

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

## MINTUES

9:30 a.m. Thursday, August 17th, 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 Vice Chairman Rocky Bateman at 9:31am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Jim Hopfauf	Sarah Hamilton
Adam Pacht	Richard Tokach	Duane Olsen
Brandon Schafer	Travis Rossow	Don Tanaka
Michele Doyle	Travis Wolf	Justin Edwards
Rocky Bateman	Aaron Steckler	Sam Halstengard

**Absent**

Ted Becker

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – The next newsletter is due October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The last newsletter was sent out 2 weeks ago. Beth is currently working on a new design for the newsletter to make it more appealing. The board suggested putting something in the newsletter about alternative feeding. The board discussed more ideas to put in the next newsletter.
- b. Website – Beth and Sam made a bunch of updates to the website and explained them to the board. Some of the updates include: updated the newsletters, updated the website with the board meeting notice, deleted some of the old documents or posts that didn’t need to be on there anymore, updated photos, changed some of the pages with new sidebars, and added an event section to make them more noticeable. Beth also posted the Handbook to the website and organized the references page. Beth will provide the board with a price list through up and running.
- c. Water Spickot – Travis will contact the plumber this year.

- d. Tracking System for Equipment – Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to purchase one of the CAL AMP TTU 720 tracking system for the enclosed trailer instead of the previous tracking system discussed at the June 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- e. Youth Range Camp Reimbursement – Beth confirmed with Kevin Sedivec that both Claire and Jacob attended youth range camp. Beth contacted both students and Claire stated that she did not go to youth range camp. So Beth only reimbursed Jacob/Lance Gartner for attending.

**V. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Cover Crop Tour with Justin Zahradka – September 14<sup>th</sup> (Would we like to sponsor?) – The board discussed doing their own cover crop tour and not partner with Burleigh on this tour.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have Morton County SCD host their own cover crop tour.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- b. NDASCD Annual Convention November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> with David Montgomery as the Main speaker and Josh Dukart as a speaker for a few mini-sessions (would we like to sponsor?) – The board discussed sponsoring the Speaker with Burleigh County. The board agreed to not sponsor this request.

- c. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – (Would we like to sponsor?) – The board discussed partnering with this Workshop and the board agreed. The board also discussed some producer names for possible speakers to provide to Jay.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Jim, to partner with Burleigh County SCD and will decide on a dollar amount at a later time.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- d. Twilight Tour – ARS Station September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Mill Levy Report – Beth provided the board with another copy of the mill levy report for the board to review. Rocky and Beth have not yet attended the County Commissioners Meeting as of this meeting.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the Mill Levy Budget to be proposed to the County Commissioners.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- b. Verizon Bill – Beth stated that with the printer and 2 computer updates it set the district over on data. Instead of being charged per gigabyte that we went over that month (which would have cost more), Beth upgraded it to unlimited since there is no longer a step above what the district currently has. Beth is wondering if the board would like to continue to stay at the 8 gigabyte plan and just have Beth update only as needed or to just stay updated to the unlimited plan. Beth stated that it is a \$40 difference.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to change the Verizon Gigabyte Plan to Unlimited.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- c. Lewis & Clark Envirothon Sponsorship – Justin Edwards – Justin provided a sponsorship request form to the board. Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to support this program and to decide a funding level at a later date.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

**VII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project - Semi-annual Report – The OMG board needs to decide a date on the Fall Batching Period. November is the tentative deadline.

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Technician

1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has started on plans for tree plantings for 12 different producers. Adam thinks that this next year might be a little less than other years due to the drought. Archie Wanner had a renovation and Adam planted trees this spring and the trees had a very low success rate. Archie decided not to lay fabric. The agreement states that the down payment is non-refundable. Adam is asking the board on how they want to handle the down payments. Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to roll forward Archie Wanner's the money for the down payment till next year, for only one year, to allow him to place fabric down in 2018. If Archie does not lay fabric on those rows in 2018 he will forfeit his down payment in accordance with the agreement.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

**Abstained (1)**

Richard Tokach

Adam stated that he would like to make some changes in the agreement.

The proposed new agreement was provided to the board. The board would like to table the new agreement till the next board meeting

2. Adam is looking to attend a workshop in Minot.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Jim, to allow adam to attend the Good Bug workshop in Minot and cover the cost of Registration and per diem for August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

Richard made a motion, seconded by Jim, to allow Adam to have the first week of October off for vacation.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach  
Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

- b. District Secretary
  - 1. Admin Update – Beth worked on the website and newsletter. Beth also completed the audit and sent that in to Lynnell for review. Beth attended an Employee Association meeting yesterday at Burleigh County SCD. Beth also sent out some of the tree planting invoices.
  - 2. Scholarships – The board wanted Beth to contact Oliver and Grant County to see if they wanted to do a combined scholarship program. Both other counties said they wished to continue to only include their county students in their scholarships and would prefer not to combine at this time.
  - 3. Auction Item for the Annual Convention – The board will think on some things to donate for the Auction.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon passed around a map that explains where the Danzig Dam was sampled. Brandon stated there is a TMDL already written for the project. Aaron made a motion, seconded by Richard, to go ahead and apply for a grant for the Hailstone Creek/Danzig Dam watershed Project.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

Richard Tokach

Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow Brandon to borrow the enclosed trailer as long as it is covered under insurance.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

Richard Tokach

Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

- 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program

**IX. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky – There may be a phase 2 in the next watershed. We still need someone to do the write up for the first Mentor Project.

**X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist
  - 1. Planning First efforts. Conservation plan developed before program application.
  - 2. Conservation Client Gateway. Clients encouraged to open account online.
  - 3. Staffing. Contracting administrative support. External hires and internal transfers.
  - 4. EQIP 2018 batching ends October 20, 2017. Changes in financial assistance & practices.
  - 5. 2018 CSP. Morton County has 4 renewals.
  - 6. CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing. Plans continue. Farm Bill Specialist taking lead. There was about 17 producers that took advantage of that.
  - 7. State Water Commission Funding – There has been a lot of interest. The project needed to be completed within 6 months.
- b. County Extension Agent – No report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah discussed what she has been working on including emergency haying and grazing projects.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE** – Continuing Education BSC Catalog, NDFS Newsletter, Chamber Connection, Mercer County SCD Newsletter, AGVISE Newsletter, and NDFFA Annual Report.

**XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

a. Review and Approve –

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the modification for Curt Feland.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

The board discussed the following contracts:

Claye Kaelberer's CPO

Travis Wolf application for payment

Jim Boehm application for payment

Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Claye Kaelberer's CPO, Travis Wolf's application for payment, and Jim Boehm application for payment.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Aaron Steckler

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

**Voting No (0)**

**XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

~~9:30 AM Thursday, September 14th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND~~

Board Meeting schedule change - 1:00 PM Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

**XV. ADJOURN** – the board meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman