

**Minnehaha Conservation District
November 8th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
At the District Shed and Via Zoom
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Schmidtbauer called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, Susan Kruse, and Jennifer Schmidtbauer

Supervisors absent: Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Allen Severtson

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

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

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

Minutes of October 18th meeting: MSP to approve by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

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

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

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: We currently have 31 certified wetland determination requests in progress.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): Completing status reviews for 16 contracts expiring in 2023.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP): Working through payments/documentation; Application deadline is Dec. 3; 2 applications received so far.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Active contract practices are getting implemented and certified; General EQIP application deadline is Dec. 3; 2 or 3 applications received so far.

BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT RCPP: Initial planning on 3-4 potential RCPP applicants so far; Application deadline is Dec. 3; Working on postcard outreach efforts with partner staff.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Applications are getting approved by FSA.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Barry Berg: Completed 2 contracts for SRAM on Skunk Creek; EQIP/RCPP batching date is Dec. 3. We are removing the cost list practice caps for this round; the contract cap will remain at \$450,000.00. 8th annual Big Sioux River Summit will be held on Dec. 7. MSP to approve and pay \$10,537.80 for two water facilities by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman: Met with the City Sustainability Coordinator about coordinating projects (establishing a community garden is one of them). Sustainability open house and a survey have generated feedback that indicates an interest in native plant education and community gardens. People are interested in planting native grass in their yards and need clarification from the City.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes - None

Update from Supervisors – Entenman mentioned that he will be speaking at the December 7th Big Sioux River Summit at the Sanford Premiere Center. Parker and Berg will be speaking as well.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bio-solids: Busy with soil sampling. New 2-year contract with City will be turned in. Trees: 20 acres have committed. 15-20 more parties are interested. Grass: Dormant seeding is in process – 100 – 200 acres left to do, depending on the weather. Gevik Site: Have not heard from the adjacent landowner. Will meet with Chad Kucker of Confluence about changes to the master plan. Parker and Top attended the Summit Carbon Solutions open house in October. Many objections to the plan were brought up. They are planning to use the same easement path as the Dakota Access Pipeline and will go west of the Gevik site, not on it.

2. Building Remodeling Update

Finishing up the new space; walls have been painted. Waiting for the plumber to complete the restroom and the furnace technician to hook up the heating and ventilation.

3. Future Equipment Needs

Parker led a discussion about purchasing a used tractor from Codington County Conservation District that could be used with the 7' mower, sprayer and seeder. Sioux International has promised two tractors for lease again. Last year we only got one. John Deere would lease tractors at \$30.00/hr. A Bobcat would cost about \$11,000.00/year on lease. MSP to purchase used Kubota tractor and weights for \$21,000.00 by Kruse and Entenman. All ayes.

4. Conservation Plan Signing

MSP to authorize the Chairman of the Board or a board member to sign conservation plans (plans would not be discussed at the meeting) by Heber and Kruse. All Ayes.

5. Budget Plan 2022

Parker will present the budget at the next meeting. Eric Grootenboer is looking at attending Fireman Academy, which could start in January. This could affect the budget as well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Membership Dues

MSP to pay annual dues by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

2. Soil Health Convention – January 18-19, 2022 in Aberdeen

Parker plans to attend. MSP to pay annual dues to the Soil Health Coalition by Heber and Entenman. All ayes.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEW - None

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MSP to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. by Entenman and Kruse. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 13th, 2021 at 3:00 pm – via Zoom and at Shed

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary