

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
September 9th, 2019 Monthly Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Board meeting 3:00 pm**

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

**Supervisors present:** Brian Alderson, Gordon Heber, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman (via telephone)

**Supervisors absent:** Jim Pfeifer

**Advisors present:** Carl Eliason and Susan Kruse

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

**Others present:** John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Tanner Clausen, Brian Top and Drew DeGroot

**Agenda:** MSP to approve (after moving new business item #1 up to 3:30 p.m.) by Heber and Alderson. All ayes.

**Minutes of August 8th meeting:** MSP to approve by Heber and Alderson. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:**

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 36 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** 10 conservation plans and contracts to complete by 9/13/19.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** 3 applications have been obligated. Practices are being certified by 9/13/19.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Certifying practices. 4 additional applications for cover crops were pre-approved, but only 1 will likely to go into a contract.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):** Working with 1 producer for grass certification.

Funds are available to upgrade current easements. National new employee orientation is occurring this week in the area (9/09/19 through 9/13/19).

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:** 1 year extension approved for RCPP. Steering Committee meeting on 9/18/19. MSP to approve conservation plan for addition of acres to an SRAM project by Schmidtbauer and Alderson. All Ayes.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes**

None

**Update from Supervisors**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None Discussed

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Big Sioux River Project – Jay Gilbertson**

Via telephone, Gilbertson discussed the possibility of the Minnehaha Conservation District being a sponsor for this project. Moody County Conservation District is currently the sponsor for segments 2 & 3, running until July of 2020. The Moody County chairman is leaving office and the board has not yet decided if it wants to sponsor segment 4. Sponsorship mainly involves reimbursement filing. Cost share is available for District expenses for working on the project. As a sponsor, a member of the District Board may want to chair the steering committee. The District will be informed later whether the Moody County Board has decided to sponsor segment 4.

**2. Cover Crop Tour – September 19th**

No discussion

Woerman left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

**CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL**

Motion to sign agreements by Schmidtbauer and Alderson. Ayes: Schmidtbauer and Alderson. Abstain: Heber. Motion failed to pass for lack of votes.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence - None

The meeting adjourned early due to lack of quorum when Alderson left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

MSP to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 17th, 2019 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant