

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

9:30 a.m. Thursday, December 14, 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 9:34 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary
Adam Pachl
Brandon Schafer
Val Hartman

Sarah Hamilton
Rocky Bateman
Ted Becker
Richard Tokach

Travis Wolf
Duane Olsen
Don Tanaka
George Ferderer

Absent

Aaron Steckler
Marissa Leier
Travis Rossow

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis, to approve the November 9, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf

Voting No (0)

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter- Due January 12th, 2018 – Include 2017 Achievement Winner Information and Annual Report – Rocky provided Beth with a Newsletter Article. Newsletter Articles are due to Beth by January 12th, 2018.
- b. Website – Beth has been updating the website with the board meeting notice and posting the meeting minutes and agendas. Adam has also been updating the trees portion of the website for trees that the district cannot get from the nurseries anymore.
- c. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – Adam is still working with the company.
- d. Hire Intern – Adam provided the board with the report of how much extra that we paid Sam after the rest of the tree crew left. Adam will do research on what the colleges require for their intern program.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Holistic Management Introductory School Nov. 28-30, 2017 – **RESCHEDULED to February 2018**
- b. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018 – Beth and Brandon attended the meeting with Burleigh County last week to discuss planning.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Credit Card Cash Back Balance – Beth will try to get a check for the balance to be taken off expenses from the credit card statements.
- b. Board and Staff Holiday Party – Beth and Orletta will schedule a date and time for the holiday party. This time it will be separate from a board meeting.
- c. Government Shut Down – Rocky suggested to keep an eye on the news and be prepared for if the government does shut down.
- d. State Committee Meeting Report – Rocky provided the board with a report. There will be a meeting to discuss planning for the testimony for the reason why we need to keep funding for the Soil Conservation Committee and the Watershed and Soil Conservation Leadership Development Extension Program Coordinator position with NDSU. Rocky also provided a report of the possibility with the Merging of the Government offices.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Connie will send in an end of the year reimbursement. There is no date set on a ranking meeting yet.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has planned a little over 90,000 feet of trees for the 2018 season. All but 2 plantings are utilizing fabric. Adam will plan to participate again in the Living Ag Classroom Event again in 2018.
- b. District Secretary
 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on the website and updating that. As well as working on the TREES Program scheduling. Beth will be attending meetings with Burleigh County for the multi-county workshops.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon took the manure spreader to Travis Wolf's place for storage and the drill is being stored in New Salem.
 - a. New 319 Grant – Brandon gave his presentation on December 6th. The funding is pretty limited and a total of 13 projects were presented.
 2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – Brandon asked the board if they would be interested in purchasing John Stika's Book a Soil Owner's Manual for the new Mentors for the next 319 Grant.
Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to purchase 25 of John Stika's Book "A Soil Owner's Manual".

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky – Brandon provided the board with a report on 2018 planning.
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist/Acting – Val Hartman – Val's report was presented to the board and are a part of the minutes.
- b. County Extension Agent – Marissa Leier – No update
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton – Sarah attended the State Association Meeting. Sarah has been working in the field for EQIP.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE: Central Grasslands Forum, ND Water Magazine, NRCS letter to Board Members, Morton County Producer Newsletter, and the Chamber Connection Magazine.

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve – CSP Plans for SCD Approved was provided to the board with Val's Report.
Travis made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve the proposed CSP Plans provided by Val.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Travis Wolf

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, January 11th, 2018 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XVI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman

NRCS Activity Report

To the

Morton County Soil Conservation District Board

Date: December 14,, 2017

By Acting District Conservationist Val Hartman

WORKLOAD

Programs

EQIP

- 34 active contracts
- Practice Certification wrapping up
- Ranking completed by January 12th, 2018 for LWG
 - 10 applications
 - 1 irrigation
- Modifying contracts

CSP

- 17 active contracts – 53,000 acres
- Deadline for 2017 payments December 15th – records in by December 1st
- 3 renewal applications contracted – 5900 acres

GRP

- 5 active contracts

INFORMATION

USDA Strategic goals laid out by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue. These are all part of our plan to ensure that USDA is the most efficient, most effective, and most customer-focused department in the federal government.

STRATEGIC GOAL #1: Ensure USDA programs are Delivered Efficiently, Effectively, and with Integrity and a Focus on Customer Service.

STRATEGIC GOAL #2: Maximize the ability of American agricultural producers to prosper by feeding and clothing the world.

STRATEGIC GOAL #3: Promote American agricultural products and exports.

STRATEGIC GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development.

STRATEGIC GOAL #5: Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research.

STRATEGIC GOAL #6: Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands.

STRATEGIC GOAL #7: Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply.

MEETINGS, TRAINING, SCHEDULE

December 15th – Val leave

December 18th – January 2nd – Paula leave

December 19th – December 26th – Sarah leave

December 22nd – Val leave

December 29th – Val leave

CSP Contracts SCD approved

3239.4 ac. – trees, grazing management, cover crops, tree pruning

1567.5 ac. – cover crop, soil health assessment (Haney test), herbaceous weed control, grazing management,

1088.5 ac. – brush management, nutrient management, soil health assessment (Haney test), grass seeding