

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

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

9:30 a.m. CDT - USDA Service Center – 2540 Overlook Lane Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted Becker at 9:32am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Rocky Bateman	Don Tanaka
Adam Pacht	Aaron Steckler	Travis Rossow
Brandon Schafer	Richard Tokach	Calla Edwards
Val Hartman	Travis Wolf	
Ted Becker	Duane Olsen	

Absent:

Sarah Hamilton

Travis Wolf was appointed by the board – motion under “New Business a”.

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the September 14th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

IV. **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 (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter/Tree Order Form – Due October 13th, 2017 – Articles are due to Beth by this Friday.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice and updated staffing section on the website.
- c. Water Spicket – The old cooler no longer has water access. The City dug it up and capped it.
- d. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – Adam is working on ordering the tracking system. Adam has been in contact with the company to verify the different tracking systems since they have different options for that specific model.
- e. Lewis & Clark Envirothon Sponsorship – Calla Edwards – Calla provided a report to the board about the Envirothon. They had the teacher’s envirothon which had a lot of interest and had very positive feedback. They are looking to host another train for the teachers in August so that more teachers can attend. They are expecting they will have 10 or more teams involved. Part of the envirothon includes soil health and the makeup of soil.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to donate to the Gold amount of \$500 to the Lewis & Clark Envirothon.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

- f. Auction Item – NDASCD Annual Meeting – Brandon said he would be willing to make a horseshoe art piece if the board is interested. The board agreed that that would be a good idea and that Brandon can go ahead and start making an item for the Auction.
- g. Tree Agreement – Adam provided a copy of the updated version of the Tree Agreement. Travis noted that the Century Code apart of the agreement has been repealed and that needed to be updated/corrected.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018 – Brandon provided the board with a draft agenda.
- b. NDASCD Annual Convention – Bismarck – November 19th-21st 2017 – Kathy called Beth this morning and let her know that Jackie Buckley won the professional award and she will be recognized at the annual convention.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fill Vacancy on the Board – Rocky nominated Travis Wolf, seconded by Aaron, to fill the vacancy on the board to fill out the remainder of the term to be an Appointed Supervisor of the Morton County SCD Board.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Rocky Bateman
Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

- b. OMG Board Member – Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Travis Wolf to the OMG Board.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Abstained (1)

Travis Wolf

- c. Personnel Committee Member – Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to appoint Travis Rossow to the Personnel Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

- d. Tree Price Committee Member – Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Ted Becker to the Tree Price Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

- e. Check Signing Board Member – Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to give Aaron Steckler check signing authority for signing the District and 319 checks.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- f. Name Tags for Staff – Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow the staff to purchase name tags.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- g. Dakota Access Settlement – Adam explained the Settlement to the board. Morton County gets 3000 extra trees and fabric that Dakota Access will pay for to install. Priority will be given to the land owners that were affected by the pipeline.
- h. Rocky Report on Mill Levy Money Received vs Requested – Rocky confirmed that the County Commissioners do not have to provide the district with the amount the district requests.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – The batching period is open.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Brandon and Adam attended a soils training with Fred Aziz. Adam is still working on planning. He currently has 50,000 feet planned. Adam plans on updating the website so people can order from the website. Adam received a request from the Veteran Cemetery again for 36 Colorado Blue Spruce. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to donate 36 Colorado Blue Spruce for the Veteran Cemetery.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth has been scheduling Tom Gibson to visit schools for the TREES Program. Beth completed the requirements for the quarter reports. Beth also sent the staff clothes to Shirt Shack to get embroidered. Beth also has been working with Lynnell on the Audit Report.

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – Kenny Miller won the Leopold Award. Ag Week wanted a statement on the reason for nominating Kenny so Brandon emailed them a statement. The drill is done being used and the ARS station says they plan to use the drill in October. Brandon sent in the Annual Report for the current 319 project.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to try to put the drill in the enclosed building in New Salem and pay the fee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- a. New 319 Grant – Brandon got the grant written and sent into Greg Sandness. Brandon gave an overview of the grant.

2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow the district to purchase 2 of Jon Stika's Book A Soil Owner's Manual: How to Restore and Maintain Soil Health.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist/Acting – Val Hartman – Val provided a report which is a part of the minutes.
- b. County Extension Agent – Marissa Leier – Marissa was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton – No report

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – ND Water Magazine September 2017 issue, NACD Renewal Form,
Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to pay the NACD the same amount as last year.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

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

XVI. ADJOURN at 11:10am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman

NRCS Activity Report
To the
Morton County Soil Conservation District Board
Date: October 12th, 2017
By Acting District Conservationist Val Hartman

WORKLOAD

Programs

EQIP

- 34 active contracts
- Practice Certification
- Taking new apps – not many now – about a dozen interested – conservation planning and then move into contract application – November 17th is application deadline
- Modifying contracts to add funding for failed tree plantings

CSP

- 17 active contracts
- Producers turn records in for review & payment
- 3 renewal application to contract – October 27th deadline

GRP

- 5 active contracts

INFORMATION

NRCS Billboards

MEETINGS, TRAINING, SCHEDULE

October 11th – 13th – Sharon leave

October 12th – Solar Pump training, Paula & Sarah

October 13th – 20th – Val Leave – Steve Kassian will be Acting DC

October 24th – Val - DC Meeting - Jamestown