

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
February 14, 2022, Monthly Meeting  
At the District Shed and via Zoom  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, and Jim Pfeifer

**Supervisors absent:** Jennifer Schmidtbauer

**Advisors present:** Rick Bonander and Allen Severtson

**Advisors absent:** Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, and Mark McGee, and Brian Top

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, and Alexa Kruse

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

**Minutes of January 10th meeting:** MSP to approve by Entenman and Kruse. 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 17 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** General signup – January 31<sup>st</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>. Grassland signup – April 4<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** Continued planning for 2022 applicants (2 applications). Application deadline was January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Continued planning for 2022 applications (5 high priority applications general).

**EQIP COVER CROP INITIATIVE – NEW PILOT PROGRAM:** 15 applications were approved for funding.

**BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP:** Initial planning on RCPP applicants (14 applications, Ag Waste/Grazing System/Cover Crops). Per Ruesch, the entire Resource Unit (from Brookings down to Union County) had 66 applications received and 23 funded for cover crops.

New State Conservationist, Tony Sunseri, is on board.

**Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:** Surveying and contracting for SRAM and RAM. 6 contract packages completed. Processing applications for an additional employee. MSP to approve and sign two RAM and two SRAM contract packages by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve and write one check to VS Berg Farm LLC for \$7,614.25 (50% of re-seeding cost for 120 acres of cropland that had poor establishment to convert to pastureland) by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

**Big Sioux River Website – Alexa Kruse:** Kruse gave an overview of the website “bigsiouxriver.com” and explained work that had been done on branding and marketing for the project. Business page on Google, website, social media, City of Sioux Falls radio campaign, articles and RCPP postcards are methods being used. Various tours and community events, as well as in-classroom education are planned. The next steering committee meeting will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Dell Rapids City Council Chambers. Previous meeting minutes are on the website.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:** The new District website was demonstrated; receiving good feedback on the layout. Advertising and applications process underway for the open Resource Technician position with the

District. Three webinars are planned this year. Working with the City of Sioux Falls about doing green infrastructure webinars. Education on using wildlife bridges would be one topic. Food, agriculture, and farmer's market outreach events are being planned for this summer.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes** – Bonander mentioned that a meeting regarding the proposed Summit CO2 pipeline will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Washington Room at the Ramkota Hotel. We will place this event on the website calendar.

**Update from Supervisors** – Entenman attended a good Ducks Unlimited event in Pierre that was well attended.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Bio-solids: Contacting producers about future application ground. Trees: 30 acres committed with 12 plans to do. Grass: 300-350 acres planned. Gevik Site: An adjacent landowner is removing fence and cleaning up the area. Plans for improvements at the site are being put together. The annual newsletter went out by email last week and hard copies will be mailed this week. Receiving applications for the technician position with the District and lining up seasonal help.

**2. Soil Health Convention – January 18-19, 2022, in Aberdeen, SD**

Parker and Brian Top attended the first day in person. Entenman listened to the first day as well. There was good information on soil health, cover crops and pasture rotation. Links will be put on the District website.

**3. Supervisor Training Module**

Parker sent out a link to Supervisors and Advisors with information on getting started.

**4. Water Festival – March 8-9, 2022**

Packets sent out to teachers last week. We will have 1250 students in person and 1250 students attending virtually. Volunteer opportunities are available; contact Parker if interested.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. National Association of Conservation Districts 2022 Membership Investment**

MSP to pay annual membership investment in the amount of \$775.00 (gold level) by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

**2. Job Evaluations**

Board agreed to defer this item to an in person meeting to be held in a couple weeks.

**3. Big Sioux Nursery – Delivery and Transportation**

No trucking company is available to deliver trees to districts this year. Minnehaha district has been picking up their trees for the last few years. The Nursery is also not sure how many trees will get lifted and be available this year because of staffing issues.

**Executive Session (if needed)** – none

**CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING** – CRP, trees, re-enrollments, and cover crop plans to sign

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kruse mentioned that she has been accepted into the South Dakota Master Naturalist program and will be starting soon.

MSP to adjourn at 4:37 p.m. by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, March 14th, 2022, at 3:00 pm – District Shed and via Zoom

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary