

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

9:30 a.m. Thursday, October 13th, 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 9:32 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Ted Becker	Adam Pachl	Rocky Bateman
Jim Hopfauf	Brandon Schafer	Duane Olsen
Travis Wolf	Michele Doyle	Richard Tokach
Beth McCleary	Aaron Steckler	

Absent

Justin Edwards Jackie Buckley

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Jim made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the September 8th 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Travis Wolf	Aaron Steckler
Ted Becker	Jim Hopfauf

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newsletter – Due October 14th, 2016 – Articles are due today and the newsletter will be sent out in about 2 weeks.
- Website – Adam and Beth got the trees section updated and ready to go for taking orders as well as updated the grass seeding prices. Beth posted the board meeting notice.
- Water Spickot – no update
- Summer Range Tour - Morton/Oliver Range Tour – September 29th, 2016 **Cancelled** – the board discussed the reason for cancelling the workshop.
- Soil Health Mentor Tour – Fall – October 6th, 2016 – Report – Brandon presented a report on the Soil Health tour. Michele stated that the speakers did an excellent job and the tour turned out good. Area IV let us borrow a roaster, cooler, and misc. cooking utensils. Brandon thanked Travis hosting the tour at his house.

Rocky arrived at the meeting

- f. Winter Workshop 2017 – Need Committee Meeting – The board agreed to February 16th on the date for Winter Workshop. The tentative theme would be extending grazing system and winter feeding. Richard stated maybe talking about winter water sources. Brandon asked about a budget for speakers. The board suggested a guideline budget of \$2,500.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to set a speaker budget of \$2,500 and if the staff finds a good speaker with a higher speaking fee it can be readdressed at a later meeting.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Travis Wolf
Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

- g. Game & Fish Cost Share for No-Till Grass Drill – No update at this time
- h. 2017 Women's Ag Day – March 16th is the date set for Women's Ag Day and is set with Baymont. Beth will start working on contacting possible speakers as well as getting sponsors.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR – Beth took information on which board members are going to be attending the annual convention. Beth also stated that the Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm Supervisor's Meeting is November 15th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Wildlife Escape Ramp Price Update – Adam provided prices and vendors to the board for the district to sell Wildlife Escape Ramps. Adam will bring more pricing and suggestions for the next meeting.
- b. Harmon Lake Dam Break Update – Morton County Water Board contacted NRCS and asked for a model, if the Harmon Lake Dam broke. Shelly explained the 2 maps, one of a sunny day flood dam break and a design flood. Shelly presented that information to the board.
- c. 2017 Local Work Group EQIP Ranking Criteria – Decide Criteria or Set Meeting Date – Shelly asked if the board wanted to come up with new questions or use the same as last year. The ranking questions are due by October 25th. Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to submit the same questions, to the local work group, that the board submitted last year.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Travis Wolf
Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

- d. Budget/County Commissioners Meeting – Rocky and Beth went to the County Commissioners meeting where the County Commissioners approved the county budget. Rocky provided a report.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Brandon will be ranking the OMG producers with Shelly on Friday. And the 3 employees from the other counties will be meeting on October 26th to go over the ranking. A tentative OMG Board Meeting is scheduled for November 1st. Ted suggested taking before and after pictures so we can provide that to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Board in case we ever want to apply for another grant.

IX. MCSCD HANDBOOK

- a. Review and Complete Handbook Notes
 - 1. Discuss Pay Schedule – Beth will have a meeting with a board member in order to come up with a Pay Schedule.

2. Discuss Any Changes/Corrections – The board provided corrects. Beth will update the handbook with the corrections and provide the board members with an updated copy of the handbook.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has been planning for tree plantings. Adam estimates 63,000 feet for planned tree plantings and 56,000 feet of fabric.
- b. District Secretary
 1. Admin Update
 - a. Agreed Upon Procedures Price Estimate – Beth provided the board with an estimated cost for the Agreed Upon Procedures to be performed by Mahlum Goodhart.
Travis made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve Mahlum Goodhart to preform agreed upon procedures.
Motion Carried
Voting Aye (5)
Travis Wolf
Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman
 - Voting No (0)**
Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon will be done water sampling at the end of October. Brandon sent in the Annual Report to Greg at the Department of Health. There has been 3 people that have used the manure spreader.
 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – This is the last year for the Mentor Program. A write up needs to be completed. The write up only needs 3 out of the 10 participants for the case studies. Brandon will ask Greg if 319 would be willing to pay for a fee for a writer to do the write up.
Brandon will be attending an SRM tour today and informed the board that 319 would be willing to pay for the \$50 fee for the tour. The board is okay with that.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. MCSCD Handbook – Rocky – Beth will send out the updated handbook to the board members and have a full updated hard copy for the next board meeting for board members and staff.
- b. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky – no report at this time
- c. Soil Health Mentor – Rocky – no report at this time
- d. Winter Workshop 2017 – Rocky & Richard – Rocky would like to have a different board member to be on this committee. Richard is okay with being the only board member on the Winter Workshop Committee.
- e. Women’s Ag Day – Jim – no report at this time
- f. Tree Price Committee – Jim – no report at this time
- g. CRP Summer Workshop/Tour – Rocky – no report at this time

XII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist
 1. NRCS Programs Update – NRCS has a CSP meeting scheduled for the 1st week of November. There is currently one 2017 CSP contract.
 2. EQIP – Planning 1st – there are 33 applications so far for EQIP. The deadline is October 21st. There is a wetland reserve sign-up also available, deadline is November 14th. NRCS will be planning first before they approve or rank contracts for EQIP.
- b. County Extension Agent – Jackie was not present however report was presented to the board.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Not present - Working Grassland Partnership brochure was provided to the board.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Pasture Advisor, Central Grasslands Forum, and Chamber Connection magazine.

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Review and Approve – Travis made a motion seconded by Rocky, to approve an application for payment for Greg Maier and CPO for the Kunnkel Brothers.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Travis Wolf
Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the CSP renewal for Archie Wanner.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (5)

Travis Wolf
Ted Becker
Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Aaron Steckler
Jim Hopfauf

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, November 10th, 2016 at the USDA Service Center in Mandan, ND (Planning Meeting)

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

XVII. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman