

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday, September 8th, 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 Vice Chairman Jim Hopfauf at 9:34a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary

Ted Becker

Duane Olsen

Adam Pahl

Jim Hopfauf

Richard Tokach

Brandon Schafer

Rocky Bateman

Don Tanaka

Michele Doyle

Aaron Steckler

Absent

Justin Edwards

Jackie Buckley

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the August 11th, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Travis Wolf

Aaron Steckler

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

Jim Hopfauf

Travis Wolf

Aaron Steckler

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter – Due October 14th, 2016 - The next newsletter article due date is October 14th, 2016. Please submit your articles to Beth by that date.
- b. Website – The Morton County SCD website was hacked. Adam and Beth called Silicon Plains and they had the website working after a week or two.
- c. Water Spickot – Travis will talk with the plumber.
- d. Old Fabric Machine – Beth and Adam met the highest bidder at the District shed and helped him load the fabric machine on their trailer. The District received full cash payment for the Old Fabric Machine.
- e. Summer Range Tour - Morton/Oliver Range Tour – September 29th, 2016 – Michele went out to Warren Geiger's place to review a location for the tour. Michele will try to meet with Val from Oliver County to discuss a final location. Beth went through prices for food. The board agreed to serve pulled beef sandwiches with baked bean, macaroni salad, and cookies. The district will also provide soda, water, and coffee.
- f. Soil Health Mentor Tour – Fall – October 6th, 2016 – The meal will be provided at Travis Wolf's place. The tour will start around noon and end around 6.
- g. Winter Workshop 2017 – Tentative planning date is January 19th or 26th. The board discussed possible speakers and topics. The board made up a committee for planning for the 2017 Winter Workshop made up of Rocky, Richard and the staff. Beth will call Baymont and check with the ND Grazing Land Coalition to see which date would be best.

Chairman Ted Becker arrived at the meeting at 10:13am and took control of the meeting.

- h. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – The Game and Fish is currently waiting to see if the grant was accepted. Brandon provided a few examples of grass drills.
- i. 2017 Women's Ag Day – Beth presented Thursday March 16th as a possible date for Women's Ag Day at the Baymont Inn & Suites. Beth also checked for Friday March 17th and Thursday March 30th and those dates were already reserved. Robyn from Baymont is currently holding March 16th for us. The board agreed to March 16th 2017 as the date to hold Women's Ag Day.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR – There is a 9 month CD at Capital Credit Union that will become mature on 09/27/2016.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Travis, to let the CD auto renew.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Reissue Check for Aaron Steckler #11975 dated 12/23/2015 \$221.64

Jim made a motion, seconded by Travis, to reissue check #11975 dated 12/23/2015 \$221.64 for Aaron Steckler.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

- b. Agreed Upon Procedures – SCD Financial Audit Policy – Beth reviewed Lynnell's Worksheet and the board made decisions on the worksheet. Beth will get in contact with Lynnell to advise her of the boards decisions for the Agreed Upon Procedures.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon has 7 applications so far. Brandon stated that there will be more acres impacted then what he had originally thought.

IX. MCSCD HANDBOOK

- a. Review and Complete Handbook Notes

1. Discuss Pages 30-66 – The board reviewed the handbook and made corrections.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has been doing tree counts for MDU. Adam went to a 3 day Windbreak Design Workshop in Bismarck. Adam presented what he learned and gave a report on the Workshop. Next week Adam will be going to the Russian Olive Workshop in Miles City, MT. There has been a lot of interest in grass seeding so the tree price committee will need to meet on that and discuss prices. Adam stated that the district received the list of trees from the nurseries. Adam and Beth are proposing to increase the prices on grass and the one gallon potted stock. The current price on grass planting is \$100 per acre (producer pays for seed cost) and one gallon potted stock price is \$8.50.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky to approve the one gallon price increase from \$8.50 per pot to \$10.00 per pot.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Jim Hopfauf

Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to increase the Grass seeding price to \$150.00 per acre, plus state mileage rate from New Salem to the Site (one way).

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

Adam was appointed Treasurer of the ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Adam is requesting board approval for vacation from October 28th, 2016 – November 6th, 2016.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Adam's leave request for vacation from October 28th, 2016 – November 6th, 2016.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

- b. District Secretary
 - 1. Admin Update – Beth will be working on the handbook and getting ready for trees. Beth will also start working on Women's Ag Day plans.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - 1. Update on Watershed Program – Water Sampling has been going good.
 - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon has been bale and forage sampling. Brandon will be working on the Soil Health Mentor Tour.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. MCSCD Handbook – Rocky – The board will continue to discuss the handbook.
- b. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky - Nothing to report at this time.
- c. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky – Nothing to report at this time.

XII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 - 1. NRCS Programs Update – NRCS will soon be requiring a wildlife escape ramp in water tanks. Shelly said some other districts are selling these ramps and thought that might be a good opportunity for the district. Adam will do some research and provide the board next meeting with prices.
 - 2. CRP Meeting with FSA – August 24th – Both agencies had a meeting on August 24th and discussed the future of CRP. ND might not have a general sign-up in 2017. Ted suggested maybe having a summer workshop on CRP land. The board suggested making up a planning committee for a CRP workshop. The committee is made up of Rocky and staff. Jim suggested putting an article in the Newsletter and provide information in our newsletter.
 - 3. CSP – Major Revamp – NRCS is changing CSP. Shelly explained the new changes. In October there should be a training scheduled for the new updates.
 - 4. EQIP – New Apps in conjunction with OMG. EQIP 2017 batching deadline date is October 21st.
- b. County Extension Agent – Beth provided the board with Jackie's Report and All Breeds Cattle Tour Poster.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Not present
- d. Local Work Group for 2017 EQIP – Discuss – The board will need to review questions for the Local Work Group.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Enrichment BSC, Participator, Dakota Farmer Renewal,

Leopold Conservation Award - Darrel Oswald presented the report on the Leopold award. Darrel suggested that the board put a producer up for nomination. Darrel said that the Grazing Land Coalition will assist the district with the application process if the board would like to put forward a nominee.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to nominate Kenny Miller for the 2016 ND Leopold Conservation Award.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve

Sherill Seeger – EQIP Contract – Water System and Cross Fencing

Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve Sherill Seeger EQIP Contract.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

Waylon Tomac – CTA Plan – Water Development

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve Waylon Tomac's Conservation Plan.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

George Hagerott – Application for payment

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the application for payment for George Hagerott.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Jim Hopfauf
Aaron Steckler

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, October 13th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND

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

XVII. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman