS Strategic Planning Partner Sessions on 11/06. Friends of the Big Sioux River's "Future of Water" event at Augustana on 11/09. "About the BBSRP" trifold created.

**UPCOMING:** Big Sioux River and Sustainability Summit on 12/7 (Amber presenting). Q4 Steering Committee Meeting at Minnehaha Community Water Corp. on 12/13.

MSP to approve and write check to EDWDD in the amount of \$43,794.94 for reimbursement of wages, salaries, mileage, and other expenses (7/1/23 – 9/30/23) by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes. MSP to approve and write check to producer in the amount of \$4,483.12 for water tank and pipeline reimbursement by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes. MSP to approve contract for a producer for 2 water tanks, pipeline, and pasture by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:**

**OUTREACH:** “Future of Water” event on 11/09 at Augustana, with approximately 100 people. Distributed information on buffers, pollinator gardens, native grasses, and soil health. Local Foods Conference on 11/17 and 11/18 at Southeast Tech. Big Sioux River and Sustainability Summit on 12/7 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

**CITY PARTNERSHIP:** Prairie and Pollinator Program – working on plant identification information. Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area – flagged and mowed areas for planting. Will continue planning throughout the winter.

**NRCS PARTNERSHIP:** Continued work on draft of application regarding the next phase of Urban Conservation Demonstration & Awareness Project.

**OTHER:** Newsletter – reaching out to people for articles. Christmas Tree at Good Earth State Park – putting up on 11/27 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None**

**Update from Supervisors** – Bonander mentioned that Navigator killed their carbon pipeline project in South Dakota and other states. They still hold 3-year options with some landowners. These options could potentially be sold.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Bio-solids: 2 sites left to deep sample. Trees: 15 acres planned. Tree inventory is already down at some suppliers. Grass: 250 acres for CRP and 75 acres regular planting planned. Gevik Site: Bathroom roofs will need new tin installed. Cindy Zenk, Soil Heath Coalition Coordinator, plans to be at the December meeting to present ideas for the site.

**2. Budget - 2024**

Parker presented the data that has been assembled so far. After some revisions, this will be re-visited at another meeting.

**3. National Convention 2024**

The convention will be held in San Diego, CA on February 10 -14, 2024. Parker discussed details and mentioned that an early rate discount will be in effect until 12/22/23. This will be re-visited in the December meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. NACD FY24 Membership – Gold Level**

MSP to pay annual membership at the Gold Level (\$775.00) by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes.

**2. Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Membership Dues**

MSP to pay annual dues by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

**Executive Session (if needed) - None**

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MSP to adjourn at 4:20 p.m. by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: December 11, 2023, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary