

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

9:30 a.m. Monday, July 17th, 2017

9:30 a.m. CDT - USDA Service Center – 2540 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	Sam Halstengard
Val Hartman	Richard Tokach	Rod Skyland

Absent

Aaron Steckler	Sarah Hamilton
Travis Wolf	Michele Doyle
Travis Rossow	

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the June 8th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Dakota Community Bank Fee – Beth advised to the board that starting on 01/01/2018 Dakota Community Bank will start charging for direct deposit.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newsletter – Due July 7th, 2017 – Staff is currently working on the newsletter, once it is complete it will be sent out.
- Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice. Beth is planning on putting the hats on the website/Facebook for sale as well. Beth advised that there are only so many pictures that can be put on the website and no videos.
Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to look into a new website vendor.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker	Richard Tokach
Jim Hopfauf	Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- Water Spickot – No update
- Tracking System for Equipment – Brandon has not ordered it at this time.

- e. Jim Report on Legal Issue – The issue is being resolved.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Midwest Bugfest with Dr. Jonathan Lundgren – July 12th & 13th (Would we like to sponsor?) – The board discussed sponsorship amounts.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to sponsor \$1,000 to the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- b. Northern Plains Grasslands Symposium with Allan Savory – July 19th & 20th (Sponsored \$5,000 using 319 funds)
- c. Cover Crop Tour with Justin Zahradka – September 14th (Would we like to sponsor?) – Brandon will get more information on this.
- d. NDASCD Annual Convention November 19th-21st with David Montgomery as the Main speaker and Josh Dukart as a speaker for a few mini-sessions (would we like to sponsor?) – Rocky suggested asking other Districts to contribute as well.
- e. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018 – (Would we like to sponsor?) – The board discussed possible speakers and suggestions. Beth and Brandon will take those to the Burleigh County Meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 319 - 2016 Integrated Report – Brandon provided the board with a copy of the report from the ND Department of Health.

- b. Youth Range Camp Applications – Beth provided the board with a copy of the applications.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Jim, to sponsor the two applicants Jacob Gartner and Claire Graner, who attended the youth range camp.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- c. Arden Hagerott Planting – Arden Haggerott had a plan for trees set up in the fall of 2016 for a spring 2017 planting. In the spring of 2017 Adam was contacted by Tetra Tech to do mitigation plantings for the Oliver III Wind Farm. Mr. Haggerott was one of the landowners scheduled to have trees planted for this. After discussion it was agreed that the trees Mr. Haggerott was due from the wind farm would be paid for in his already existing plan as a sort of make-shift cost share. The planting would have cost an estimated \$3600, and the Wind Farm would have covered an estimated \$280. The plan ended up being held up by the wind farm and the PSC, and was not cleared to be planted until into July, even though Mr. Haggerott had things ready to go at the appropriate time in the spring. This would have resulted in low survival rates for the planting even though none of this was due to the actions of Mr. Haggerott. This seemed very unfair to Mr. Haggerott, so after discussion with him and Tetra Tech they both agreed that the planting could be postponed until next year to give him better survival of his planting of which he was still paying the majority. Adam is asking the board for permission to carry over his down payment till next year due to the delay from the PSC and the Wind Farm.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to hold the down payment for Arden Hagerott till the 2018 season and try to re-coop the money for the trees from the wind farm.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

- d. Rod Skyland Report – Rod provided the board with a report on the District Coverage.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project - Semi-annual Report – Brandon Provided the board with a copy of the report that he sent into the Outdoor Heritage Fund. There is enough funding to have another batching period this fall.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Technician

1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam provided the board with a report for this tree season.

Adam cannot get the 4 wheeler to start. Adam is thinking that it is the starter.

The board suggested Adam looking into providing a discount to people for people that need to replace trees.

b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update

No-Till Hats- Beth and Rocky sold 7 Hats at the Jonathan Lundgren Garden Tour. People seem to really like the Blue and Pink ones.

Mill Levy – Beth provided the board with the Mill Levy Budget items that needed discussing.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to have a \$500 scholarship for Morton County Students who take any sciences in college including advanced degrees, the student will be responsible for providing the transcript along with the essay.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to have a \$1,200 budget for the promotional items for the Mill Levy.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Jim, to set a \$15,000 budget for workshops and demonstrations for 2018 for the Mill levy.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Jim made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to set a budget of \$180,000 for the Gross Wages for the 2018 Mill Levy Budget.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

1. Update on Watershed Program – Seed Depth Guides have been going really well. We ordered 50 and there is only 15 left.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to order 200 more seed depth guides with the same artwork and color.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – No update

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky – No update
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky – No update

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 1. NRCS Programs Update – Val Hartman provided an update. CRP is opened for Grazing and Haying. There is about 3,500 acres that is eligible for haying in Morton County.
- b. County Extension Agent – No Report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – No Report

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – Thank you card from Scott Ressler, Thank you card from NDCDEA, Chamber Connection Magazine, Friends & Neighbors Day Advertisement, South McLean County SCD Newsletter, Annual Area IV Meeting Minutes, and NDASCD Letters for awards.

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, ~~August 10th, 2017~~ at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND
(Changed to August 17th, 2017 - Changed after board meeting adjourned)

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

XVI. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman