

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 16th, 2017

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 9:31am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Ted Becker	Travis Wolf
Adam Pahl	Aaron Steckler	Don Tanaka
Brandon Schafer	Rocky Bateman	Duane Olsen
Michele Doyle	Richard Tokach	Travis Rossow
Stuart Blotter	Jim Hopfauf	

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the January 12th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Ted Becker	Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	

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)

Voting No (0)

Ted Becker	Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve 13:15 hours for leave without pay for Beth on the last time sheet.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Ted Becker	Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 7th, 2017 –Next newsletter articles are due by April 7th, 2017.
- b. Website – Beth posted the Board meeting notice to the website as well. The website was hacked and fixed again. Beth also updated the OMG post for the new sign-up period.
- c. Water Spickot – no report
- d. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – Brandon provided the board with an update. Brandon is looking to see if the board is interested in taking advantage of the grant. Brandon provided the board with different costs for the different drills available through the grant. Richard suggested going with a smaller drill to be able to do plantings between tree rows.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to purchase a No-Till Truax Grass Drill – On-The-Go Model to plant between tree rows.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

- e. 2017 Women's Ag Day – March 7th, 2017 – Beth and Jim have been working on center pieces for Women's Ag Day as well as getting sponsors. Beth sent off the Women's Ag Day invitations and have been mailed out. Beth is currently working on the tiles as well. Jim suggested getting magnets for promotional items. Beth stated the estimated cost would be \$200 - \$250 about.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Jim, to purchase 500 magnets for Women's Ag Day and other events.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

- f. District Enclosed Trailer Report – Adam ordered a new trailer. The total cost on the trailer is \$5,152.40. We will need to put spray installation as well as build hanging shelves. The trailer comes with a 5 year warrantee.
- g. Conservation at the Capital Report – Brandon and Adam both attended the Conservation at the Capital and provided a report. Brandon and Adam put together a board on the Soil Health Mentor Program and it turned out well.
- h. Joint Soil Health Workshops
 - 1. January 16th, 2017 Johann Zeitsman – The event was well attended.
 - 2. March 1st & 2nd, 2017 Paul Jasa (Main talk March 1st then 2 shop talks one Morton one Burleigh March 2nd) – The March 1st Workshop will be at BSC. March 2nd Workshop will be at Menoken Farm, both Morton and Burleigh will be combining instead of doing it separately.

The board would like the staff to do a focused mailing on the two workshops.

Brandon discussed the Burleigh/Morton funding for the workshops.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to provide Burleigh County SCD with a \$1,000 donation for working together on the workshops.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

- i. Mitigation Contract – The district had been working with Perennial Environmental LLC for the trees in Morton County. A couple weeks ago they suddenly got an email that they will no longer be involved, and the district is supposed to work directly with Dakota Access. They sent a contract to review and sign, as well as some insurance forms. The District does not meet the requirements for the commercial excess liability insurance. They require a minimum of \$5 million, and the district only carries \$2 million. Adam contacted Dakota Access to see if we could work around that, and he hasn't heard back from them at this time. To increase the district coverage to the \$5 million would cost \$1,618 per year, which is \$530 more per year than what we currently pay.

Richard suggested having our Attorney review the contract prior to signing and agreeing to it.

Ted will go with Adam to visit with the Attorney to discuss the contract.

- j. Winter Workshop – Last thing on the list for the Winter Workshop is a plane ticket reimbursement for the main speaker. The plane ticket was non-refundable. The refund owed to the speaker is about \$750.00. The staff also called the sponsors to make sure that the district would still be able to use those donations for other District events. Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to reimburse Bart Lardner the total for his costs for his plane ticket due to canceling the winter workshop.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
 Aaron Steckler
 Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Richard Tokach

- k. NRCS Cooperative Agreement – Beth provided an update to the board. Stuart gave a definition to the board about what the Cooperative Agreement entails.

V. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR- The board reviewed the work plan.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. RCPP Grant – The grant is another opportunity for the board to help the District provide technical and financial assistance for the producers of Morton County.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to have the staff contact Jackie Buckley to see if she would be interested in developing a position with the Morton County SCD for the RCPP grant.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
 Aaron Steckler
 Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Richard Tokach

- b. Water Festival – April 11, 2017 – The board discussed Water festival.
- c. Travis Rossow would be interested in becoming an associate board member for the Morton County SCD. Jim made a motion, seconded by Richard, to have Travis Rossow become an associate board member for the Morton County SCD Board of Directors.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
 Aaron Steckler
 Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Richard Tokach

VII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – There is a new sign-up period February 13th-March 3rd for the second batching period. Brandon stated that there is going to be more acres implemented with less money spent. Brandon wanted to thank NRCS for all their help with the OMG Project.

VIII. MCSCD HANDBOOK

- a. Review/Approve – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve the Proposed Handbook with an effective date being February 16th, 2017.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
 Aaron Steckler
 Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Richard Tokach

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam is still working on planning trees for the pipeline. Planned footage is almost exactly what we planted last year, white fabric running a few thousand feet longer this year.
Adam attended the ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society conference last week. It was a very good meeting, with some really good talks about CRP, pollinators, and pollinator habitat.
Adam is requesting to be able to attend a conference in September, which would be a weeklong, to be able to count it as work time.
- b. District Secretary
 - 1. Admin Update – Beth is working on Women’s Ag Day stuff and went to Agri-International with Adam. Beth will also be working on completing the Audit with Mahlum and Goodhart. Beth, Adam, Brandon and Shelly have been working on the NRCS contribution Agreement. Beth will be updating forms that are in the new handbook.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon will be sampling Big Muddy again this year. Brandon was curious if the board would want Brandon’s next grant to include Big Muddy and Danzig Dam.
 - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon believes that there is some good information and pictures that would be good for the write up.

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. MCSCD Handbook – Rocky - Completed
- b. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- c. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky
- d. Women’s Ag Day – Jim – Update already provided

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 - 1. NRCS Programs Update – Stuart discussed a plan for when Shelly retires with the board.
 - 2. Shelly provided a report on her thoughts on retirement. The Water board requested NRCS assistance on Zach Meyer Critical area treatment.
- b. County Extension Agent – No Report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – The NDASCD has a planned to have a Farm Bill Specialist in the Mandan office by March 1st.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – Flasher Fire & Ambulance Thank You Card, Thank You Card from Jackie Buckley, Gateway to Science Donation Request letter, The Pasture Advisor, Central Grasslands Forum, Forestry Notes Newsletter, Grand Forks SCD Newsletter, Nursery News Letter, Chamber Connection magazine, 2016 Proceedings and Reports from the Annual Soil Conservation Convention, and Achievement Program Letter.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to allow Brandon to attend the Holistic Management Workshop and have 319 pay for the cost of the workshop.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

- Ted Becker
- Aaron Steckler
- Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

- Rocky Bateman
- Richard Tokach

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve Brian McGinness EQIP contract.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Rocky Bateman
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Abstained (1)

Richard Tokach

Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve Aaron Steckler's EQIP contract.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Voting No (0)

Abstained (1)

Aaron Steckler

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve the following EQIP contracts: Steven Tomac, Waylon Tomac, Joel Opp, Judy Miller, Darrell Kuhn, Roger Hoovestol, David Opp, William Davis, and Travis Jacobson.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Voting No (0)

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

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

XVI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman