

**Minnehaha Conservation District  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Monthly Meeting  
Via Zoom  
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

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

**Supervisors absent:** None

**Advisors present:** Susan Kruse

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

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

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

**Minutes of April 13th 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 Entenman and Heber. All ayes.

**NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:**

The office is at 50% capacity, 6 employees in the department.

**WETLANDS:** We currently have 16 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):** Completing site preparation and final status reviews.

General sign-up deadline has been extended to an unknown date.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):** Working on one high priority application.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):** Waiting to find out about approval of two CIS proposals (one cover crop and one high tunnel). Active contract practices are being implemented and certified.

**Big Sioux River – RCPP Report by Barry Berg:** Completed contracts for 160 acres of SRAM and 64 acres of RAM. RCPP Supplemental Agreement is going through another round of changes. Animal Waste Storage Facility construction completed and reimbursed. Working Lands Easement (WLE) Purchase Agreement and Termination Agreement (SRAM) signed. Closing to be completed when all components are done. MSP to approve check to TopSoil LLC for April consulting fee by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

**Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:** Working with the City of Sioux Falls on Sustainability Master Plan; moving into the next phase. Will participate in Queen Bee Day at Remedy Brewing on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Farmer's Markets at Look's Market on Wednesday evenings. Participated in Gevik Site meetings. Hope to work with children this summer, possibly at the Gevik Site. Sold about 10 raised garden beds.

**Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None**

**Update from Supervisors –** Heber mentioned that a Field Day will be held this summer at the Research Farm in Brookings. He will get more information.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Bio-solids: Caught up for now. Looking for more application ground from farmers within a 20-mile distance of Sioux Falls and in SD. 220 acres are signed up. Trees: 65 acres to plant; should be 90% planted by the end of this week. Grass: 475 acres of CRP and 125 acres regular grass to seed. 350 acres committed for the 15' drill and 325 acres for the 30' drill. Gevik Site: District application was not approved for the Home Depot grant. Seeing some issues again with neighboring lands. May want to consider purchasing more adjacent land or trading parcels.

### **2. Building Improvement Information – Shed**

Work is on hold due to busy work season. Need to find a sewer work service provider.

### **3. Vacant Board Position**

Ads have been published in county newspapers and the District website, with one more week to go. So far, two community members have contacted Parker. Advisor, Susan Kruse, has also indicated interest.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Area Meeting - June**

This meeting will be held June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Parker at the restaurant downtown. A headcount is needed by June 15<sup>th</sup> for the meal. Parker, Grootenboer and Heber plan to attend.

### **2. Huether Foundation Information**

Mike Huether and family like to do conservation and environmental projects in the community. We need to create a bigger plan and vision for the Gevik site. Looking to create more natural environment projects, such as expanding pollinator and other plantings. This would be lieu of a farm to table focus – (we already have the Dakota Food Hub renting our cooler for that kind of project.) Community Foundation programs may also be applicable here. Top mentioned that it is important to put a solid plan on paper to present to the Huether Foundation. Parker will follow up with finding a person to do that. Discussion was held about ideas for memorials for past Board members who have died and possibly creating an area in the Gevik Site. Funds have been received from the Woerman family for that purpose. This may also be a part of the master plan.

**Executive Session (if needed) - None**

**CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL - None**

**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – None**

MSP to adjourn at 4:17 p.m. by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 14th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – at the District Shed and via Zoom**

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary