

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 14th, 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 9:31 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Ted Becker	Richard Tokach
Adam Pahl	Aaron Steckler	Justin Edwards
Brandon Schafer	Travis Wolf	Jackie Buckley
Michele Doyle	Duane Olsen	Jim Hopfauf

Absent

Rocky Bateman
Don Tanaka

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the June 9th, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due July 8th 2016 – Beth is currently working on finalizing the newsletter. The newsletter plans to be mailed out by July 22nd. The next newsletter article due date is October 14th, 2016 which will include our hand plant and replacement tree order form. The board was provided a draft of the newsletter.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website with Adam's Tree of the Quarter article. She also posted the Opportunity Knocks for Progressive Producers Event and the Outdoor Heritage Fund O-M-G Grant information to Facebook and the website.
- c. MCSCD Handbook – Beth and Rocky are working on the final review for the handbook. By next board meeting the board members should receive the rough draft for the first reading and review. Beth presented a question to the board about offering EAP benefits. The Morton County Courthouse offers EAP benefits through CHI St. Alexius Health. Beth presented the board with the price. If the board would like to offer EAP benefits to all employees and board members (including spouses and children) it would cost \$1,000 per year for under 50 employees. The employees would receive 8 visits per year and there is training and presentations offered as well.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to offer the board members, SCD staff, and this year's tree crew EAP benefits through CHI St. Alexius Health.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

- d. Water Spicket – Travis will contact the plumber.
- e. Tree Planting Policy – Adam passed out the updated tree policy. Richard made suggestions to Adam to update the policy with a living snow fence clause. Adam will make the updates and bring to next board meeting.
- f. Old Fabric Machine – One Soil Conservation District in Lisbon showed interest in the Fabric Machine. They made an offer of \$500.00.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to put the Old Fabric Machine up for sealed bids on the District website, Facebook, Newsletter, and Bismanonline.com.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

- g. Summer Range Tour – August & October? – Small tour scheduled for August 9th. Kevin Sedivec, Mike Gerbig, and Ryan Foster will be speaking at the tour. The tour is planning to be in the afternoon so no meal is provided. This tour will be held at Dwight Keller's. Michele suggested partnering with Oliver County for a fall Range Tour planning to be in September. Michele suggested to provide a meal with that one to attract more attention. The board allowed the SCD staff to plan for a meal to be offered at the September Range Tour.
- h. Soil Health Mentor Tour – Fall – August 16th is the date for the Soil Health Mentor Tour at Travis Rossow's and John Steckler's fields. Brandon stated that we plan to have a big tour at the end of the project in the fall and bring the rain fall simulator.
- i. Winter Workshop Transition to Soil Health Workshop – Multi-County – Michele suggested that we start looking at ideas and to decide if we are going to partner with multiple counties. Ted suggested that a Committee be made up of Rocky, Don, Michele, Jackie, and the SCD staff for planning purposes.
- j. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Drill – Brandon presented a report of the conversation he had with Doug Howie with Game and Fish. Brandon was wondering if the board would like to go forward with interest in applying for cost share or if they didn't want to go forward. The board is still interested.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution- In Rocky's absence Brandon presented the board with Rocky's resolution. Rocky's question is should the Morton County SCD board adopt this as a resolution at the Area IV meeting or if it should be a directive. The board did not wish to proceed with the resolution at this time. The board suggested changing the wording. Brandon will advise Rocky on the recommendations.
- b. Area IV Meeting – July 20th – The employees and board members will meet at the office at 7 a.m. at the office and carpool together for the Area IV Meeting.
- c. Mill Levy Report – Beth presented the board with the Mill Levy report and asked if there was any changes that the board would like to make. Beth and Travis will present the Mill Levy to the report to the County Commissioners about July - August.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the Mill levy budget with the approved changes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon presented an update on the O-M-G grant. The sign-up period is August 1st to October 1st. Brandon asked if a board member is not present at the board meeting for the grant if someone else could proxy a vote.
Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow Brandon to proxy a vote if a board member could not be present at the O-M-G grant board meeting.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

There is a meeting on July 25th, 2016 for the board with the O-M-G Grant.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam presented on the email we received from the NDASCD about following their policies. Adam presented to the board about Wally Peters and asked the board to cover the replacement trees. When the trees were planted last year the trench did not fully close causing the trees to die.
Aaron made a motion, seconded by Travis, to cover the replacement trees for a planting for Wally Peters from 2015 when the trench did not fully close and the trees died.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Travis made a motion, seconded by Jim, to allow Adam to go to Carrington for a Carrington NDSU Field Day Tour.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Adam presented a Financial Report to the board about the tree season.

- b. District Secretary
 - 1. Admin Update – Beth stated there is a CD coming up for maturity on July 24th, 2016 and asked the board if they wished to let it auto renew or to take it out.
Jim made a motion, seconded by Travis, to allow the CD to auto renew.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

- 2. Women’s Ag Day Ideas – Beth presented the board with a list of Women’s Ag Day ideas.
- 3. Range Management School – Travis made a motion, seconded by Jim, to sponsor 5 operations up to \$100 per operation on a first come first serve basis who return the application and who attend the Range Management School.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon has a few producers that are interested in signing up for a 319 contract.
 - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Tours scheduled for Tuesday August 16th, 2016.

X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 - 1. NRCS Programs Update – Michele talked about Client Gateway. Michele reviewed 2016 CSP contract folders with the board.
- b. County Extension Agent – Jackie presented her report.
- c. Farm Bill Biologist – Justin has been noticing a lot of noxious weeds. Justin is now officially on the NDASCD as a Farm Bill Specialist. – Change the title on next agenda.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – ND Forest Service Newsletter, NRCS Plant Chat Article, Burleigh County SCD Soil Health Garden Tour Brochure, NACD Friends of the Forest book, Forestry Notes, ND FFA Foundation Newsletter, Chamber Connection, and NDASCD Annual Convention Letters.

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve – Approve CSP Conservation Plans – Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve a conservation plan for Bryan Keller.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve AFP for cover crops for Paul Brandt.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, August 11th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND

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

XV. ADJOURN – at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman