

**Minnehaha Conservation District
May 11th, 2020 Monthly Meeting
Minnehaha Conservation District Shed
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

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

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

Supervisors absent: None

Advisors present: None

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Brian Top and Alina Krone-Hedman.

Agenda: MSP to approve by Heber and Alderson. All ayes.

Minutes of February 10th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Pfeifer. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Pfeifer 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:

WETLANDS: We currently have 15 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): No report

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): 2 renewals in process. CSP classic is available as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): 2 new programs are available. 1 – Northern Plains Water Quality and Wildlife Program (benefits to cropped wetlands). 2 – Emergency Animal Mortality Management. 8 new applications received. NWQI Program ended in Minnehaha County.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP): No report

NRCS currently has 1 staff person in the office each day; the others are teleworking. A new CAMP (Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program) is being utilized, which matches new NRCS employees with producers. Nate Stroschein will mentor Andrew Ganske, the new Soil Conservation Technician.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Brian Top: Big Sioux Watershed Project will have 400-500 acres of stream buffers this year. Easement option is being added. Minnehaha Conservation District will take over sponsorship on July 1st (from Moody Conservation District). RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) received notice of funding for a new 5-year project, with \$2 million of financial assistance for practices. Minnehaha Conservation District is the project sponsor. MSP to approve conservation plans for 2 SRAM and 1 RAM contract by Alderson and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Caught up until first crop is harvested. Trees: Planting going well; 55 acres to plant in total. Grass: 1,800 acres in drill rentals (15' and 26') so far this year; 200-300 acres left. 700 acres to plant with the 12' drill. Gevik Site: Mowed and looking good. Parker discussed ideas for creating a farm to table education center at the site.

2. CCG Grant – Urban Educator

Alina Krone-Hedman spoke to the board about projects she has been working on while in this position, since early March. She has worked on a newsletter and web page. She is working with the City of Sioux Falls on low impact development. She has had discussions with wildlife organizations. There may be some high tunnel projects in the future.

3. Soil & Water Research Farm, Inc. Meeting – March 18th Update

on the Ag. Committee, as well as Dusty Johnson, John Thune and Collin Peterson. Additional funding was approved for the Brookings lab and more is being requested. The March 18th meeting was held in Brookings. Research will focus on oats, through an agreement with General Mills. The Field Day was pushed back to September.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wildlife Habitat Grant

The District received an 18-month grant providing 60/40 cost share for the public to establish wildlife habitat, starting on July 1st. The producer would pay 60% of the cost and the grant would provide 40%.

2. CCG Grant – Gevik Site

The District has applied for a CCG (Conservation Collaboration Grant) to establish a farm to table education center at the Gevik site.

3. Notice of Intent to Mine

The Board reviewed and acknowledged a mining plan in the Brandon Township.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

MSP to sign agreement by Alderson and Pfeifer. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:44 p.m. by Heber and Alderson. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 8th, 2020 at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant