

**Minnehaha Conservation District
September 9th, 2024, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Entenman called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

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

Supervisors absent: Gordon Heber and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason and Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Barry Berg, and Jen Bleyenber

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

Minutes of August 12th meeting: MSP to approve by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

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

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No report

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTwP): sign up deadline is November 1st

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Sign up deadline is November 1st. Working on planning.

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.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Received 15 applications for the vacant position so far. Working on PIP. Getting tracker information and pictures ready for the annual GRTS report. BSRP Steering Committee meeting will occur on September 19th at the Environmental Building on Cliff Ave. in Sioux Falls at 2:00 p.m.

MSP to approve and write two checks totaling \$72,605.40 by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

MSP to approve Voucher #23 by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

Krone-Hedman presented a power point report about the NACD Summer Meeting that she attended in Boston, MA from August 9-14.

OUTREACH: Attended **Pollinator Day** on August 24th at the Good Earth State Park. Will present on urban conservation work and partnerships at the **SDACDE annual convention** in Watertown on September 16th, in conjunction with the NRCS.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – starting to set up sales for dormant seeding.

Community Garden and Demonstration Area – Continuing to work on site; was interviewed on August 19th regarding program for Healthy Soils at Home.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led - Assisting with outreach of locally led program on east side of South Dakota; Urban Conservation Education Coordinator position partially funded.

NACD Grant – Technical assistance grant due on September 30th. MSP to apply for NACD grant by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

OTHER: Rain Garden Pilot Project – Finished up 1st year on project. **Soil Health Coalition** – Continuing to meet and plan new signage and kiosk. **Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Center** – Met with Gevik family to discuss improvements of the area/memorial center. MSP to add Brian Gevik memorial fund checks to current memorial fund by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes. **Sioux Empire Water Festival** – Kickoff meeting held September 10th; invited new committee members to participate. **SDSWMA Annual Conference** – South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association, September 18-20th. May hand out information.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Jen Bleyenbergh, Minnehaha County Commissioner, asked for any input the board has for the commission. Parker will send a Gevik Site report and pictures to the board. He also mentioned that the district would be interested in purchasing herbicide through the County.

Update from Supervisors – Bonander reminded attendees that a No vote is requested on South Dakota Referred Law 21, Regulation of Carbon Dioxide Pipelines Referendum (2024), to negate the legislation that was passed on this issue earlier this year. **Severtson** spoke about Homesteader Day that was held at Beaver Creek Nature Center on September 8th. He helped with the horse farm demonstration there.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: 12 producers have signed up for deep soil samples starting this week. Bio-solid applications won't start until next spring. Trees: Over 20 customers are lined up for 2025 already. 7 tree renovation customers are in place. Grass: 200 acres of CRP planned for next spring. The drills are being rented. Gevik Site: Working with Soil Health Coalition on signage and kiosk. Memorial funds may be used on the signage. MSP to add Brian Gevik Memorial Fund checks to the current memorial fund for the Gevik Site by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes. Water Festival: The kick-off meeting is on September 10th. They are hoping to add new committee members.

2. Fall Convention – September 15-17 - Watertown

Parker, Langner, Krone-Hedman, Heber, Bonander and Ruesch will attend.

3. Urban Grant

Krone-Hedman will be working through SDACD (South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts) with Outreach after the urban grant ends on September 30th. We are also applying for a NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) grant to start on January 1st.

4. Pricing of Products and Services

Parker mentioned that some of the tree nursery prices are going up slightly. This may affect our pricing.

5. Equipment (Bobcat)

The district has been using a Bobcat from Pfeifer Equipment since May for free. The rental will be \$2,000/mo. from September through December. After that we could purchase the machine for \$54,500. This would include a snow blower. 80% of the monthly rental fee goes toward the purchase price. The district will apply for a state loan starting in January 2025. MSP to purchase the Bobcat from Pfeifer Equipment by Bonander and Severtson. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Endowment Grant - Kingsbury

Alan Vedvei of Kingsbury Conservation District Board retired this year. MSP to donate \$100.00 to the endowment fund by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

2. Tree Renovation Grant

Two people are applying for this grant. \$2,500 - \$3,000 in-kind match is needed.

3. NACD Grant/Outreach

We are applying for this grant. We need someone to train to be a planner for the district.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING – None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSP to adjourn at 5:04 p.m. by Severtson and Bonander. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 15th, 2024; November 12th, 2024, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary