

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Monthly Meeting  
Via Zoom  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Woerman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Supervisors present:** Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, Jennifer Schmidtbauer (left meeting at 3:59 p.m.) and Bob Woerman

**Supervisors absent:** None

**Advisors present:** Susan Kruse and Dana Loseke

**Advisors absent:** Brian Alderson, Carl Eliason, Kelly Lyons, and Mark McGee

**Others present:** John Parker, Eric Grootenboer, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, Deron Ruesch, Barry Berg, Alexa Kruse, Jay Gilbertson, Jeff Barth, and Brian Top

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

**Minutes of January 11th meeting:** MSP to approve (with amendments to show John Parker as Board Treasurer/Secretary and Denise Fletcher as Recording Secretary, as well as to show the time that Jennifer Schmidtbauer left the meeting) by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

The office continues in phase 1 of re-opening – 3 NRCS staff and 1 partner in the building.

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 7 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** General signup has been extended to an undetermined date. Grassland signup is from March 15<sup>th</sup> to April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Working through continuous offers; waiting on acceptance of generals before working on those.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** Working on approval and obligating renewal application.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Working on applications. Sent out 206 postcards about the CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) and received about 10 responses. Two conservation plans need approval (CSP-GCI and CRP).

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:** Working on digitizing surveys and putting together contracts for 2021 SRAM and RAM. EQIP/RCPP contract is ready to sign. RCPP supplemental agreement will follow. Planning 7 water developments for producers and fencing on 120 acres. Continued work on WLE (Working Lands Easement) project along Skunk Creek. Alexa Kruse is working on a logo and website. MSP to approve 2 checks to be issued (TopSoil LLC and EDWDD) by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:** CIS application survey was sent out about Urban Agriculture. 22 responses were received; about half were for 10 acres or less. Garden Webinar series has started. 22 people requested links for February 4<sup>th</sup> presentation on Rain Gardens and 8 tuned in. There will be a meeting regarding a rain garden by a creek at Garretson. A Gevik Site meeting was held, where the group decided to pursue a Home Depot Impact Grant (up to \$5,000). This would be used to make the site more ADA compliant – a better ramp to the bird observation house and to re-do the parking lot.

**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: Strong contract is in place for the next 3-5 years with the City. Working through the winter finding participants for the project. Trees: 35 acres planned. Grass: Meeting held with NRCS. 432 acres (17 CRP contracts) are planned to seed. 6 producers interested in the 15' and 30' drills for about 400 acres. Potential cover crop funds are available through the Soil Health Coalition. Gevik Site: Covered in Krone-Hedman's report. Parker presented pictures of projects completed by the District over the last 10 years – trees planted, terraces seeded and native grass plantings.

**2. Building Improvement Information - Shed**

The tree shed is almost complete. A mural will be added on the wall. Building inspector is coming on February 10<sup>th</sup> to look at the middle shed building project.

**3. Annual Budget – 2021**

MSP to adopt the 2021 budget by Entenman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Big Sioux River Project – RCPP Agreement**

MSP to adopt agreement by Entenman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

**2. Working Agreement between EDWDD and Minnehaha Conservation District**

MSP to adopt agreement by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

**3. Job Appraisals**

Woerman's research had indicated an industry trend of 3-5% raises. Woerman recommended a 4% raise. Schmidtbauer, Entenman and Pfeifer all indicated they were comfortable with a 4% increase. MSP to give a 4% raise to all 4 employees (Parker, Grootenboer, Jaeger and Fletcher) by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to make the raise effective with the next pay period by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. All ayes.

**4. SDACD Membership Investment 2021**

\$975.00 annual membership cost. MSP to pay annual membership by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

**5. Intent to Mine Notification**

Parker discussed the communication that was sent. MSP to acknowledge the notice by Pfeifer and Heber. All ayes.

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

**CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL**

MSP to sign agreements by Entenman and Pfeifer. Ayes – Entenman, Pfeifer, Schmidtbauer and Woerman. Abstain – Heber.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Correspondence – February 25<sup>th</sup> Webinar will be held by Pheasants Forever about putting conservation on the ground. Notice will be placed on the District website.

MSP to adjourn at 4:22 p.m. by Entenman and Pfeifer. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 8th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary

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