

**Minnehaha Conservation District
November 9th, 2020 Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:26 p.m. Due to zoom difficulties, we had to reschedule the meeting for the same time slot, which delayed the start. We also posted the change and new sign-in information on Facebook and website at the time of rescheduling.

Supervisors present: Gordon Heber, Jennifer Schmidtbauer and Bob Woerman

Supervisors absent: Brian Alderson and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Susan Kruse and Dana Loseke

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Barry Berg, Brian Top, Alexa Kruse and Jay Gilbertson

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

Minutes of September 14th meeting: MSP to approve (with correction on the conservation plan motion to show that Heber abstained) by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 12 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): no news

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Completing the payment season. Taking new applications and working on 5 renewal applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working through construction and implementation on active contracts. Taking new applications until December 11th deadline. Need to start discussing Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) proposals with staff and partners. In 2022, 2/3rds of funding will be based on CIS projects.

Jeff Zimprich, State Conservationist, will be retiring on January 2nd. The Sioux Falls Service Center continues with reopening phase 1 but will be closed from November 10th to November 17th.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg or Brian Top: Working with new producers for next season, with interest for over 100 acres already. Programmatic Agreement finished and waiting for National Headquarters action. 2 Ag. Waste Management System reimbursements. Segment 3 final report is completed. Minnehaha Conservation District is now the sponsor of the Big Sioux River project. MSP to approve voucher #1 by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve voucher #2 by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes. 3 checks will be written to Topsoil LLC for work completed. MSP to write a check to Moody Conservation District to reimburse them for check #1 in the amount of \$4,671.86 by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes. MSP to issue two checks to TopSoil LLC - \$3,892.80 (September consulting) and \$3,210.34 (October consulting) by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Working on possible projects at the Gevik site and public parks. May work with the City on native plantings, rain garden/bio swale areas, urban forestry and more if grant money is awarded. Education material is complete; webinars and workshops may be coming.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – No comments

Update from Supervisors - None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Soil sampling has 3 full days of work left; possibly it can be completed next week. Trees: 50 acres are planned; 22 of those are committed. Grass: Dormant seeding is completed, except for the Military Cemetery seeding. Gevik Site: Information will be coming on the Game, Fish and Parks Trail Grant. The site has been used a lot this year.

2. Building Improvement Information - Shed

The tree shed has been insulated and sealed with sheet rock. Costs for projected remodeling in the middle building would total about \$20,300. (Sewer permit - \$2,400; Lumber - \$3,000; Bathroom/shower - \$5,000; Heating – \$2,500 – \$3,000; and Walls, insulation & electric – \$4,000). To offset these costs, we are receiving \$4,800/year for cooler rent and savings from eliminating the Porta-Potty rental would be \$1,200 per year (\$6,000 over 5 years). We have applied for a Corona Virus grant through the State of SD in the amount of \$9,200. A Water Festival Donation for storage would be \$2,500. Work could begin in December. Parker will put together more figures about the cost for the next meeting.

3. County Building Space Potential

There would be no space for a shop or cooler. They may come up with office space for a monthly fee.

4. Cooler Space Rental (Dakota Fresh Food Hub)

The organization is renting the cooler for \$400.00/month. They have an agreement for October through December this year and would like a 12-month contract. Food is brought in on Wednesday night and Thursday mornings and distributed to 16-17 places by Thursday afternoon each week.

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

The District would like to get these forms signed and turned in, along with the NRCS Confidentiality form that was handed out at the September meeting. Heber noted that he refuses to sign the Conservation District forms pertaining to Ethics & Attendance, Board Responsibilities, Confidentiality & Commitment. These forms are in the Supervisor's manual that is put out by the State. He would sign the NRCS Confidentiality form.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Soil Judging – September 22, 2020

Judging was held at the Gevik Learning Area with 15 schools and 110 students participating. Students were spaced out in 4 different groups, with only 4 schools present during their scheduled time slot.

2. Chamber of Commerce Dues

Now renamed "Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce". Membership dues are \$200/year. MSP to pay dues by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

3. NACD Yearly Membership

\$775 for Gold Membership. MSP to pay \$775 dues by Heber and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

4. Annual Budget - 2021

Parker continues to work on this and will present at the next board meeting.

5. Supervisor Voucher

Gordon Heber - \$175 for 5 meetings per diem and 107 miles voucher submitted. No motion was made.

Executive Session (if needed) – not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correspondence

MSP to adjourn at 4:56 p.m. by Schmidtbauer and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, District Office Assistant