

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 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 9:30am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Jim Hopfauf	Duane Olsen
Adam Pacht	Rocky Bateman	Don Tanaka
Brandon Schafer	Travis Wolf	Justin Edwards
Michele Doyle	Aaron Steckler	Jackie Buckley
Ted Becker	Richard Tokach	

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the February 18th, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Beth and Travis had a meeting with Lynnell from Mahlum Goodhart and discussed what the board would like them to review in the agreed upon procedures.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve both the District and 319 Financial Reports as submitted by Beth McCleary.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 8th 2016 – If anyone would like to submit an article for the newsletter please have it to Beth by April 8th.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the meeting notice and posted the agenda. Beth also turned off the ability to order trees from the website as of March 1st.
- c. MCSCD Handbook – Beth has been working with Wendy, the Morton County HR representative, and should only need 1 more meeting to finish up which is planned for next week. Beth will review the handbook with the handbook committee and discuss any changes and possibly meet with Wendy one last time if need be. Once the rough draft is completed the handbook will be presented to the board.
- d. Water Spickot – no report
- e. 2016 Winter Workshop Report – Beth provided a copy of the Winter Workshop report to the board members.
- f. Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant - Tri-County Application – Brandon created the grant and had sent in the final draft.
- g. Shop Talks – The next shop talk will be March 17th at Roger Hoovestol's. The shop talk in Hebron went well there were about 14 people who attended. Don thanked the board for providing Pizza at the shop talk that really helped with the turn out.
- h. Water Festival April 12th, 2016 – Brandon presented a schedule to the board.

- i. Achievement Winner Nominees – Jesse Smith, Doug Hille, Roger/Russell Hoovestol, & George Ferderer – Brandon explained the reason for the choices of the nominees. The board opened up a secret ballot to the voting board members and associate board members. The private votes were tallied and the vote came in that Doug Hille would be the 2016 Morton County 2016 Achievement Winner. Rocky will ask Doug if he will accept the Nominee.

Travis arrived at the meeting.

- j. Hiring Tree Crew – Adam posted the job description to the job service website.
- k. Morton County Ag Day – March 17th, 2016 – Brandon stated that this year the staff is shorthanded and that it would be better to try to attend next year.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Multi-County Workshop – Each Soil Conservation District was asking their board if they would like to participate. Brandon has not received a response.
- b. Camera Prices – Beth passed around different camera options that the staff reviewed to present to the board. The total cost for the camera and supplies is around \$450. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve a \$500 budget and to approve for the staff to purchase a video camera and camera items.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
 Jim Hopfauf
 Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Aaron Steckler

- c. Nutritional Balance Workshop – Richard reported that the Nutritional Balance workshop was well received and well attended.
- d. Farming for the Bottom Line – Jackie presented a report and stated that they had a good turnout, although numbers were down a little from last year. The committee is wondering if they should stick to an economic theme or change to a different topic. Rocky suggested that if they could get someone that could focus on no till and soil health that would include the economic side that would be good. Jackie suggested maybe looking into a key note speaker then charging admission to attend the workshop.
- e. Reissue Checks – Aaron Steckler & Ted Becker – Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to reissue both Aaron Steckler's check (#11906) and Ted Becker's check (#10826) as they did not clear the bank and have been misplaced.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
 Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
 Aaron Steckler

- f. Newspaper Articles – Jim made a suggestion about publishing annual reports in the newspapers. Beth will check on prices for a full page add, half page add, and quarter page add. Beth will also check on prices for a small add for promoting our website.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam stopped taking hand plant orders as of March 1st. This year there was a total of 8,612 hand plant and replacement trees ordered. Last year there was only 8,408 trees ordered. 39% of the tree orders came from the newsletter, 25% from the office, and 21% from the website. Adam will provide a full report at the end of tree season.

2. Garden Expo – Located at the Bismarck Event Center – April 15-16th. Adam was wondering if the board wanted to pay to have a booth there. Adam stated that the prices is around \$300.00. The board decided to not have a booth at the Garden Expo this year.
3. Lincoln Oakes – Adam read an email from Lincoln Oakes. The email stated that we are not able to get certain species of trees as we were on a wait list. Adam was unaware that we were even on a wait list. Adam responded to the email asking for an explanation. Bill responded with an email that Adam also read to the board.

Rocky was appointed to the state board to fulfill the term of Myron Lick. Rocky brought up the situation that we are having with Lincoln Oakes at the NDASCD board meeting; and informed the MCSCD board of the response.

b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on final corrections and fixes to QuickBooks. She has also been working on the handbook with Wendy.
2. Youth Range Camp Sponsorship – Beth has been getting some questions on whether or not the board will sponsor kids again this year for Youth Range Camp. This year's dates (tentative) is June 21-24th. Location is Hanson's Logging Cabin Ranch.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to sponsor 5 students and pay \$100 for each student with approved attendance.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

3. Placemats for Churches – Beth reviewed some prices for ordering more placemats for churches and presented those prices to the board. So far we only have one church that has shown interest.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to order 400 placemats from NACD soil stewardship website.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon attend the Farming for the Bottom Line workshop, the ND Water Quality Conference, and Nut Bal. Brandon will be attend the Clean Water ACT meeting in Bismarck on March 16th, 2016. Cultural Resources reviews are done for Shawn and George.
2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon is scheduling dates to plan for the upcoming year for each of the Mentors.

IX. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. District Conservationist

1. NRCS Programs Update

- a. EQIP – Deadline is March 15th for new contracts to be submitted. The deadline for sign up for 2017 is May 1st, 2016.
- b. CSP – Deadline is March 31st for sign ups.
- c. CRP – There were two person that applied last year but have not yet been notified if they were approved.

b. County Extension Agent – Jackie presented report and are a part of these minutes.

c. Farm Bill Biologist – March 1st general CRP sign up deadline and Morton County had 7 sign ups. Ask Justin.

X. CORRESPONDENCE – Chamber Connection Magazine, The Pasture Advisor newsletter, Understanding Financial Statements Fred Pryor Seminars and Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist Newsletter.

XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve -

XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND

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

XIV. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman