

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

**9:30 a.m. Thursday, November 10th, 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 9:32am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Ted Becker	Duane Olsen
Adam Pachl	Jim Hopfauf	Don Tanaka
Brandon Schafer	Travis Wolf	Jay Fuhrer
Michele Doyle	Aaron Steckler	

**Absent**

Justin Edwards	Rocky Bateman
Jackie Buckley	Richard Tokach

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve both the District and 319 financial report as submitted by Beth McCleary.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newsletter – Newsletter was mailed out. Next newsletter is scheduled for January. Articles are due January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The next newsletter will include our annual report and 2016 Achievement Winner.
- Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice.
- Water Spickot – No update
- Winter Workshop 2017 – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Jay Fuhrer came to the board meeting and discussed Burleigh County SCD's participation in a number of outreach activities in 2017 and 2018 provided through a grant. Richard and Brandon have been planning for the Winter Workshop. Brandon provided a report of the planning. Keven Sedivec is a planned speaker for the economic end of the presentation. Brandon is also planning on having a producer panel and possibly incorporate the soil health mentors. The board would like to follow through with Morton Counties Winter Workshop and also be involved with the Burleigh Counties Workshops and Tours.
- Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – Brandon has the agreements for the No Till Drill and provided a copy to the board. The board has until July 2017 to decide if we would like to participate in the grant through Game and Fish. Ted suggested putting together an estimate of how often the Morton County SCD would use the drill and if it would be something that producers want. Travis suggested to Brandon to get in contact with Truax and other companies and find out prices and tractor requirements.
- 2017 Women's Ag Day – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – no update – Jim would like to change the date of Women's Ag Day to either March 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 14<sup>th</sup>. Beth contacted Baymont and confirmed the date change to March 7<sup>th</sup>.

- g. Wildlife Escape Ramp Price Update – Adam presented his report on the escape ramps and prices. He also provided information on tanks as well. Travis suggested Adam get in contact with True North to see if they could fabricate the ramps and see if Morton County can sell them.

**VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR** – Board reviewed the 2017 work plan/calendar.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Mitigation Proposals – Dakota Access
  - 1. Perennial Environmental Services LLC – Wants Morton County SCD to plant trees for the Dakota Access Pipeline. Travis suggested creating a fee for flat rate per hour for counting trees and mileage. Travis suggested getting into contact with the other districts to see for what other districts are thinking of charging.
  - 2. KC Harvey Environmental LLC – This Company would like to purchase hand plants for the whole state. Adam contacted Bill from Lincoln Oakes to see if they would be willing to accommodate us with storage. Bill stated that we would be able to work something out. Adam contacted the districts affected. Adam received a response from all but one county so far. The board suggested creating a new agreement for this order and requesting 100% of the payment up front since it is such a big order.
- b. Flasher Fire/Ambulance Raffle – There was a confusion with the Raffle and the Flasher Fire/Ambulance ended up putting a \$50 donation from Morton County SCD for Trees. However the board did not approve that so the Flasher Fire/Ambulance will be reimbursing the District for the confusion.
- c. KFYR- Ag in the Classroom – February 14-15, 2017 – discussed during planning and calendar review.
- d. NRCS Memorandum of Understanding – Reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and the board approves the Memorandum of Understanding.

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – The OMG board met and discussed to approve the contracts that ranked 4 and higher. The producers that also have applications in EQIP the board decided to wait to get the approval from NRCS so the producers can decide which program they would like to go with. The OMG board approved 15 from Morton County, 10 from Grant County, and 3 from Oliver County.

**IX. MCSCD HANDBOOK**

- a. First Reading – the board will review the handbook and discuss at next meeting.

**X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Technician
  - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam currently has about 75,000 feet planned for the 2017 tree planting season. Adam winterized the District Shed.
- b. District Secretary
  - 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on the handbook, work plan, tree orders, and annual convention planning. Beth will start working on Women’s Ag Day planning.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - 1. Update on Watershed Program – Water sampling is done this year. The manure spreader is currently at Travis Wolf’s. There hasn’t been as much interest this year, for the manure spreader, as there was last year.
  - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon went out to Travis Wolf’s to forage sample. Brandon contacted the ND Dept. of Health and they stated they would be willing to cost share the writer for the Soil Health Mentor write- up

**XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. MCSCD Handbook – Rocky
- b. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- c. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky
- d. Winter Workshop 2017 – Richard
- e. Women’s Ag Day – Jim
- f. Tree Price Committee – Jim
- g. CRP Summer Workshop/Tour – Rocky

**XII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist
  - 1. NRCS Programs Update – CRP Grassland sign up was only open for 3 days and about 4-5 people signed up. CSP – NRCS staff had training on CSP. There are a few changes on that mainly on the administration end of the program.
- b. County Extension Agent – Jackie was not present at the meeting. No report was provided.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Justin not present at the meeting. No report was provided.

**XIII. CORRESPONDENCE** – Brandon brought up an email from another district saying that they were selling tattoos. The board agreed to purchase more tattoos. Area IV Supervisors Meeting Reminder, Chamber Connection Magazine, West McLean SCD Newsletter, Participator Newsletter, Care and Share letter, Burke County SCD Newsletter, The Current, and ND Water Magazine.

**XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

- a. Review and Approve -  
Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Travis Wolf's AFP.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Aaron Steckler

Ted Becker

**Abstained:** Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Jim Hopfauf

**XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 8th, 2016 Location/Time Pending – The Next board meeting will be Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm at Ted Becker's House – 4440 County Road 86 Almont, ND 58520.

**XVI. Sign Expense Voucher, Payroll, and Credit Card Statements**

**XVII. ADJOURN at 12:26**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman