

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 12th, 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 9:30am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Ted Becker	Duane Olsen
Adam Pachl	Jim Hopfauf	Don Tanaka
Brandon Schafer	Rocky Bateman	Jackie Buckley
Michele Doyle	Aaron Steckler	

Absent

Justin Edwards	Travis Wolf	Richard Tokach
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III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Aaron made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve, as corrected, the April 14th, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler

Rocky arrived at the meeting.

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the District and 319 Financial Report as submitted by Beth McCleary.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newsletter – Due July 8th 2016 – The newsletter was sent out on Thursday April 28th. Beth provided a copy of the newsletter to the board members. Please submit any articles to Beth by July 8th, 2016 for the next newsletter. Beth also sent an article to the Morton County newspapers. The article will be published this week or next week. The article included information on how to be added to the Morton County SCD Newsletter mailing list and provided website and Facebook information.
- Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice.
- MCSCD Handbook – Beth attempted to get ahold of Wendy from the Court House. Wendy did not respond to the email. Beth will continue to try to get ahold of her for their last meeting.
- Water Spickot – nothing to report
- Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant - Tri-County Application – Recommended for Funding – Brandon presented the Grant to the board. The presentation went very well. Beth, Adam, and Ted attended the presentation to support the Grant. The OHF Advisory Board is recommending to approve the OMG Grant for \$900,000. The next step is for the Industrial Commission to approve, deny, or change the proposed recommendation. One board member from each county (Oliver, Morton, Grant) will get together to come up with a criteria to rank the applications.

- f. Conservation Trees of ND Books – Report on Cost – Adam presented on the report on the price for the books. Adam reported that the most the books should cost is \$0.50 per book however Sheri Wick is trying to get grants to help districts with the cost.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, for the District to purchase 200 Conservation Trees of ND Books.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR** – Area IV Meeting is July 20th – Stutsman County will be hosting. Rocky brought up a possible resolution. Rocky proposed a resolution to exclude producers that practice conventional tillage methods from being nominated for the NDASCD Conservation Achievement Award.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have Rocky prepare a resolution that would prevent a Soil Conservation District from nominating a producer who conventional tills.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tree Planting Policy – Adam presented a proposed Tree Planting Policy. Some adjustments were presented. Adam will make the appropriate changes and bring it back up at the next board meeting.
- b. Old Fabric Machine - Offer for Sale? – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to ask other districts first if they would like to make an offer on the old red fabric machine then bring it up at the next board meeting.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- c. Soil Health Webinar EPA – Rocky’s Recap – Rocky came into the office on 04/28/2016 to present his soil health presentation to a Soil Health Webinar. There were many people from many different entities that were a part of the conference. Rocky stated it went very well and was well received.
- d. Summer Range Tour – Theme- Plan Date – The board recommended maybe getting Kevin Sedevick, Lance Gartner, or Kenny Miller to present to producers. Rocky suggested teaming up with the Grazing Land Coalition and putting on a tour with them.
- e. Winter Workshop Transition to Soil Health Workshop – Multi-County – Rocky suggested possibly doing a Multi-County Winter Workshop with Burleigh County and/or other counties if they are interested. The Morton County SCD board is behind the idea of pulling multiple counties to put on a Winter Workshop. Ted suggested making a committee. The Committee is made up of Rocky, Don, Shelly, and SCD Staff.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam got started plating trees on Wednesday May 4th. Adam accidentally mixed up 2 rows of trees on Mike Ferderer’s planting. He wants them re-planted correctly. The trailer lowered itself and when Adam drove over the railroad tracks it bent the feet on the trailer. Adam contacted Travis and took it to Travis’s to try to fix it. Ted suggested calling the insurance company to let them know what happened.
 2. Beth fixed the trailer lights and breaks on the gooseneck trailer.
 3. Fabric is expected to arrive at the end of May.
 4. Adam brought up building a new building for the District to save money and time on driving from the tree shed to the office.
- b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update – The tree crew, Adam, and Beth held the hand plant pickup sale in New Salem on April 29th and 30th. Both days went very well and smooth. Beth will be working on the Mill levy and budget request and working on the handbook. Beth will also be getting ready for the surplus tree sale.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon went to Christ the King Eco Ed Day. His presentation was “All About Trees”. Brandon is working on Doug Hille’s Conservation Achievement winner report. Brandon stated that he will need to purchase some life jackets for the boat for when he water samples.
 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program - Soil test came in from the mentor fields.

IX. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 1. NRCS Programs Update
 - a. EQIP – 2017 Applications – Initially the deadline was May 1st for 2017 applications however there is no deadline date now. 2016 EQIP applications have been ranked and selected for funding. The selected contracts have had funds obligated and all are fully active. .
 - b. CSP- 2016 Application Status – all the applications have to be ranked by tomorrow.
 - c. CRP – Contract Management Changes – the management requirements have changed. The modifications require district board approval. Shelly is asking for board approval to allow one the of the district employees to be able to approve and sign these modifications.
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to allow Brandon Schafer to sign the CRP modifications in lieu of the District board.
 - d. RCPP – Is available for conservation funding.
 - e. Annual Leave May 31-June 10 – Acting DC, Roberto Luciano – Michele will not be here for the next board meeting.
 - b. County Extension Agent – Jackie presented her report and passed out copies and are attached to the minutes.
 - c. Farm Bill Biologist –No report to present

X. CORRESPONDENCE – North Dakota Forest Service newsletter, West McLean SCD newsletter, The Current newsletter, and the Chamber Connection magazine was presented to the board.

XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Mike Schaaf’s Conservation Plan.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

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

XIV. ADJOURN – the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman