

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, January 12th, 2017

9:30 a.m. CDT - USDA Service Center – 2450 Overlook Lane Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Ted Becker at 9:35am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary
Brandon Schafer
Adam Pachi
Rocky Bateman
Don Tanaka

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler
Michele Doyle
Jay Fuhrer

Absent

Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf
Duane Olsen

III. **REORGANIZATION OF MCSCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

a. **Appointed Supervisors**

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to appoint Jim Hopfauf and Richard Tokach as appointed supervisors.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

Beth McCleary took control of the meeting for election.

b. **Chair**

Ted & Rocky were nominated for Chair of the Board.

Nominations ceased to go to an oral vote:

All votes for Ted

Voting Aye (2)

Rocky Bateman Aaron Steckler

All votes for Rocky

Voting Aye (1)

Ted Becker

Ted Becker was voted for the Chair of the board

Ted Took control of the meeting as board of supervisor chairman.

c. **Vice-Chair**

Rocky was nominated for Vice-Chair.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Ted, to appoint Rocky Bateman as Vice-Chair of the Board.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (2)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Opposed (1)

Rocky Bateman

d. **Official Secretary**

Beth McCleary was nominated for Official Secretary

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to appoint Beth McCleary as the Official Secretary.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

e. **Recording Secretary & Treasurer**

Beth McCleary was nominated for Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to appoint Beth McCleary as the Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

f. **Advisory Supervisors**

Don Tanaka, Duane Olsen, and Travis Wolf were nominated for the Advisory Supervisors.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Travis Wolf, Don Tanaka and Duane Olsen as Advisory Supervisors.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

g. **RC&D Representative**

Duane Olsen was nominated for RC&D Representative.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Duane Olsen as the RC&D Representative.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Rocky Bateman as a back up to Duane Olsen.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

h. **RDC Representative**

Rocky was nominated for RDC Representative.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Rocky Bateman as the RDC Representative.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

i. **Area IV Representative**

Duane Olsen was nominated as the Area IV Representative.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Duane Olsen as Area IV Representative.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to appoint Aaron as a back up to Duane Olsen.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

j. **Personnel Committee**

Jim Hopfauf and Travis Wolf were nominated for the Personnel Committee.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have the District Conservationist, Jim Hopfauf and Travis Wolf be on the Personnel Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

k. **Financial & Equipment Committee**

Richard Tokach was nominated for the Financial and Equipment Committee.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to elect Richard Tokach and Travis Wolf to be on the Financial and Equipment Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to remove Travis Wolf from signing district checks and replace Travis Wolf with Richard Tokach.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the December 2nd, 2016 minutes

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

V. TREASURER'S REPORT - Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve both the District and 319 financial report as submitted by Beth McCleary.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Newsletter – Due January 13th, 2017 – Annual Report – Newsletter articles are due to Beth by January 13th. The newsletter will include the 2016 annual report as well as the 2016 achievement winner. Adam stated that he will also have an article in the newsletter about living snow fences.
- b. Website- Beth updated the website with the personnel committee meeting as well as the board meeting notice. The website did get hacked twice and was down for a few days, but it is back up and running now.
- c. Water Spicket – No report
- d. Winter Workshop 2017 – February 16th, 2017 – Brandon stated that the Winter Workshop is all planned and speakers are all lined up. There was a discussion on whether the board was still interested in having the Winter Workshop due to the amount of snow that we have received. Jay provided an update to the board on the Workshop scheduled for January 16th, 2017 and other workshops planned. Jay also provided information on doing a workshop in the summer or fall of 2017 with the main speaker being Allan Savory.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to cancel the 2017 Winter Workshop due to the unpredictability of the weather and ask our sponsors to put their donations towards Allan Savory workshop in summer or fall of 2017.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- e. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – nothing new to report
- f. 2017 Women's Ag Day – March 7th, 2017 – Beth provided a report on Women's Ag Day. Dr. Barbara Handy-Marchello will be the keynote speaker. She will be presenting on a general overview of pioneer farm women's experience. The title of her presentation is "Pioneer Farm Women: Smart, Able and Hardworking". The other speaker is Dr. Kimberly Porter. Dr. Porter is a professor of history at UND. Her presentation is planning to be on Women in the NPL. We will also have a traveling exhibit from the State Historical Society of ND. The exhibit is called "Land in Her Own Name" and contains 24 panels of pictures and captions. Both speakers are not charging us a speaker fee. There is a \$25 fee for the traveling exhibit. Beth sent out about 80 sponsor letters and will go to a few places in person to ask for a donation. Beth also showed the board an idea to implement the old black and white photos from the SCD by making tile coasters with the photos. The total cost for creating the tiles would be \$150-\$200.

- g. Wildlife Escape Ramp Report – Adam has not heard back from True North.
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have the district not sell Wildlife Escape Ramps at this time.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- h. Mitigation Proposals – Follow up Report – Adam review. The District has a big order for hand plant trees and Adam discussed that with the board. The purchaser will be paying for the trees in full, prior to receiving the trees, via cashier's check.

- i. District Enclosed Trailer Report – The District received a check from State Farm, for Loss of Property, in the amount of \$4,650.00. Adam provided quotes to the board for a new trailer.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to purchase a 7'x16', white, aluminum frame with enclosed wiring enclosed trailer.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR – The Board reviewed the work plan calendar.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Personnel Committee Report- Travis provided a report from the personnel committee meeting.
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron to provide Brandon with a \$0.90 per hour raise and Adam and Beth with a \$0.83 per hour raise.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to provide the district staff with a \$250.00 clothing allowance to spend on Morton County SCD apparel.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- b. Roger Klemisch to Mow at District Shed – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to continue to have Roger Klemisch mowing and maintaining the district shed grass.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- c. Plant Materials Letter – The board reviewed the letter.

- d. Jackie Buckley Retirement – January 26th, 2017 2-6 PM @ Mandan Eagles –
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, for the District to purchase Jackie a Retirement gift up to \$100.00.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- e. Conservation at the Capital – February 1st, 2017 – Travis suggested having a booth with our Soil Health Mentors. Brandon will try to put something together and present it at the capital.
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to donate \$100.00 towards lunch for the Conservation at the Capital Event.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

- f. Joint Soil Health Workshops

1. January 16th, 2017 Johann Zeitsman – The staff has been calling producers to invite them to the meeting since no invitations were able to be sent out.

2. March 1st & 2nd, 2017 Paul Jasa (Main talk March 1st then 2 shop talks one Morton one Burleigh March 2nd) – the board agrees that the district will participate in the meetings and shop talks. The board discussed possible producer panel nominations. Don suggested Rocky Bateman, Jim Hopfauf, Travis Wolf, and the Steckler's. Other suggestions were Kenny Miller and Lance Gartner. The tentative panel the board agreed to is Rocky, Jim, Travis, and Steckler's.

The board recessed for lunch from 12:15pm to 1:05pm.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Many of the producers applied for both EQIP and OMG and NRCS will be getting pre-approvals in the coming weeks. Grant County is wondering if Brandon would be able to assist them on working on their OMG contracts. Grant County is willing to cover Brandon's wages.
Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to allow Brandon to assist Grant County with OMG contracts as well as requesting Grant County to reimburse the Morton County SCD for his wages as well as mileage.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

X. MCSCD HANDBOOK

- a. Review/Approve – Put on hold till next meeting

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam will be asking for approval for leave for when his baby is born. Adam will put together information for Brandon and Beth to help when he is gone.
Wildlife Society – Adam is asking if the board would allow Adam to go to the Wildlife Society Convention on District time on February 8th-10th.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve Adam to go to the Conference & Workshop on District time as well as pay \$50.00 for the registration fee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

Adam also provided a request to allow the staff to start looking at putting up a new building. The lease for our current building is up December 2018. The board decided to wait on that subject.

b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update – Beth completed all W-2's and 1099's for the 2016 season. Beth also completed the year-end tax requirements. Beth will also contact Lynnell from Mahlum and Goodhart to discuss the audit/agreed upon procedures. Beth completed the board 2016 mileage. Beth also received a copy of Kenny Miller's Video that was played at the annual convention and will try to post that to the district website.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

1. Update on Watershed Program – Water Festival is April 11th. There is a Soil and Water training through NDSU at the Fargo Dome, Brandon is interested in going. The cost is \$80.00 and is a one day training. The training is January 18th, 2017.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Brandon to attend the Soil and Water training in Fargo and pay for the \$80.00 registration fee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – No report at this time

XII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. MCSCD Handbook – Rocky – Rocky and Travis will meet with Beth tomorrow for the pay schedule.
- b. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- c. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky
- d. Winter Workshop 2017 – Richard – Remove for next meeting Winter Workshop canceled.
- e. Women's Ag Day – Jim

XIII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 1. NRCS Programs Update – CRP grassland contracts to put together. FSA will be advertising another CRP opening soon. Justin no longer works for the NDASCD and they are advertising the position and plan to have the main office be Mandan. Melissa McCann also accepted a position in Valley City and will soon no longer be with the Mandan office.
- b. County Extension Agent – No report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – No report

- XIV. CORRESPONDENCE** – NRCS Letter from Mary Podoll, ND Water Magazine, Holiday Card from K2S, NDIRF Participant, Chamber Connection Magazine, Survey from Plant Materials, Letter from Travis Rossow, Donation request from Mandan Golden Age Services, and Morton County Producer Newsletter.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, for the District to apply for an NRCS Contribution Agreement.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

XV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve

XVI. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, February 19th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

CORRECTION: 9:30 AM Thursday, February 9th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

XVII. Sign Expense Voucher, Payroll, and Credit Card Statements

XVIII. ADJOURN – the meeting was adjourned at 1:59pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman