

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 8, 2018

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 Rocky Bateman at 9:34am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary  
Adam Pacht  
Brandon Schafer

Rocky Bateman  
Duane Olsen  
Richard Tokach

George Ferderer  
Travis Wolf  
Val Hartman

**Absent**

Travis Rossow  
Ted Becker

Sarah Hamilton  
Don Tanaka

Aaron Steckler

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman  
Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter- Due April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Next newsletter articles are due to Beth by April 13, 2018.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the events as well as the board meeting notice.
- c. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – The order was received and should be shipped soon.
- d. Hire Intern – Adam sent all the information to the other universities. We did receive one application and that was sent to the Personnel Committee for review.
- e. Achievement Winner Nominations – Brandon and Adam presented a list of people to the board for nominations which include: Paul Govig, Doug and Lisa Schmidt, and Dennis Graner. Brandon brought up doing an achievement banquet through the district at the end of the year. The board decided to vote on the achievement winner next month.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Holistic Management Introductory School February 21-23, 2018 Report – Rocky stated that the school was a very good learning experience. There were producers that came from all over. There were approximately 28 people who attended.
- b. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Report – There were about 185 people that attended. Jay has already discussed with ARS about advertising jointly next year. Next year, the Research Station's Speaker will be Temple Grandin.
- c. Tree Promotional Meeting – March 13-15, 2018 – Beth will be giving a QuickBooks training on the first night of the tree promotional meeting.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Certificate of Deposit Report – Travis made a motion, seconded by Richard, to roll CD (I2) that is coming up for maturity into an 11-month CD.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky also suggested looking into other saving options other than Certificate of Deposits.

- b. Scholarships – Beth provided the board with a report to the board. The board recommended the following for Scholarship Requirements: resident of Morton County, can be high school Senior and up, GPA min of 2.5, any accredited university or college, scholarship reward money will be paid once transcript received, require written essay, and that multiple scholarships may be awarded.
- c. Achievement Winner Old Photos – Rocky suggested contacting the previous winners' families and see if they want them.
- d. Coffee Pot for the Office – The board approved the staff to purchase a new coffee pot.

## VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – nothing new to report

## IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam stopped accepting tree orders as of last week Friday. We have 20 fewer orders than we did last year but about 2,000 more trees. 43% of people ordered through the newsletter, 34% of people ordered online, and 16% came in to the office to order.
2. Adam will start getting trees from nurseries. Adam asked if we would be able to go down to Watertown, SD again. The board said that was alright to continue to do that same as years prior.

- b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update –

Travis made a motion, seconded by Richard, to order 100 pocket calendars.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to put \$50.00 in the account for the post office.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

1. Update on Watershed Program

- a. New 319 Grant – Brandon asked the board if they would like him to hold a public meeting to inform producers of the new watershed grant. Rocky suggested getting more water samples from different areas to narrow down where the pollution is coming from.
- b. Water Festival is April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There are 6 schools planning on attending.

**X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky - Rocky stated that the partnership is going well.
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky – Still looking at possibly doing another Mentor Project.

**XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist/Acting – Val Hartman – Val provided a report and are attached to the minutes.
- b. County Extension Agent – Marissa Leier – No Report Provided
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton – No Report Provided

**XII. CORRESPONDENCE** – National Watershed Coalition letter, Gateway to Science Letter, Chamber Connection Magazine, and Morton County Fair Ad.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to use the same ad as last year for the Morton County Fair.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

**XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

- a. Review and Approve

Travis made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve 2 applications of payments and one 319 plan.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the 5 conservation plans for EQIP contracts.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

**XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

9:30 AM Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

**XVI. ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman