

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

**6:00 p.m. Friday, December 2nd, 2016**

6:00 p.m. CDT – Ted Becker’s House – 4440 County Road 86 Almont, ND 58520

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Ted Becker.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Jim Hopfauf	Rocky Bateman
Adam Pahl	Travis Wolf	Melissa McCann
Brandon Schafer	Aaron Steckler	
Ted Becker	Duane Olsen	
<b>Absent</b>		
Justin Edwards	Jackie Buckley	Richard Tokach
Michele Doyle	Don Tanaka	

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf
Rocky Bateman	

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf
Rocky Bateman	

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Next Newsletter is Due January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice.
- c. Water Spickot – No report
- d. Winter Workshop 2017 – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Brandon provided a report of the speakers who have confirmed and he may ask Brian Amundson to speak as well.
- e. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – There is 2 different models of drills. Brandon suggested the “on the go” model. If we can coordinate with other districts, each district will receive a minimum of \$1,000 off, with additional discounts, if we can get multiple counties on the same shipment. Deadline to decide on whether to purchase a drill, utilizing this grant, is July 2017.
- f. 2017 Women’s Ag Day – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Nothing new to report.
- g. Wildlife Escape Ramp Report – Adam talked to True North and they are getting Adam a quote.
- h. Mitigation Proposals – Follow up Report – Adam gave the company out of Bozeman our prices for hand plants. Adam also sent in a proposal of our prices for tree planting. Adam has not heard back at this time.

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

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Veteran Cemetery Trees – They are asking for 36 Colorado Blue Spruce for the board to donate. Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the district to donate 36 Colorado Blue Spruce Trees to the Veteran Cemetery for this tree season.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Travis Wolf  
Ted Becker  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

- b. District Enclosed Trailer Report – District enclosed trailer was stolen. The SCD filed a police report.  
c. NDASCD Comment Sheet – The board went through the Annual Convention Comment Sheet.

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon sent out letters to the people that were approved. He sent two different letters for people who only applied for OMG and the other letter for people that applied for EQIP and OMG. The people that have also applied for EQIP have until January 13<sup>th</sup> to decide which program they would like to go with.

**IX. MCSCD HANDBOOK**

- a. Review – tabled till next month.

**X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Technician  
1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam is up to 85,000 feet of trees. Adam put the UTV for NRCS in the new cooler in the District Shed for storage for the winter.
- b. District Secretary  
1. Admin Update – Beth received a letter from the post office stating that we may have a credit on our account because we canceled our bulk mailing permit. Beth sent in the required forms and the District should be getting a check from the USPS for \$38.74.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator  
1. Update on Watershed Program – Nothing new to report  
2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon will ask Jackie to see if she may be interested in writing up the Mentor write up report. The final soil sampling will be moved to the spring.

**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

**XII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist  
1. NRCS Programs Update – Melissa presented the NRCS report.  
b. County Extension Agent – Report presented to the board Jackie not present.

c. Farm Bill Specialist – No report provided

**XIII. CORRESPONDENCE** – ND FFA Foundation, Inc. Newsletter, ND Conservation District Employees Association Conservation Studies Scholarship information, Annual Convention Evaluation, 2016 Soil Conservation Achievement Winner KFYP TV Features, and ND Forest Service Newsletter.

**XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

a. Review and Approve – no applications to approve

**XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

9:30 AM Thursday, January 12th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

**XVII. ADJOURN** – the meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman



**NRCS Activity Report**  
to the  
**Morton County Soil Conservation District Board**

December 2, 2016

Submitted by Michele Doyle, District Conservationist

1. The 2017 EQIP application ranking timeline was extended to January 6, 2017. That will allow field offices an additional 3 weeks to complete rankings. Currently, the Mandan FO has 40 applications.
2. The 2016 documentation for CSP contracts is being collected. 5 of 19 contract holders have submitted their materials. Contract holders have the option of taking payment in calendar year 2016 or 2017.
3. The application batching has begun for 2017 CSP. We anticipate the batching will end sometime in early February 2017. Currently the Mandan FO has no applications on file.
4. The Morton County FSA office notified us that 2 applications were accepted in the CRP-Grasslands program. Next step is for the applicants to notify FSA whether they will move forward with a contract. At that time, NRCS will work with the applicants to develop rotational grazing plans for the contract acres.
5. The ND Soil Conservation Districts are encouraged to consider developing partnership agreements with NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, RCPP. NRCS is ready to consider more "unique" agreement arrangements with the SCDs, not just the SCD Tech grants. (Consider an Urban Conservationist position?)
6. Producers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the free Conservation Client Gateway website based services. Client Gateway make producers able to request conservation assistance, track payments, electronically sign documents and much more.