

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

9:30 a.m. Thursday, November 9, 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 Vice Chairman Rocky Bateman at 9:31am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary

Sarah Hamilton

Travis Wolf

Adam Pachl

Rocky Bateman

Duane Olsen

Brandon Schafer

Aaron Steckler

Don Tanaka

Val Hartman

Richard Tokach

Marissa Leier

Absent

Ted Becker

Travis Rossow

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the October 12th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Aaron Steckler

Travis Wolf

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Aaron Steckler

Travis Wolf

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Newsletter- Due January 12th, 2018 – Include 2017 Achievement Winner Information and Annual Report – Newsletter articles are due to Beth by January 12th, 2018.

b. Website – Beth updated the website with the board meeting notice.

c. Water Spicket – No update can be removed

d. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – Adam is working with a representative from the company. He mailed things to Adam to fill out and send back to him.

e. Auction Item – NDASCD Annual Meeting – Brandon and Adam will be making something for the auction. Rocky also suggested putting some no-till hats in the auction as well.

f. Tree Agreement – Adam provided an updated Agreement to the board.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the Tree Planting Agreement.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Aaron Steckler

Travis Wolf

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

a. Holistic Management Introductory School Nov. 28-30, 2017 – **Sponsorship** – Brandon provided the board with a flyer.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to pay \$750.00 to help sponsor the Holistic Management Introductory School.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Tokach

Rocky Bateman

Aaron Steckler

Travis Wolf

- b. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018 – No update at this time
- c. NDASCD Annual Convention – Bismarck – November 19th-21st 2017 – Beth sent in the forms for the annual convention. When an updated agenda is sent out Beth will provide that to the board members.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Local Work Group Meeting at 10:00am – Val provided the board with information on the Local Work Group Meeting.
- b. Brandon/Don Report on Soil's Book – There are some good things in the book however it had a lot of basic information. The Mentor Program provided a lot more in depth information that we learned.
- c. No-Till Drill & Manure Spreader– Use out of County – For the Manure Spreader the District requires a Soil and Manure test prior to the producers to use the manure spreader. There is no requirement through the ND Department of Health. Travis suggested to create a brochure and change the policy to not require the manure test/soil test in order to use the spreader but still make the test available. Brandon will create a brochure and bring it to the next board meeting. Brandon stated that if anyone is interested in using the drill or the manure spreader out of county, Brandon gives the equipment first to Morton County Producers.
- d. 319 Budget – Brandon provided the board with a handout explaining 319 funds. The board decided that the County will plan to use all of the 319 funds that we have available.
- e. Hire Intern – Adam asked the board if they would like to hire an intern again this year as Sam was such a good help this year. Beth will put together a report on tree crew salary vs Sam's salary during this year to see how much extra we paid the intern.
- f. Supervisor Requirement – Adam provided the supervisor requirement for the District.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Batching period is currently open. There is about 5-6 new applications.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam is planning for trees. Trees are slower this year possibly due to the drought. There is a new cost share open that was not open last year so that might help encourage new plantings. There have been a few hand plant orders this year already as well.
- b. District Secretary
 - 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on TREES Program scheduling. Beth has also been working on the Auction Items for the annual convention. Beth is in charge of that this year.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - 1. Update on Watershed Program
 - a. New 319 Grant – December 6th will be the date that Brandon will provide a presentation to the task force board.
 - 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – write up is still on the list for having that completed.

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky – update was already provided earlier in the meeting.
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky – Brandon included funding for a new mentor project in his grant application.

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist/Acting – Val Hartman – Val provided the board with her report and are attached to the minutes.
- b. County Extension Agent – Marissa Leier – Marissa introduced herself to the board.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton – Provided the board with a report on what she has been doing with NRCS. She has been working on Range Inventories. CRP Grasslands and CREP is the only CRP Programs that are open.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – Chamber Connection Magazine, Care and Share Letter, ND Water Magazine, The Currant Newsletter, Burke Soil Conservation District Newsletter, and NDFS – The Prairie Forester Newsletter.

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve – Val provided the board with Title 120-Part 404 – Land Treatment under the Privacy Act of 1974.
Travis Made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve one 319 contracts.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Aaron Steckler

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, December 14th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XVI. ADJOURN – The board meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman

NRCS Activity Report

To the

Morton County Soil Conservation District Board

Date: November 9th, 2017

By Acting District Conservationist Val Hartman

WORKLOAD

Programs

EQIP

- 34 active contracts
- Practice Certification
- Taking new apps – November 17th, 2017 deadline for 2018 money, ranking completed by January 12th, 2018
 - 12 applications
- Modifying contracts

CSP

- 17 active contracts – 53,000 acres
- Producers turn records in for review & payment
- 3 renewal applications to contract

GRP

- 5 active contracts

INFORMATION

No CRP acres available except for grasslands
State Directors – FSA - Brad Thykeson, RD – Clare Carlson
Staff

MEETINGS, TRAINING, SCHEDULE

November 10th – Veteran's Day Holiday
November 13th – LWG Meeting – Turtle Lake
November 19-21 – SCD Convention
November 23rd – Thanksgiving Holiday
November 24th – All on leave except Adam