

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 9th, 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	Aaron Steckler	Richard Tokach
Adam Pahl	Travis Wolf	Roberto Luciano
Brandon Schafer	Duane Olsen	Justin Edwards
Ted Becker	Don Tanaka	Melissa McCann

**Absent**

Jim Hopfauf	Michele Doyle
Rocky Bateman	Jackie Buckley

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

Aaron Steckler

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due July 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 – Please submit any articles to Beth by July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice, the most recent newsletter, and the surplus sale advertisement. Beth also posted the surplus sale on the District Facebook page. The Facebook page currently has 70 likes. Beth suggested making a contest and having the winner receive 5 free seedlings to increase the traffic on the Facebook page. The board would allow the contest.
- c. MCSCD Handbook – Beth had her final meeting with Wendy on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Beth will review the handbook with Rocky. Then the handbook will be reviewed with the board.
- d. Water Spicket – Travis will look into it once the coolers are off and trees are done.
- e. Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant - Tri-County Application – The grant did get approved for \$900,000. There has been lots of people interested in the grant. The first sign up period is August 1<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- f. Tree Planting Policy – Adam passed around a copy of the proposed tree planting policy to the board members. Adam spoke with Natalie from Planning and Zoning and she said they currently don't have a policy in place but they will look into it. Adam will put the board suggestions in the policy.
- g. Old Fabric Machine – Adam sent out an email to the other districts and will notify the board at the next board meeting if any districts are interested.
- h. Summer Range Tour – No further updates
- i. Winter Workshop Transition to Soil Health Workshop – Multi-County – No further updates

**VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR** – Beth stated that a CD is coming up for maturity and asked the board what they would like to do with it.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to let the CD coming due June 27<sup>th</sup> to let it auto renew.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Drill – The Game and Fish has a cost share program available for a No-Till Grass Drill. Brandon will bring more information when it becomes available.
- b. Gas Meter at District Shed – The gas meter is now off and the district is not being charged for it since we no longer need gas services.
- c. Boy Scout Trees – Adam was contacted by a Boy Scout Leader and he was wondering if the district would be willing to donate extra trees at the end of the surplus sale. Neither the troop nor the camp is in the county. The board would allow the donation.

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Technician
  - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam finished planting trees. 13,900 trees were planted which is up 3,900 trees from 2015. Beth and Brandon took over for Adam while he was on leave and laid 20,000 feet of fabric. The tractor had an oil leak from the crank shaft seal. It was under warrantee and was repaired at no cost.
    - a. Leave – Travis reviewed the handbook. No discussion needed
- b. District Secretary
  - 1. Admin Update
    - a. Fabric – Beth took over for Adam while he was on leave. Beth took the tree crew out for 3 days. The crew broke bearings in 2 of the discs. The crew applied fabric to Bill Kist, Kenny Miller, and Jared Ernst. During Kenny Miller's planting, the crew laid fabric on 1 row of trees that was not supposed to get fabric. The board will not charge Kenny for the fabric that was incorrectly applied.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon helped with the tree crew. Brandon attended the pipeline training. Brandon has to attend NRCS UTV training next week.
  - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon has not had time to look at the mentor fields yet. We are planning on having a summer and fall tour.

**IX. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist - Acting DC, Roberto Luciano
  - 1. NRCS Programs Update – Roberto explained Client Gateway.
- b. County Extension Agent – Beth presented a copy of Jackie's Report.
- c. Farm Bill Biologist – Justin is switching his home office to Oliver County since he moved to Washburn. He still plans to be in the Mandan office twice a week. Justin will be transferring over to the NDASCD effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**X. CORRESPONDENCE** – Conservation Planning information, State Tax Commissioner Letter, The Pasture Advisor, NDIRF Magazine, State Farm Audit Notice, Surface Mining Report, Participator Letter, and Chamber Connection Magazine.

**XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

- a. Review and Approve – Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve for the district to pay the full funding of Cultural Resources Inventory, with in-kind money, for Dan Little.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the 319 contract for Kevin Fishbeck.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve Dan Little's 319 Contract subject to Brandon correcting the footage.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

**XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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

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

**XIV. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 10:57am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman