

**Minnehaha Conservation District
October 15th, 2024, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

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

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang and Brian Top

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Casey Wenzlaff and Barry Berg

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

Minutes of September 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Casey Wenzlaff:

WETLANDS: 27 certified wetland determination requests in process.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Working on Continuous CRP applications. Status reviews for expiring contracts.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP)/ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Batching date for FY2025 programs is November 1st. 33 applications so far. 650 postcards were sent to prospective customers at the beginning of September. Working on eligibility for funding. New CED for FSA is starting on October 21st.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:

SRAM & RAM: Animal waste system and pasture alternative water system in Minnehaha County. SRAM/RBI on Colton Creek, West Skunk Creek and Skunk Creek.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Received around 45 applications for BSRP vacancy. Offered the position to an individual, who accepted. Will start November 4th. Finished BSRP PIP. Working on annual GRTS Report. 2024 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference in Brookings on October 16th.

MSP to approve Voucher 24 (\$30,198.13) by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: SDACD Annual Convention – September 16th - presented on urban conservation work and partnerships, in conjunction with NRCS. **Science Class at Gevik Site** – Jefferson High School class on September 18th.

Minnehaha Garden Club presentation on September 23rd at the Outdoor Campus – discussed pollinators and plants. **Soil & Land Judging** – September 24 at the Gevik Site. **Municipal League Conference** on October 9-10 at the Ramkota – Booth with NRCS discussing conservation partnerships and programs. **Good Earth Christmas Tree** – Will set up on December 2nd for showing on December 7th. **CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program** – continuing sales for dormant seeding. **Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – Working to get ready for Winter. **GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led** – Planning materials to start outreach. Possible school initiative being explored. **NACD Urban Grant** – Submitting final report. Possibly will do a story on the garden project. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Submitted the beginning of October.

OTHER:

Soil Health Coalition – Continuing to meet and plan new signage and kiosk. **Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center** – Reaching out to Gevik family to further discuss improvements to the area/memorial area. Priced granite memorial options. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** – Had a second meeting, possible new education station opportunities with the City of Sioux Falls. **Newsletter** – Have reached out to several individuals for contributions.

Upcoming Events: Conversations & Conservation – October 29th at 5:30 p.m. at Remedy Brewing Company – Relaxed evening of networking for those involved in conservation.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – **Krone-Hedman** mentioned Christmas party planning. The group decided that early January would be a good time to have the party.

Update from Supervisors – **Entenman** attended the South Dakota Grassland Initiative and will attend the Eastern South Dakota Water Conference in Brookings on October 16th. **Bonander** asked people to vote “No” on RL 21 in the upcoming election.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site, Water Festival)**
Bio-solids: Deep soil sampling to do. **Trees:** 12 -15 acres planned for next year so far. **Grass:** Acquired a couple large seeding projects for this fall and a 320-acre mowing project. **Gevik Site:** Working with Soil Health Coalition on signage and kiosk. **Water Festival:** Good group of people working on the 32nd annual festival. 2-3 new people on the committee. Two spraying projects were completed on pastures. The June 18, 2025 Area Meeting will be held at the Good Earth State Park.
- 2. Fall Convention – September 15-17 - Watertown**
Was not as well attended as previous conventions. Minnehaha Conservation District won the Outreach Award. The Vermillion/Big Sioux Area will host the 2025 convention in Huron.
- 3. Pricing of Products and Services**
Parker presented a Sales by Product/Service report which showed the financial effect from possible price increases. MSP to approve price increases on products and services as presented by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

4. NACD Grant

We have applied for this grant, which would fund our Urban Conservation Education Coordinator position, held by Krone-Hedman. The grant would also fund a second position to be trained as a Conservation Planner Level 1, who would work with producers – urban, CRP, EQIP, CSP etc.

5. FFA Land Judging and Range Judging

Event was held at Gevik Site and Nature Conservancy on September 24th.

Land Judging: 154 students from 25 schools participated. 1st - Tri-Valley; 2nd – Harrisburg; 3rd – West Central. Dell Rapids had the highest scoring individual. 2nd – West Central; 3rd – Tri-Valley

Range Judging: 17 Students from 3 schools participated. 1st – West Central; 2nd – Parker; 3rd – Tea. West Central had the top 3 scores.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Newsletter

Will continue to mail out a hard copy newsletter once a year. Parker and Krone-Hedman will meet and review the postal routes where the newsletter is sent. They will also investigate locations where the newsletter could be made available to the public.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Parker discussed the SD Highway 115 study that is being conducted. This road passes by the District Shed and could affect operations. An informational meeting will be held on October 28th from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the South Dakota Special Olympics building at 800 E. Interstate 90 Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

MSP to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. by Entenman and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 12th, 2024, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary