

**Minnehaha Conservation District
February 10, 2025, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Supervisors present: Rick Bonander, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Travis Entenman and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: None

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason, Kathleen Mackeprang, and Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Mike Langner, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Ayden Bonnett, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Jaelynn Dreckman, and Cole Heisey

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

Minutes of January 13th meeting: MSP to approve by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer and Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS: 27 certified wetland determination requests in process. 6 FSA-569 – potential violations

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Not taking any new offers currently

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Working on planning

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working on rankings

Ruesch thanked the staff for helping at the Sioux Falls Farm Show. He mentioned that Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding has been put on hold for all programs.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

Big Sioux River Project had a booth at the Soil Health Conference in Watertown in January. Will also have a booth at the Sioux Empire Water Festival on March 4-5. Seeing more engagement on the web site and social media. Putting together an activity booklet for students.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: NCDEA Educational Webinar held on 1-22; went through educational outreach programs and tips for establishing them. Will assist with the **Sioux Empire Water Festival** on March 3-5, our annual event for area 4th graders on all things water.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program - Continuing preparation for spring. **Prairie and Pollinator Demonstration Garden** - Continuing making plans for revitalizing this demonstration site.

Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area – Plans continuing to be worked on for spring 2025; trees and native plants being ordered; plans for establishing more educational demonstrations.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: RFSI Grant – Planning to convert to an equipment only grant. **SDACD Locally Led** – Attended Lincoln County meeting in January. Planning to reach out to other counties to attend meetings soon. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – Working with partners to get training going for positions; Started planning for outreach. **OTHER: Soil Health Coalition** – Continuing to work on Gevik site improvements. **Newsletter** – Is out in the mail and online. **Audubon Society** – Giving Hearts Day on February 13th, fundraising campaign. **Conversations & Conservation** – Switched to February 18th at Remedy Brewing Co. at 5:30 p.m. Approximately 1 hour long social event for conservation professionals and board members. **Upcoming Sioux Falls Chamber Events** – Membership Mixer on February 11th at Mosaic Arts & Events. Sioux Falls Day at the Legislature on February 19th at the State Capitol.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – **Cole Heisey**, Minnehaha County Commissioner, introduced himself as the new liaison between the County Commission and the Minnehaha Conservation District. **Krone-Hedman** mentioned that May Schaefer passed away recently, and the conservation district and water festival sent flowers for her funeral. She was a Master Gardener who helped promote the conservation district. **Parker** was featured on a local television news story about tree sales.

Update from Supervisors – **Bonander** mentioned there is a bill in the legislature about not using eminent domain for the carbon pipeline. He is flying to Washington, D.C. to lobby congress against the 45Q tax credits on March 4-6. **Heber** mentioned that he is going to Washington, D.C. on March 29th with other Eastern SD Soil & Water Research Farm representatives.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 2025 contract is with the City of Sioux Falls. **Trees:** 23 acres are planned. Customers are concerned about the drought. **Grass:** 350-400 acres are planned. Half of that is CRP. **Gevik Site:** Kiosk and signs are in process. Trying to organize a controlled burn for the site. Working with Wall Lake Township to fix a road issue. **Water Festival:** Volunteers have been secured for the event. All latex must be removed from the first aid kits and presentations. 10,000 copies of the newsletter have been sent. An insert will be placed in the paper about the conservation district, including the order form.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Truck Expense Report

Parker presented a report listing expenses incurred on the 2002, 2006, 2009 and 2010 trucks owned by the conservation district. We may need to think about replacing a couple of them in the future.

2. Equipment Report – 15' Drill

The 15' drill is torn apart and will need repair. \$5,647.00 in parts will be spent this year. We may get 3 more years of use on the drill before it needs to be replaced. All other equipment is workable.

3. NACD Annual Investment

MSP to pay the annual investment of \$775.00 (gold level) by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

4. SDACD Annual Dues

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

Executive Session (if needed) – Not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:36 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 10th, 2025, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary