

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 9th, 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 9:32 am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary  
Brandon Schafer  
Michele Doyle  
Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler  
Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach  
Jim Hopfauf

Travis Wolf  
Don Tanaka  
Duane Olsen

**Absent**

Adam Pacht  
Travis Rossow

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Please submit any articles to Beth by April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the Board Meeting Notice.
- c. Water Spickot – No Report
- d. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – Brandon ordered the drill that the board recommended. He ordered a 10 foot drill. Total cost of the drill was about \$39,500 with a discount of around \$1,400. We will know the exact discount when we receive the bill. Roughly \$9,000 will be charged to the district after the grant is utilized. The board and staff will review a price for renting out or providing grass seeding services at the next meeting.  
Sioux County approached Rocky and asked if the Morton County SCD board wouldn't mind that Sioux County SCD seed grass on the Morton County Corp land in Morton County.  
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow Sioux County SCD to seed grass on Morton County Corp land.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

- e. 2017 Women's Ag Day Report – Ted stated that Women's Ag Day went very well. Beth will provide a detailed report once all the bills come into the district.
- f. District Enclosed Trailer Report – Adam ordered the trailer.

- g. Joint Soil Health Workshops - March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 Paul Jasa Report – Travis Wolf, Rocky Bateman, and Aaron Steckler did a great job presenting. Rocky stated that the speakers were excellent. There was a great turnout with about 95 people attending the March 1<sup>st</sup> presentation and 20 people attending the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Clinic. Don would like to Thank Travis Wolf, Aaron Steckler, and Rocky Bateman on how well they did on the Farmer Panel. Shelly passed around Burleigh County SCD’s coasters with the Soil Health Principles.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to have the board be a partner with Burleigh County SCD and to put \$5,000 towards Alan Savory, from 319 funds.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

- h. Mitigation Contract Update – Beth passed around a report given from Adam before he left on leave.
- i. NRCS Cooperative Agreement – Beth sent in the plan of work to Jill Howard. The total amount the district is requesting is \$4,728.50 as NRCS 50% estimated share. Beth passed around the plan of work and funding proposed sheet. The contribution will run until 09/30/2018.

The board reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist and the Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS, NDSSCC, and the Morton County SCD.

Michele reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners checklist and stated that all the required Public Notification Responsibilities posters are hung and meet the federal requirements.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the signing of the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist affirmation of review.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

- j. Water Festival – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Update – Same day as Area IV meetings in Emmons County. Brandon is working on getting the schools and speakers scheduled.

**VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. March 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> –Tree Promotional Meeting in Bismarck – Beth stated that the employee’s association meeting is on March 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening and would like to clarify with the board how they would like her to handle her time. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve Beth to attend NDCDEA meetings on work time and to include comp-time if applicable.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

- b. April 11<sup>th</sup> – Water Festival in Mandan

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Shop Talks – the board discussed possible shop talks. Proposed date is March 28<sup>th</sup>.  
The board discussed the following workshops/tours: Feedlot Tour – Opp and Hatzenbuhler  
Range Tour – Gartner and OMG participants  
Cover Crop Tour – Area IV and Native Range & Crop  
Trees Workshop – Disease and Driving Tour

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon has been going down to Grant County SCD to help assist them on the OMG grant. Cultural Resources has become a topic of discussion due to the fact that NRCS is unable to provide that as a service for this grant.

**IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Beth provided a report for Adam. On 02/23/2017, Beth received an email from Lincoln Oakes stating that they took to many orders for the 2-3' Prairie Yellow Apple. Beth contacted the 4 people affected by that. Some changed to the 2-3' Wildlife Apple and some took the conservation grade of the Prairie Yellow Apple. On 03/06/2017, Beth received another email from Lincoln Oakes stating that they didn't catch that we had ordered 3+' Bur Oak, which Adam ordered on 11/30/2016 and 01/17/2017. There are a total of 6 people that are affected by that. Those customers will be contacted to see if they would like to substitute for the 2-3' Bur Oak instead. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to allow Adam to attend the Leadership Conference in September on work time.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker

Aaron Steckler

Jim Hopfauf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on Women's Ag Day preparations. Beth has been trying to contact the schools that had a snow day in December during Tom Gibson TREES program, to try and reschedule. So far there has been 1 out of 4 schools that is not interested in rescheduling. Beth completed and sent in the Contribution Agreement to Jill Howard with NRCS. Beth attended the NDASCD Meeting on Wednesday as a member of the Employee Association. Beth will be assisting with a QuickBooks training on the Tree Promotional Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Employees Association is planning on having a meeting on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dakota Community Bank updated their system, so Beth had to pay the district employees with paper checks. Going forward Beth will be working on the QuickBooks Training Materials, correcting things that need to be corrected for tree orders, attending the Tree Promotional Meeting, and working on rescheduling the last school that missed Tom Gibson. Beth will print off copies of the Handbook and provide to everyone. Beth needs to update/create some forms (example: accident form). Beth will also work on getting things together for the audit with Mahlum Goodhart.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – Watershed Coordinators Workshop is March 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon told the board that they had contacted Jackie Buckley and she seemed interested in doing a write-up for the SHMP. He also told them that this spring soil sampling still needed to be done on all fields for the final PLFA tests.

**X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky – The last thing to do is a write up on 2 out of the 3 participants.

**XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

a. District Conservationist

- 1. NRCS Programs Update – LWG funds have filtered down and contracts are getting funded as funds become available.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve Steve Tomac's Conservation plan.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

The board took a break for lunch at 12:30pm and reconvened at 1:02pm

- b. County Extension Agent – Morton County Ag Days is March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton is the new Farm Bill Specialist serving Morton, Oliver, and Burleigh County.

**XII. CORRESPONDENCE:** ND Outdoor Heritage Tree Planting Initiative Handout, Chamber Connection Magazine, Environmental Monitor Magazine, Achievement Winner Information, and Sponsorship form for Morton County Fair.  
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to change the ad from last year and add the 5 principles of soil health and keep the rest.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

Jim made a motion, seconded by Richard, to commit to having a 2017 achievement winner from Morton County.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to resubmit Kenny Miller for the Leopold Award for 2017 and contact Burleigh County SCD to work with them.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (5)**

Ted Becker  
Aaron Steckler  
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

**Voting No (0)**

**XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

- a. Review and Approve

**XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

9:30 AM Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

**XVI. ADJOURN – the meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman