

Minnehaha Conservation District
March 8th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. At Pfeifer's request, a moment of silence was observed for Chairman Bob Woerman, who passed away on February 28th.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Jim Pfeifer, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

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, Brian Top, Michelle Burke, Brady Wakefield, and Tim Wakefield

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

Minutes of February 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Heber. 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 and Deron Ruesch:

Minnehaha County center is at 25% capacity; 4 employees allowed on NRCS side. CCG Grant Meeting held with participants at Willow Creek. Extension has the lead and will hold an outreach event on March 15th. Michelle Burke, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations based in Brookings, introduced herself.

WETLANDS: We currently have 2 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): General signup deadline extended to unknown date. Grassland signup is March 15th to April 23rd. Working through continuous offers.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Classic CSP batching deadline is March 26th. 2 renewal CSP obligated.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working through applications. Rethinking Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS). Ideas are welcome.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Digitizing surveys and putting together contracts for 2021 SRAM and RAM. Working on RCPP Supplemental Agreement. Continue work on Working Lands Easement (WLE) – survey and plat completed on first contract (on Skunk Creek) and being registered with Minnehaha County. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee will be held March 17th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Dell Rapids city administration building and via Zoom. MSP to pay voucher to TopSoil LLC for consulting by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: "Raised Beds" on March 18th will be the last in the webinar series. Over 30 participants so far. Links will be posted on the District website calendar for future webinars. Working with the City of Sioux Falls on a Sustainability Master Plan. Looking into rain garden refurbishing projects. Parker and Krone-Hedman met with a group in Garretson near Split Rock Park about a rain garden. Working on Conservation Innovation Strategy (CIS) projects for urban agriculture. Working on the recreational trail grant for the Gevik Site which is due in April.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Heber noted that the Eastern South Dakota Soil & Water Research Farm meeting will be held in Brookings on March 17th, with lunch (by reservation) at noon and meeting following. He will attend.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site, etc.)** Bio-solids: Received signed contract from City. 400 acres to sample already. Trees: 45 plus acres to plant. Grass: 475 acres CRP and 250 acres conventional to seed. Large drills have 650 – 750 acres planned. Gevik Site: Besides the trail & parking lot grant that Krone-Hedman mentioned, there is a bird house and walkway grant through the Game, Fish & Parks Dept. that is being worked on. Will get estimates on cost of work and apply.
- 2. Building Improvement Information - Shed**
Project is at a standstill until plumbers can give bids. Lumber has been acquired.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Vacant Board Position**
Heber mentioned advertising the open board position via newspaper and website; other board members agreed. Gilbertson mentioned the official vacancy procedures. Parker will get the position advertised.
- 2. Big Sioux Representative**
The Board agreed to appoint Parker to lead the Big Sioux Steering Committee for the March 17th meeting. The permanent member can be decided later. Parker also mentioned there is an opening as Area Representative for the Vermillion-Big Sioux Conservation Districts board. Heber indicated that he may be interested in that position.
- 3. SDACD Grant – Tim Wakefield**
Wakefield was the recipient of the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) tree research grant. The grant covered \$2,379.57 for trees, fabric, etc. and \$500.00 to the District for design assistance and travel. Tim and Brady Wakefield presented a slide presentation showing pictures and data about their project. They had an irrigation system with a 350-gallon tank. Brady is monitoring the trees and watering data on spreadsheets. There may be an outreach event to display the project at some point.
- 4. Intent to Mine Notification**
Parker presented information on 2 different Intent to Mine notifications that were received. The Board acknowledged the information.

Executive Session (if needed) – not needed

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL

MSP to sign two CSP Renewal Conservation Plan agreements by Schmidtbauer and Entenman. Ayes – Entenman, Pfeifer and Schmidtbauer. Abstain - Heber.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Correspondence -** Parker noted the Isaak Walton League 2021 Wildlife Habitat Award. He would like to nominate Mike Heisler. Nominations need to be in by August 31st. The SD Dept. of Ag. State Conservation Award is also available, and Parker would like to nominate Tony Gelderman/Gelderman Farms. Let him know if you have candidates for either award.

MSP to adjourn at 4:14 p.m. by Entenman and Schmidtbauer. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary