

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, August 11th, 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 Travis Wolf at 9:36 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary	Travis Wolf	Richard Tokach
Adam Pahl	Rocky Bateman	Justin Edwards
Brandon Schafer	Aaron Steckler	Jackie Buckley
Michele Doyle	Duane Olsen	
Ted Becker	Don Tanaka	

**Absent**

Jim Hopfauf

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

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

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newsletter – Due October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The next newsletter article due date is October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Please submit your articles to Beth by that date.
- Website – Beth updated the website with the Board Meeting notice. Beth and Adam posted the Fabric Machine Sealed Bids information to the website, Facebook, and bismanonline.com. Once the deadline to turn in bids was over Beth and Adam removed it from the website and bismanonline.com.
- MCSCD Handbook – The board reviewed the first 29 pages of the handbook. Beth will make the requested updates to the handbook.
- Water Spickot – Travis talked to the plumber to work out a plan for the water spickot.
- Tree Planting Policy – Adam passed out the updated tree planting policy.  
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the Tree Planting Policy as submitted by Adam.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

- f. Old Fabric Machine – Adam presented the 4 bids to the board.  
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to accept the highest bid for the fabric machine, if the highest bidder rejects the written notice of award, the board will allow the second highest bid.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

- g. Summer Range Tour - Morton/Oliver Range Tour – September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The staff has been talking with Oliver County and discussed the best date would be September 29<sup>th</sup>. Warren Geiger allowed the tour to be held on his land. The staff created a rough agenda for the tour. Michele asked the board if they would rather do a lunch or supper. Travis suggested doing a supper and evening tour. The board agreed to the evening tour.
- h. Soil Health Mentor Tour – Fall – Brandon stated that Jay Furher would be available the first week in October. And suggested Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> as the date to hold the tour. Brandon is thinking there will be around 5 stops. Don suggested looking into a writer to document all the research that the district has done with the Soil Health Mentor Program.
- i. Winter Workshop Transition to Soil Health Workshop – Multi-County – The plan is to have a multi-county winter workshop in 2018. The Committee is made up of Rocky and SCD staff. The Committee will meet soon and start planning.
- j. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Drill – No update at this time
- k. Range Tour Update- The tour went very well. Michele gave a report on the Range Tour.

**VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Jim Froelich – Tree Watering – Adam reminded the board that last year we paid Jim \$400.00 on a gift card. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to purchase Jim Froelich a \$400.00 visa gift card for watching the shed and watering the trees.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

- b. Tires for District Chevy Truck – Beth presented a list of quotes if the Board was interested in replacing the tires on the District Chevy Truck.

Travis suggested going with firestone tires.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow the SCD staff to purchase 6, 10 ply Firestone TransForce All Terrain tires for the Chevy Truck

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

- c. 2017 Calendars- Beth presented the board with a price quote on the calendars with two different designs. Beth presented a new design as well as the same design the district had last year.

Aaron made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to purchase 100 of the new design calendars.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Bateman

Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Steckler

Chairman Ted Becker arrived at the meeting at 10:19 and took control of the meeting.

**VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon provided the board with an update on how the project is going. Brandon currently has about 7 applicants. The OMG board had a meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> and discussed how the project application and ranking would be handled.

**IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Technician
  - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has been out doing tree counts and is getting reimbursed from the ND Conservation District Employees Association. Adam has about 35 people interested in 2017 tree plantings. Adam went to Almont to present at a Garden Club. Adam is going to a windbreak training in Bismarck next week. Adam is interested in attending a Russian Olive Workshop in Montana on September 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve for Adam to attend the September 12-13<sup>th</sup> Russian Olive Workshop at Fort Keogh, Miles City, MT and for the board to cover travel expenses at the state per diem rate.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman  
Aaron Steckler

- b. District Secretary
  - 1. Admin Update – Beth will be working with Rocky on the Handbook. Beth is going to be contacting Lynnell to meet with her to discuss the Agreed upon Procedures.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - 1. Update on Watershed Program- Brandon has been water sampling. Adam has been going out with Brandon when he lake samples. They did find a small amount of blue – green algae bloom at sweet briar. He has a few producers that are interested in putting in water systems. Brandon was asked by Greg to look at the finances for the 319 project. Brandon presented a report on that conversation. Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow the Morton County 319 project to transfer \$20,000 to a different District.

**Motion Carried**

**Voting Aye (4)**

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Bateman  
Aaron Steckler

- 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Jim had let his cows into a pasture that was seeded to Canola and Soy Beans and Beth and Brandon took pictures of the cattle’s grazing habits. The chicory over-wintered and came back this year. Ted suggested creating an article for the newsletter about the information gathered on Jims pasture.

**X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist
  - 1. NRCS Programs Update – NRCS currently has 28 EQIP Applications for FY 2017. Some of the applicants may apply for the OMG grant and if they get accepted through the OMG grant they will then be able to drop out of EQIP.
  - 2. Range Health Assessment – NRCS staff spent 3 days on Wayne Duckwitz’s land and learned about soil and range health. Michele is wanting to incorporate some of the information at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Range Tour.
- b. County Extension Agent – Jackie presented her report to the board.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist– Justin passed around pictures of pollinator habitats that were planted. Justin was at the Range Health Assessment Training.

- XI. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Flasher Fire and Ambulance donation request, Leopold Conservation Award Letter, Emmons County Soil Conservation District Newsletter, Agvise Newsletter, Grand Forks County SCD Newsletter, Chamber Connection Magazine, and the ND Water Magazine.
- XII. **APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**
  - a. Review and Approve
- XIII. **PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**  
9:30 AM Thursday, September 8th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND
- XIV. **Sign Expense Voucher, Payroll, and Credit Card Statements**
- XV. **ADJOURN** the meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman