

**Minnehaha Conservation District
August 8th, 2019 Monthly Meeting
Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Learning Area
Tour at 2:00 pm/Board meeting 2:30 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

Supervisors present: Brian Alderson, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: Susan Kruse

Advisors absent: Carl Eliason, Jim Jackson, Dana Loseke, Kelly Lyons and Mark McGee

Others present: John Parker, Brian Top, Hersh Smith and Mick Zerr

Agenda: MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer and Woerman. All ayes.

Minutes of July 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Woerman and Alderson. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay. MSP to approve by Schmidtbauer and Alderson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch: No report

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top: 425 acres of SRAM and RAM contracts completed in 2019. 1 Ag-Waste project is under construction; 2 others are being planned/designed. 7 sites still need to be seeded this fall (they have been under water). A “No Cost Extension” request is being made to keep the RCPP project alive for another year to finish up projects. Partnership being developed with Pheasants Forever to administer the easement for watershed customers. EPA Region 8 Ag. Representative toured the watershed on July 31st. This featured partnerships with City of Sioux Falls, DENR, East Dakota Water Development District, and SDSU. Very positive comments were received regarding the watershed project.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes: Mick Zerr of the Sioux Falls Bird Club spoke about the YMCA camps using the Gevik Site. He mentioned that the new signs are very positive for the Y's educational efforts. He thanked the District for repairing the path to the birdhouse.

Update from Supervisors: Bob Woerman spoke about attending the NOLO Outreach meeting and the No-till demonstration at the Joan Miron farm.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Soil sampling is caught up for now; a lot of work to be done this fall. Trees: About 20 acres planned for next spring. 12/1/19 is the sign-up deadline for Woody Habitat grant. Grass: 75 acres left to seed with the 12' drill; 1200 acres were planted with the 26' drill and 300 acres planted with the 15' drill. Gevik Site: Boy Scouts have completed several pollinator/milkweed plantings. Discussion was held about cattail control.

2. Equipment – Future Plans

Discussion about obtaining tractors for next year. Parker will develop a projection of what is needed. Discussion about possibly trading the 1590 drill and getting pricing on a new one.

3. Gevik Opportunity – Ideas

Covered under service report.

4. NOLO Outreach Event – July 18th in Sioux Falls

Woerman attended. 13 women attended plus 5 staff members, for a total of 18 people. An application for a \$10,000 mini-grant will be submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman Pfeifer moved up to Chairman when board member Ron Johnson passed away earlier this year. MSP to nominate Jennifer Schmidtbauer for Vice-Chairman by Woerman and Alderson. All ayes.

2. CCG Grant

The District was awarded this grant that provides \$413,000 over the next 3 years. The District will partner with the City of Sioux Falls to provide community outreach for urban conservation efforts. Native plantings and low impact development will be promoted. Working on a job description for an experienced employee to administer the grant.

3. DOT Road Signs

The current sign at the District shed must be removed, per the DOT. Discussion about sign options.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. by Heber and Woerman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, September 9th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant