

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 11th, 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 9:30am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary

Ted Becker

Don Tanaka

Brandon Schafer

Rocky Bateman

Duane Olsen

Adam Pacht

Jim Hopfauf

Cole Chappa

Michele Doyle

Travis Wolf

Absent

Travis Rossow

Richard Tokach

Rod Skytland

Aaron Steckler

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the April 13th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

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 (3)

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Voting No (0)

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due July 7th, 2017 – Next Newsletter Articles are due July 7th. Please submit articles to Beth.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice as well as posted the Youth Range Camp information to the website.
- c. Water Spickot – No report
- d. No-Till Grass Drill – Prices – Still needs to be post to website. Brandon presented a list of people that are interested in the drill and that have used the drill.
- e. District Enclosed Trailer Report – The trailer is insulated and the floor is sealed. Adam made shelves for inside the trailer.
- f. Mitigation Contract Update – All of the agreements were submitted and Adam will work on the plantings. Adam has been talking to Energy Transfer Partners about the PSC as they are concerned about how many Green Ash trees that are going in.

- g. Shop Talk Reports – The shop talk at Hebron was not well attended. The Shop talk in New Salem had a few producers. The Flasher shop talk had 2 producers. Don stated that it may have been planned a little late in the season.
- h. Promotional Items – Pocket Calendars – Beth provided prices for the pocket calendars. Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to order 50 “2018” pocket calendars.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Calving Books – Brandon provided the board with prices. The board decided not to order any Calving Books at this time.
Seed Depth Markers – Don suggested if we get some to give them to the people that use the drill.
Ted suggested putting Morton County SCD on there and something about Soil Health.
Rocky and Don will work with Brandon on a design to put on the seed depth markers and the board will decide whether or not to purchase them at the next board meeting.

- i. Achievement Winner 2017 – George Ferderer – The board decided not to order an office framed picture and only go with the digital copy.
- j. Personnel
 - a. New Part-Time/Seasonal – The personnel committee interviewed 3 people. The first choice that the personnel committee offered the job to turn it down. Adam then offered it to the second choice and she accepted the position. The new employee has a starting hourly wage of \$16.00 per hour.
 - b. New Tree Crew – The personnel committee hired a new member of the tree crew. The new employee has a starting hourly wage of \$16.00 per hour.
 - c. Previous Tree Crew Wages – The personnel committee recommends to give the returning tree crew a \$0.50 raise.
Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to give Walter and Tim a \$0.50 raise.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

V. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR – Jonathan Lundgren Events – July 12-13, 2017 Allan Savory July 19-20, 2017
VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Rod Skyland Report on Insurance – Rod was unable to make the meeting. Jim has a question on the insurance that he wanted Rod to clarify. Brandon wanted to increase the insurance to \$40,000 for the drill. The board agreed with that.
- b. Credit Cards – Beth presented a list of credit cards to the board for review. Beth will do more research on the Chase Ink Business Cash card as well as the Citi Double Cash Card and bring it to the next board meeting.
- c. Tracking System for Equipment – There will be no discount on insurance if we purchase a tracking system. Brandon reviewed prices with the board on the tracking system that he found. Rocky suggested looking a little deeper into more options.
- d. Custer Health/Cooler Request – Custer Health is requesting to partner with the Morton County SCD under a Memorandum of Understanding, to use the district’s tree coolers for storage of bodies in case of mass casualties. Beth passed around the Agreement to the board.
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to sign and agree to the Memorandum of Understanding with Custer Health.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- e. Court Case – Brian Grossinger contacted Travis 2 days ago. Travis read the letter from Brian Grossinger. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to have Travis contact Brian Grossinger and advise him that the board would like to proceed with the conviction.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

VII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – The OMG board had a meeting on the second batching period and it went well. There may be money left over to be able to do a third batching period. All applications were approved that were submitted.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Beth and Adam picked up the trees in South Dakota and picked up trees for 6 districts. Morton County SCD will split the travel costs with the other districts. One of the compressors in the old cooler froze up so we needed to repair that. Adam and his crew bundled trees for the pickup day. Adam has completed 2 plantings so far.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to pay for tree watering services at the district shed.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working with Burleigh County SCD on the Multi-County workshops. Beth has been making the flyers for the Allan Savory Events and the Jonathan Lundgren Events. Beth helped Adam and the tree crew with the hand plant pick up day in New Salem as well as got all the invoices made for the customers. Beth and Brandon met with KC Harvey employees, on Monday, at Lincoln Oakes to assist them in picking up their trees. They received about 90% of their trees. Beth also helped Adam pick up trees from the nurseries.

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – There are a few contracts to be approved. George J. Ferderer has the manure spreader currently.

Brandon and Shelly discussed the situation with Kelly Glatt. The issue came up at the Water Board Meeting as well.

Scott Ressler contacted Beth and Brandon and stated that any donation we would like to contribute would be gladly accepted.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to have the Morton County SCD donate \$300.00 to the Stockman's Feedlot Tour.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – The staff took the last soil samples for the project last Friday.

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 – There is still a hiring freeze for NRCS. NRCS wants to start prescribed burning in North Dakota. NRCS will be able to administer the prescribed burning. Shelly discussed an email from Secretary Perdue about the combining of mission areas for NRCS, FSA, and the Risk Management Agency.
- b. County Extension Agent – No Report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – No Report

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – The Currant Newsletter, ND Forest Service Newsletter, 2016 Surface Mining Report, Dakota Farmer Magazine, ND FFA Foundation, Inc. Newsletter, Chamber Connection Magazine, and Nationwide Newsletter.

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve -
Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve Duane Fleck and Melvin Fischer EQIP Conservation Plan.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve Claye Kaelberer and James Boehm 319 contracts.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, June 8th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XV. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman