

**Minnehaha Conservation District
November 12th, 2024, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang and Brian Top

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Jaelynn Dreckman and Ryan Leners

Ryan Leners, new Farm Service Agency CED, introduced himself to the group.

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

Minutes of October 15th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 28 certified wetland determination requests in process. 10 FSA-569 – potential violations.

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

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): Sign up deadline was November 1st. Received 2 applications. Working on planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Sign up deadline was November 1st. Received 40 applications. Working on planning.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg:

SRAM & RAM: Digitized one RBI/SRAM project.

EQIP/RCPP: No update.

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Finished annual GRTS report. On-boarding and training Jaelynn Dreckman, the new Project Coordinator.

MSP to approve and write check to EDWDD for \$26,733.72 by Bonander and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: The State of Our River: Understanding PFAS in South Dakota’s Waterways event at Augustana on December 7th. Will table with information. Good Earth Christmas Tree; set up on December 2nd and display on December 7th.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – selling a few more kits and then stopping until Spring; have an order for 50 kits in April. **Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – continuing plans and work as we head into winter.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led – still making some outreach plans. SDACD planning a retreat for partners on November 18-19.

OTHER: Soil Health Coalition – continuing to work on signs and kiosk at Gevik Site. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** - continuing to work on outreach to schools, presenters, and donors. Looking into possible new education station opportunities with the City of Sioux Falls and other partners. **Newsletter** – continuing work and coordinating articles. **Holiday Meet-up** – looking at Thursday, January 16th for an event at the Tavern Grill. MCD will cover appetizers.

REMINDERS/UPCOMING EVENTS: 2024 Sioux Falls Chamber Holiday Fair on November 26th at 4:30 p.m. at the District. \$5 for networking/socializing. Sioux Falls Chamber Monthly Mixer on December 10th at the Hotel on Phillips. \$5 for networking/socializing. Conversations & Conservation on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at Fernson Downtown for a networking and socializing event.

Applying for a Friends of NACD grant (to make a 2’ X 3’ model of the Big Sioux Watershed).

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Krone-Hedman mentioned that various organizations are looking for volunteers – Warriors Never Give Up, Berakhah House, Dakotabilities and Salvation Army for bell ringers.

Update from Supervisors – Bonander thanked people for supporting the No vote on RL 21. Local control is retained on the issue. He was also elected to the board of the East Dakota Water Development District.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Deep soil sampling finished last week. **Trees:** 30 acres planned. Seeing fewer, but larger sites. **Grass:** 200 acres of CRP planned for next year. **Gevik Site:** Sign changes and kiosk in process. Ditches will be cleaned out and filled in. Entenman mentioned that according to water tests that have been run, the Gevik Site greatly reduces the E. coli level in water flow before it gets to Wall Lake. **Water Festival:** Schools, presenters and donors are being lined up. Scott and Mary DeWitte were chosen for the Izaak Walton Conservation award. Ceremony will be held on November 26th.

2. Pricing of Products and Services

Parker mentioned the rates that other districts are charging for tree planting, compared to ours. Krone-Hedman is working on a flyer about district services that the Brandon Valley Shopper paper could run for a cost of \$535.00.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Notice of Intent to Continue Mining Operation

Parker presented information to the board about the operation.

2. DOT 115 Information

Parker presented material received about this possible Highway 115 expansion and a survey link. Discussion was held about how this would affect the Conservation District shed operation and whether any actions should be taken.

3. 2025 Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Membership Dues

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

Krone-Hedman presented an information sheet about other local chamber memberships that are available.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 9th, 2024, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary