

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 18th, 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 9:30 am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary  
Brandon Schafer  
Adam Pacht

Michele Doyle  
Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler  
Richard Tokach

**Absent**

Justin Edwards  
Jackie Buckley

Rocky Bateman  
Don Tanaka

Duane Olsen

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 - The next newsletter articles are due April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- b. Website – Beth updated the Tree of the Month to Silver Buffaloberry on the website. Beth also updated the meeting notice for the February board meeting. Beth posted the EQIP poster to the website as well as the current newsletter. Richard suggested recording our shop talks and workshops and possibly posting them to the website. The staff will look into the pricing of a video camera and equipment and bring a price estimate to the next board meeting.
- c. MCSCD Handbook – Beth has been trying to schedule time with Wendy from the Courthouse to finish working on the handbook. The handbook is about half way through the rough draft stage.
- d. Water Spicket – Nothing to report
- e. 2016 Winter Workshop Report – Brandon reported on the winter workshop and stated that it went well. Beth will provide the board with an official financial report once we get all the bills. Brandon provided a few examples of what producers are looking to see at future workshops including grazing systems.
- f. Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant - Tri-County Application – Brandon reported the final draft of the grant application. He stated that there are a total of 32 interested producers. Richard asked if there was a ranking process written in the grant. Brandon confirmed that there will be a board that will be in charge of ranking.
- g. Shop Talks- At this point there are no other shop talks scheduled however we have a few land owners that are interested yet. The shop talk last night at Woody Barth's was very well attended. Shelly suggested next time to create a generic agenda with breaks in between so that the producers have a chance to visit and think of questions. Jim suggested hosting a shop talk in Hebron and provide food.

- VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR** – Shelly proposed to the board bringing in other counties and hosting a multi-county workshop. Beth will put that on next month's agenda.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. Ag in the Classroom – Beth passed around some photos from Agri-International. Brandon, Beth, and Adam all helped and gave presentations this year.
  - b. Water Festival April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – there are so far 8 schools that have signed up. Brandon is working with the schools to schedule either AM or PM presentations. Beth purchased more Water Fest shirts that were requested last year.
  - c. Achievement Winner Nominees – the board is looking into the Mandan area for nominations. The staff will bring 3-4 names of possible nominees for the next board meeting.
  - d. Hiring Tree Crew – Adam spoke with Walter and he seemed interested in coming back this year. Tom will not be coming back as he has another job. Tim is not sure if he will be coming back this year. The staff and personnel committee will start advertising for this season's tree crew.
  - e. Morton County Ag Day March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Jim Sailer stopped at the Morton County SCD Agri-International booth and suggested that we have a booth at the Morton County Ag Days. The topic this year is pizza. The board is allowing Brandon decide if he can put something together in time for the Morton County Ag Days. Beth and Adam will be at the Tree Promotional Convention during that time.
- VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**
- a. District Technician
    1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam had some issues with ordering from Lincoln Oakes. Adam put an order in for some trees and Lincoln Oakes was out of those trees and didn't inform Adam that they didn't have them. Lincoln Oakes isn't doing a very good job at updating us with what limited trees they have. Other nurseries are very good with reaching out to us and letting us know that they have limited quality on certain trees. Adam has been contacting other nurseries for tree species that we can't get from Lincoln Oakes. Adam attended the Wild Life Society Convention and gave a report on what he learned. The main theme of the conference was communication.
  - b. District Secretary
    1. Admin Update- Beth is currently working on the handbook and working with Wendy. Beth will also work with Lynnell from Mahlum and Goodhart and put together the agreed upon procedures and fixing a few other things in QuickBooks.
  - c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
    1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon has 2 contracts to approve later in the meeting.
    2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Kevin Fishbeck sold his land and is no longer in the mentor program. Travis suggested to ask the new landowner if we could do a final soil test on the land. Spring meetings need to be set with producers to make their plan.
- IX. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**
- a. District Conservationist
    1. NRCS Programs Update
      - a. EQIP – the Mandan FO received funding for 17 out of the 33 contract applications. The new 2017 EQIP sign-up deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
      - b. CSP – Sign-up date ends March 31<sup>st</sup> for 2016 contracts. There are only 2 producers that have signed up for CSP this year.
      - c. CRP – there is a general sign-up that goes till February 26<sup>th</sup>. There is only 1 application so far.
      - d. Mitigation Banking Program for Wetlands – Shelly discussed the email that was sent from Mary Podoll.
  - b. County Extension Agent – Report presented to the board and are a part of these minutes.
  - c. Farm Bill Biologist – Not present no report. Shelly mentioned that Justin had put on some CRP workshops around the area.
- X. CORRESPONDENCE** – 2016 Achievement Winner papers, National Watershed Coalition letter, Gateway to Science request for sponsorship, Mandan Kiwanis request for sponsorship, ConserVISION Newsletter, Integrator Newsletter, Ruth Meiers Newsletter, Chamber Connection Magazine, Grand Forks SCD Annual Report, The Current Newsletter, and

Capital Credit Union Event Invitation.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve for Brandon to attend ND Water Quality Monitoring conference and the Farming for the Bottom Line conference.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

**XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

Review and Approve – Shelly requested that the board allow the SCD staff to sign conservation plan contracts.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve the following conservation plans: George Ferderer, Steve Berger, Lloyd Rossow, Sharon Bendish, Roger Hoovestol, and Darlin Schmidt.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

Jim made a motion, seconded by Travis, to pre-approve the following contracts: Grant Johnson, Bryan Keller, Robin Fisher, Steckler Ranch Inc., Mike Miller, Bill McCone, Joe Hatzenbuhler, and Sherwood Schmidt.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the following 319 contracts: George Hagerott Jr. and Shawn Arndorfer.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Travis Wolf  
Aaron Steckler

**XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

9:30 AM Thursday, March 10th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND

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

**XIV. ADJOURN – the board meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman