

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 14th, 2016

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 Chairman Ted Becker at 9:31am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Jim Hopfauf	Don Tanaka
Adam Pahl	Travis Wolf	Justin Edwards
Brandon Schafer	Aaron Steckler	Scott Harmstead
Michele Doyle	Richard Tokach	
Ted Becker	Duane Olsen	

Absent

Jackie Buckley

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the March 10th, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Travis Wolf arrived

TREASURER'S REPORT – Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve both the District and 319 Financial Report as submitted by Beth McCleary.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 8th 2016 – Next Newsletter – Due July 8th 2016 – If anyone would like to post an article in the Newsletter please have it to Beth by July 8th, 2016. The staff is currently working on finishing the April Newsletter.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with board meeting notice and posted the agenda to the website.
- c. MCSCD Handbook – Beth has had trouble meeting with Wendy from the Courthouse. Beth and Wendy will try to meet next week.
- d. Water Spickot – nothing to report
- e. Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant - Tri-County Application – April 22nd Brandon will present the grant. Ted said that he would be willing to attend to have board support.
- f. Shop Talks – The last shop talk was at Russell Hoovestol's shop. Don said it went well and the group was small so there was a lot of good questions and conversations.
- g. Water Festival Recap April 12th, 2016 – Brandon said it went well and very smooth. Brandon changed the way the kids went from room to room, from last year, to make it flow smoother. Brandon did the rain dance with the kids and they seemed to really enjoy it. We spent \$125.00 for the use of the Church and \$155.00 for food. Brandon stated

that we should be getting money from the ND Water Commission Project WET for about \$2,000. Ted had talked with Game and Fish and they said they were more than willing to participate in Water Festival either by providing helpers or having a presentation.

- h. Achievement Winner Update – Doug Hille – Rocky spoke with Doug Hille and asked if he would accept our nomination for Achievement Winner. He accepted and was very honored.
- i. Hiring Tree Crew – The Personnel Committee interviewed 3 people for the tree crew. Jim, Travis, and Adam all agreed on one candidate and recommended Noah Sabo for the tree planter position. Travis made a motion, seconded by Jim, to hire Noah Sabo for the tree crew at \$16.00 per hour.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Travis also suggested that the board give Tim and Walter a \$0.50/hour raise.

Jim made the motion, seconded by Rocky, to give Tim and Walter a \$0.50/hour raise for this tree season.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- j. Newspaper Article Prices – Beth presented the board with ad prices from the different Newspapers that were requested at the last meeting. The Mandan News did not respond to Beth's email – no price was presented for the Mandan News. Travis suggested posting a little article in the paper telling people where they can find our Annual Report and they can send us their information if they would like to be on the newsletter mailing list. Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to purchase an article in the paper about the annual report and if they would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list to contact us.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

V. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cover Crop Books – Brandon is out of Cover Crop books and is asking for 50 more. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, for Brandon to purchase 50 more cover crop books.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- b. Promotional Items – Beth passed around an inventory list of the promotional items that the district has left. She also had a list of suggestions if the board wishes to order more items.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the purchase of more pens, scratch pads, and lip balm presented by Beth.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- c. Tree Promo Meeting Recap – Adam stated that the tree promotional meeting was pretty good. Beth and Adam both attended the meeting. Adam also attended the windbreak technology training the day before. Adam gave a recap on the Tree Promo Meeting to the board.
- d. Conservation Trees of ND Books – Adam presented the book to the board and asked if the board wanted to purchase more books. The board requested that Adam get prices on how much the books will cost before making a decision.
- e. Realtor Signs – Shelly stated that the signs are hard to get in the ground. The board suggested that the staff try to give them to other districts or the ARS station if they could use them.
- f. Morton County Future Land Use Plan – Scott Harmstead – Scott is from a consulting firm - SRF. They are going to put together a plan for transportation guide for the next 20-30 years. There is a committee made up of several different entities as well as an agricultural producer. There will be a public meeting in May to discuss the project.

VII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Beth and Adam went down to Lincoln Oakes to pick up trees. This year it went really well. The Baileys tree deliver showed up today on a semi instead of tomorrow as planned, so Adam will be leaving, after his report is given, to take care of the trees. Beth and Adam will be going to go to Big Sioux on Monday to pick up the trees from Watertown, SD. We will be splitting the cost with 7 other Districts which comes to about \$100 per District. On Tuesday Beth and Adam will be going to Towner, ND to get the trees from Towner Nursery. Then the crew will start bundling on Wednesday. Adam plans to have the pick-up day for pre-orders on April 29th & 30th.
- 2. Adam stated that the water heater in New Salem is leaking. Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have Adam contact Bob Miller to fix/replace the water heater in New Salem.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- 3. Adam is taking time off in June for 5 days and asked the board if that would be allowed. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve Adam's requested time off in June 2016.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on Tree Invoices and making tags for trees. Beth attended the Tree Promotional Meeting. Beth attended some of the 319 Coordinator Meeting. She also attended the Oliver County Women's Ag Day. Beth really enjoyed the keynote speaker Annie Carlson. Beth will continue to try to meet with

Wendy from the Courthouse to finish the handbook. Beth will also be working with Adam on Trees and getting ready for the tree pick-up day which is scheduled for April 29th & 30th. Beth and Jim used the 2 tickets that were donated from Tanasha Wanner and attended the FFA Banquet

2. Beth got a letter from the Office of the State Auditor that stated they have completed the 2013, 2014, and 2015 financial reports.
3. Beth completed the District Assistance Program voucher and the District received \$8,150.85 from that.
4. Beth received an email from Tanasha Wanner asking if the board was going to sponsor students from youth range camp again this year. She stated that she has 5 students currently interested in attending. The cost is \$140 per camper. She stated that youth range camp played a huge role in the success of the Mandan FFA students at State in Range, where they placed gold. We have also had other interests if the board is going to sponsor Youth Range Camp again. The staff recommends doing an essay instead of first come first serve to judge who the board sponsors.
5. Tanasha also stated that they are planning on hosting a State Range Judging Contest in Mandan in September and she was wondering if we would like to have a presence at that event. The board would like Beth to work with Tanasha for the District to have presence at the State Range Judging Contest. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to participate in the State Range Judging Contest.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to sponsor a total of 10 students at \$100 per student and to revise the application form to add an essay.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

The board will sponsor 10 students for now and if there is more Beth will advise the board at a future meeting.

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon started water sampling. Brandon thanked Ted for the use of his boat for lake sampling.
 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Soil sampling was done on all the mentor fields.

VIII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 1. NRCS Programs Update
 - a. EQIP – NRCS is wrapping up the remaining EQIP applications.
 - b. CSP – NRCS has received 5 applications. Ranking deadline is May 13th, 2016.
 - c. CRP – Contract renewals are being considered.
 - d. RCPP – Shelly provided the National RCPP Factsheet for review. The conservation district was encouraged to consider developing a grant application.
 2. Civil Rights Review - Shelly reviewed civil rights with the board including that the USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender. Shelly also stated that the staff needs to protect personal identifiable information.
- b. County Extension Agent – Report was presented to the board. Jackie was not present.
- c. Farm Bill Biologist – Pheasants forever received an RCPP Grant for the Pheasants Forever Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Partnership Program. Justin spoke at Women’s Ag Night in Oliver County. Justin accepted the Employment

position through the NDASCD which starts in July. Justin attended the monthly New Salem Sportsman's Club meeting.

- IX. CORRESPONDENCE** – NDASCD Annual Meeting notice, Capital Credit Union Statement, The Resource Magazine, ND FFA Foundation Inc. Newsletter, NDIRF Letter, Gateway to Science Newsletter, Burleigh County SCD Newsletter, Chamber Connection Magazine, Participator Newsletter, and Fair Days Ad Letter.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to have the staff update the ad and to post the ad in the Morton County Fair paper.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- X. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

a. Review and Approve

- XI. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

9:30 AM Thursday, May 12th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND

- XII. Sign Expense Voucher, Payroll, and Credit Card Statements**

- XIII. ADJOURN 11:48am**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman