

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
September 14th, 2020 Monthly Meeting  
Gevik Learning Area  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

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

**Supervisors absent:** None

**Advisors present:** Dana Loseke

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

**Others present:** John Parker, Eric Grootenboer, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Brian Top, Travis Entenman, and Tanya Svec

**Agenda:** MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

**Minutes of July 13th meeting:** MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

**Minutes of July 29th meeting:** MSP to approve by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 10 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** Field status reviews and CRP offers were completed. Working on non-emergency haying/grazing plans.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** Certifying activities for the upcoming payment season.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** 2 applications were funded. Working through construction and implementation on active contracts.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):** No report

Minnehaha Field Support Office continues in phase 1 of reopening.

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:** We have interest in over 100 acres for SRAM & RAM for the next season. EQIP/RCPP: Programmatic Agreement finished and waiting for NRCS concurrence. Meetings may be held in November to discuss enrollment, priorities and contracting. Steering Committee meeting to be held September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Minnehaha CD tree shed (1120 E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N., Sioux Falls).

**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: Some deep sampling to do; will be busy this fall. Trees: Working on many tree plans, (12 in August). Grass: 60 acres of dormant seeding to do this fall. Gevik Site: Need to work on a parking lot plan for the Game, Fish & Parks trail grant. This needs to be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Sold approximately \$1,200 of native plants this summer.

**2. CCG Grant – Urban Educator – NOFO Grant**

Krone-Hedman reported she has been talking with the City of Sioux Falls about purchasing plants through the Conservation District for some of their projects. Native grass plantings are planned at Sioux Falls city parks (Arrowhead and Legacy) with support from Pheasants Forever and a state grant. She has some green infrastructure projects in the works. She has some curriculum items (on pollinators, urban conservation, etc.) nearly complete.

**3. CCG Grant – Gevik Site (Did not receive)**

There was a lack of funding. District is encouraged to apply again next year.

**4. Urban Agriculture & Innovation Grant (Did not receive)**

Over 500 applications were received and only 7 funded in the U.S. The District will re-apply next year.

**5. Building Improvement Information - Shed**

Parker and Mark Schmidtbauer met to talk about heating and ventilation ideas. Al Kuehl looked at the structure and will come up with a plan. A \$2,500 electrical bid was received from Jensen Electric.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. County Building Space Potential**

Parker and Woerman spoke to the County Commission about the possibility of the Conservation District having office space, a cooler and shop within the new County building. Parker presented a service report and graph that was used to show the County Commission the impact that the District has in the community. The County Commission is working with the building committee to discuss this possibility.

**2. Cooler Space Rental (Dakota Fresh Food Hub)**

Tanya Svec, from the Dakota Fresh Food Hub, spoke with the Board about the possibility of her group using the District's cooler as a rendezvous point and cooler. The Dakota Fresh Food Hub is composed of 16 growers within 100 miles of Sioux Falls that market and deliver their produce to wholesale and retail customers. From July through December the cooler sits empty. From April through June the cooler has trees in it. Parker will follow up with the Department of Agriculture and cooler inspector to get answers to questions.

**3. Notice of Intent to Mine**

Parker presented correspondence about the mining operation that would occur 2 miles east of Harford on Benton St. No objections from the MCD Board.

**4. NRCS Section 1619 Confidentiality Agreement**

Wehmeyer presented the confidentiality agreement to participants for their signature.

**5. Board of Supervisors Forms (Commitment, Confidentiality, Code of Ethics & Attendance)**

Parker handed out copies of the forms to Board members for their signatures.

**6. South Dakota Veterans Affairs Cemetery – Native Grass Seeding Equipment & Time Donation**

45-50 acres of land will be seeded in native grass at the cemetery. Pheasants Forever will provide the seed and asked the District to consider donating time and equipment to seed the project. MSP to donate the time and equipment for the seeding project by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer. All ayes.

**7. East Dakota Water Development District Project Assistance Funds - Drill**

MSP to request a \$5,000 donation from EDWDD to go toward the new 30' drill purchase by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer. All ayes.

A booth has been reserved for the 2021 Pheasant Fest. The SDACD annual meeting and convention were cancelled this year. A virtual meeting will be held in 2 regional areas on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Woerman and Pfeifer indicated an interest in attending. Land Judging will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be 4 sessions, with a 10 student per school limit.

**Executive Session (if needed)** – Not needed

**CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL**

MSP to sign agreements by Schmidtbauer and Pfeifer. Schmitbauer, Pfeifer, Alderson and Woerman – aye. Heber - abstain.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:52 p.m. by Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, October 19th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. – District Shed**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant