

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 13th, 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 9:37 am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

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

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve the March 9th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Ted Becker	Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach	Jim Hopfauf

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Ted Becker	Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach	Jim Hopfauf

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due April 7th, 2017 – Once Beth receives articles from the staff she will finish the newsletter and send it to Image.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice. Beth also posted the Shop Talk advertisement to the website and Facebook.
- c. Water Spickot – No Report

- d. No-Till Grass Drill – Prices – We did get the drill. Our cost, after reimbursement, will end up being around \$9,713.00. Brandon did research on other districts prices.

Brandon suggested the following prices:

\$10 per acre if the producer uses the grass drill

\$50 delivery fee if the district delivers the drill

\$17 per acre + fuel for the tractor if the district seeds for the producer

There is a minimum charge of 10 acres

There will be a written agreement with the producer and an equipment checklist

Deposit required is a 50% down payment

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve **Brandon's suggested prices.**

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

- e. 2017 Women's Ag Day Report – Beth passed around the 2017 Women's Ag Day expense report along with the survey report.
- f. District Enclosed Trailer Report – Adam is going to drop off the trailer to get it insulated. Once we get the trailer back Adam will get the shelves built. Rocky suggested looking into tracking system for our equipment or vehicles.
- g. Mitigation Contract Update – Adam emailed the updated contract to the board members prior to the meeting. Adam went over the agreement with the board.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the Mitigation Contract with Dakota Access LLC

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Adam has another mitigation contract to review from Tetra Tech. Adam reviewed the plans with the board. They are requesting follow up for the trees for the next 3 years. The board stated that they will leave it up to Adam and if he has any questions to contact Ted. The board is okay with Adam proceeding with the plantings.

- h. Water Festival – April 11th, 2017 – Report – Ted stated that it went well and everyone did a good job. Brandon stated that there was 128 students this year and one less school then last year.

Aaron Steckler arrived

- i. Shop Talks – Shelly stated that we should get our Soil Health Mentors to the Shop Talks as speakers or helpers. We can focus the shop talks on producer specific cover crop mixes.

April 18th @ Hebron Pizza Pantry 10:00am – 2:00pm Lunch Provided

April 25th @ Sunset Inn, New Salem 9:30am – Noon Coffee & Rolls Provided

April 25th @ One More Bar & Grill, Flasher 2:00pm - 4:00pm Refreshments Provided

- j. Tree Promotional Meeting Report – Beth attended the Tree Promotional Meeting on March 14-16th. Beth provided the board with information on the Tree Promotional Meeting. Beth also gave a training on QuickBooks to new SCD personnel.

- V. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR** – Richard suggested putting Stockman's Feedlot Tour notice in our newsletter. The board reviewed upcoming events.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. MCSCD Scholarship for 2018 – The board suggested looking into a multi-county scholarship opportunity. They suggested combining with Oliver and Grant County and combine funds for a scholarship for students within the 3 counties. The board suggested creating a committee made up of Rocky and SCD staff to compile information for a future board meeting.
- b. Promotional Items – The staff will check into different promotional items and prices and provide that to the board at a future board meeting.
- c. Area IV Report – Rocky and Beth provided a report on the Area IV meeting. Beth, Rocky, Duane, and Mayvis attended the Area IV meeting from Morton County. There was less supervisor turn out this year than in years prior. Grant County brought the 5 pillars of Soil Health as a resolution, Area IV passed the resolution unanimously.
- d. Achievement Winner 2017 – Beth provided the board with a Map of Morton County that was split up into different sections to better focus on certain areas for our Achievement Winner each year. George Ferderer is the board’s first choice in section 2 of the Morton County Map that was provided to the board. Rodney Rusch is the board’s second choice. Aaron will contact George to offer him the Morton County Achievement Nomination.
- e. Urban Conservation Grant – Shelly provided information on the NACD Grant opportunities as well as an NRCS contribution agreement in order to get funding for an Urban Conservationist for Morton County. Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, for the staff to look into getting funding assistance for an Urban Conservationist in Morton County.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- f. Hire New Employee Part-time/Seasonal – The staff discussed with the board on hiring a new employee for tree planting as well as other office duties. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to give the personnel committee the authority to hire a new employee that would meet the requirements/needs of the district.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- g. Hire Tree Crew – the personnel committee will focus on the part-time/seasonal position first. This agenda item is no longer needed at this time.
- h. Leopold Award Nomination – Kenny and Bonnie Miller would be willing to accept the nomination of the Leopold Award again in 2017. **Keep on the agenda.**

VII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – There is a total of 19 applications between Oliver, Morton, and Grant County. The staff will rank the applications and then there will be a Board Meeting on April 20th to approve the contracts as funding and ranking allows. Brandon is going to spend one more day in Grant County to finish up on contracts.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric - Adam got the shed up and running and him and Beth picked up trees from Lincoln Oakes yesterday. Beth and Adam compliment Lincoln Oakes on the way that they are improving tree pick-ups. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow the staff to go to pick up the trees from Big Sioux Nursery in Watertown, South Dakota again this year and split the costs with other districts that also ordered from Big Sioux.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Hand plant pick-up day for pre-ordered trees is scheduled for May 5th and 6th. Adam and Beth will send out post cards to inform customers of the dates.

Adam is asking the board to take part in Arbor Day on April 25th in New Salem. The board stated that was alright and Adam may donate 10 trees to the students to plant.

b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth made the post cards for the shop talks and sent them out to about 100 different producers. Beth has been attending the meetings with Burleigh County to discuss the Allan Savory Workshop as well as Jonathan Lundgren. Burleigh County SCD is wondering if Morton County SCD is interested in partnering on Jonathan Lundgren workshop as well. The workshop will be July 12th at BSC and 13th at Menoken Farm. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, for the Morton County SCD to partner with Burleigh County SCD on the Jonathan Lundgren Workshops with a dollar amount to be determined later.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program –There are 3 or 4 new contracts in the watershed project.
- 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon is going to finish soil sampling.

IX. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky

X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. District Conservationist

- 1. NRCS Programs Update – Morton County Water Board is planning a meeting about Dam Inundation about Harmon Lake and Square Butte Dam. They will make a recommendation to the county commissioners about development in those areas.

On April 27th the staff has a training on NRCS equipment. NRCS is still working on EQIP contracts.

- b. County Extension Agent – No report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – No report

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – The Resource NACD Annual Report Magazine, BSC Enrichment Magazine, Agvise Newsletter, Burke SCD Newsletter, Integrated Weed Control 2017 Catalog, Participator Newsletter, NDIRF letter, Chamber Connection Magazine, TechLine Invasive Plant News, and ND Youth Range Camp Brochure and email from Tanasha Wanner.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, for Morton County SCD to provided funding assistance, as we have in the past, and sponsor 5 Morton County students at \$100 for each student to attend the Youth Range Camp.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve

Aaron Made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the following EQIP Conservation Plans: Kenny Miller, Grant Johnson, Jan Belohlavek, Mark Schafer, John Kessler, Duane Kapustensky.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Ted Becker
Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve EQIP Conservation Plan for Brian McGinnes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Abstained

Richard Tokach

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, May 11th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XV. ADJOURN at 12:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman