

**Minnehaha Conservation District
April 13th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

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

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

Supervisors absent: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors present: Susan Kruse

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

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Jay Gilbertson, and Brian Top

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

Minutes of March 8th meeting: MSP to approve by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

Minnehaha County center is at 50% capacity; 6 employees in the department.

WETLANDS: We currently have 8 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Staking new and reseeded offers; completing site preparation and final status reviews. General signup deadline was extended to an unknown date. Grassland signup: March 15th to April 23rd.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Classic CSP batching deadline has passed; working on 2 applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Working through Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) proposals for Sustainable Agriculture Initiative. Ideas/thoughts on additional CIS proposals for 2023 and beyond are welcome. Proposals due April 15th. Getting active contract practices implemented and certified.

Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg: Finished with SRAM & RAM contracting for Spring 2021. RCPP Supplemental Agreement completed and up for review by NRCS. Animal Waste Storage Facility Construction completed. Working Lands Easement (WLE) nearing completion. MSP to approve voucher #5 by Entenman and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign 5 SRAM packages by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign 4 RAM packages by Entenman and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve and sign WLE purchase agreement (109.6 acres) by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. Entenman is involved with this project through Northern Prairies Land Trust, but not directly through the District. The Board agreed to allow his participation in the vote. MSP to approve TopSoil LLC check for March consulting services by Entenman and Heber. All ayes. MSP to approve Item #6 (Check to hold for Chad Storer for hog barn construction) and Item #7 (Check to hold for Donovan & Bonita Gelderman for WLE on Skunk Creek) by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) proposals are being worked on that would utilize high tunnel, cover crops, filter strips and other practices. Garden webinars finished up in March. Raised bed kits are available for sale in the county. Evaluating grants for Gevik Site projects, including a technical grant. City of Sioux Falls has a survey out to area residents concerning a Sustainability Matrix.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors: Heber attended the annual Eastern South Dakota Soil & Water Research Farm meeting in Brookings on March 17th. He noted a motion was presented to give each participating conservation district (13 districts) \$2,000.00, due to the favorable financial position. The legality of the motion is being studied. The land for the farm was purchased originally by 13 conservation districts in SD, including Minnehaha. All meetings are open to the public.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Sampling fields. 2-3 new people are interested in participating. Trees: 53-56 acres to plant. Grass: 750-800 acres to seed with the 12' drill. Good Earth Project: 100 acres seeding is underway. 350 acres in on the 30' drill. The 15' drill has 125 acres in, plus 200 this week. Gevik Site: Cleared the area for beehives; mowed and cleared area for pollinators. ½ acre pollinator site to be seeded on west side; Boy Scouts will maintain. Waiting to hear about trail and bird house grants. NRCS has surveyed area and waiting on that report.

Parker and Gilbertson reported on the March quarterly Big Sioux River Project Meeting. Representative Karr had presented a \$3 million Big Sioux River Project funding pilot opportunity available through the State. Need to figure out how to capitalize on this opportunity.

The District's 80th anniversary will occur in November of this year. There was discussion about ordering hats, pens, t-shirts, etc. MSP to spend up to \$1,000.00 on 80th Anniversary commemoration items by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

2. Building Improvement Information – Shed

Construction is at a standstill due to the busy season. Water-sewer hook-up plan looks good. Could possibly get some areas framed in May. The Covid Relief Grant will come through to the District for approximately \$9,000.00.

3. Vacant Board Position

Next Tuesday, April 20th, an ad for the vacant position will be posted in various publications and on the District web site and social media for two consecutive weeks. Discussion was held about memorial funds that have been received for Bob Woerman.

4. Big Sioux Representative

Representative position decision will be made in June. Heber has applied for the position.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cover Crop Grant

A cover crop grant can be written in the Fall. MSP to apply for a Cover Crop Grant through the State Commission by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

2. Tree Renovation Grant

This grant can be written in the Fall. MSP to apply for the Tree Renovation Grant through the State Commission in 2021 by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 4:13 p.m. by Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 17th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary