

**Minnehaha Conservation District
October 18th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
At the District Shed and 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, Susan Kruse, and Jim Pfeifer (Kruse left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.)

Supervisors absent: Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Advisors present: None

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

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

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

Minutes of August 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

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

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay August bills by Heber and Kruse. All ayes. MSP to approve and pay September bills by Heber and Kruse. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 30 certified wetland determination requests in progress. New compliance Specialist, Craig Olawsky, started on 10/12/21.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): 23 continuous offers and 2 general offers were made.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Starting to pay participants for 2021 activities. Application deadline is 12/3/21.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Minnehaha Sustainable Ag. Initiative application deadline is 10/22/21. Active contract practices are getting implemented and certified. General EQIP application deadline is 12/3/21.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: 6 applications were received.

Wehmeyer led a discussion about practices and resource concerns as they apply to CSP and EQIP applications. MSP to accept 8 resource concerns listed by Heber and Kruse. All ayes.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Working with producers for next year's SRAM sign-up. Putting new contracts together for existing SRAM and RAM participants for next year. Meeting on 10/19/21 to discuss batching, ranking and obligation date for EQIP/RCPP. Completed annual GRTS report for EPA, as well as STEPL load reductions. The 8th Annual Big Sioux River Summit will be held on 12/7/21. MSP to approve voucher #7 (which covers wages, benefits, and travel for staff - \$39,215.16 and 75% reimbursement for 2 livestock watering facilities - \$10,537.80) by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Working on the City Sustainability Master Plan. A Sustainability & Climate Action Plan open house will be held on 10/21/21. Gardening space for lease to the public sites are being looked at. A survey will go out. September pollinator event was held at Good Earth State Park; had a steady flow of participants. CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) batching date is 10/22/21. Per Brian Top, 3 high tunnel applications have been funded – 2 through General EQIP and 1 through CIS.

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: Waiting for crop harvest to do more sampling. Contract with City will be renewed in November for 2 more years. Trees: 8-10 acres planned. Tree prices set slightly higher for next year. Grass: 225 acres of dormant seeding to do. 6-7 seedings planned for next year. Gevik Site: Neighbor to the west is removing cattle from his property and has offered to clean up fence lines, remove bushes, etc. The District paid all the cost for building the fence. Parker will visit more with the owner and report at the next meeting. Discussion was held about the timeline for proposed improvements to the site. Parker presented slides about projects that have been completed this year.

2. Building Remodeling Update

Waiting on electrician and plumber to finish project.

3. Future Equipment Needs

2002, 2006 and 2009 trucks are all in good shape, but have a lot of miles. Parker is getting state bids for a new truck. Discussion about tractor leases for next year. Discussion about leasing a Bobcat skid-steer loader with attachments to complete more mowing and tilling that can't be done with large tractors. Parker will bring financial data to the next meeting.

4. Land Judging – September 28th

14 schools participated with 170 students. This was held at the Jeff Zimprich property by Brandon.

5. Fall Convention – Spearfish, SD - September 19 – 21

Parker and Kruse attended. 25 districts were represented with 150 people. There were a lot of good break-out sections and encouragement for supervisors to educate themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

1. County Budgeting

The County Commission approved a \$2,040 stipend for the District for 2022. We will submit the request after January 1st. On November 23rd at 9:00 a.m. Parker will give a presentation to the Commission.

2. Conservation Plan Signing

According to state regulations, the signer cannot be an employee of the Conservation District; only a board member can sign. MSP to rescind the action taken in July, removing Parker as the plan signer by Heber and Entenman. All ayes. This subject will be further considered at the next meeting.

Kruse left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

3. Conservation Fund – Altar’d States

Parker received correspondence from the Altar’d States store in the mall, indicating that they were donating funds to the Conservation District in the amount of \$5,700.00. The corporation chooses water quality and water quantity projects in the area to give a grant to. Parker suggested that we add the funds to the Gevik Site account.

4. Budget Plan in November

Parker will have 2022 budget plan put together for November meeting.

Parker mentioned that the Summit Carbon Solutions will have an informational meeting in Tea on 10/27/21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He will attend and report back. An “Intent to Mine” form was received from TCB, LLC and discussed with the board.

Executive Session (if needed) – None

CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEW - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

MSP to adjourn at 5:13 p.m. by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom and at Shed

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary