

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

1:00 p.m. Thursday, September 14th, 2017

1:00 p.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 1:03pm

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary

Rocky Bateman

Duane Olsen

Adam Pachi

Richard Tokach

Don Tanaka

Brandon Schafer

Travis Wolf

Ted Becker

Michele Doyle

Aaron Steckler

Stuart Blotter

Absent

Travis Rossow

Jim Hopfauf

Sarah Hamilton

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve the August 17th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Tokach

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Tokach

Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman

Voting No (0)

Richard would like a spread sheet on budget vs actual spending reports for sponsorships that the District has given for the last couple years.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter/Tree Order Form – Due October 13th, 2017 – Next newsletter is due October 13th, 2017 which will contain the Handplant Tree Order Form.
- b. Website – Beth did some more updating to the website including posting the board meeting notice and agenda. Beth also posted information on the next OMG batching period. Beth also posted previous meeting minutes and agendas under the references tab.

Aaron Steckler arrived at the meeting at 1:08pm

- c. Water Spicket – This is moving forward, Travis talked to the plumber.
- d. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – No update at this time. Brandon is looking for places to store the drill for the winter.
- e. Mill Levy Report – Rocky provided the board with a report. Beth and Rocky attended the County Commission Meeting. The County Commissioners are not going to increase the mill for anyone. However appraisals went up so we will be getting roughly \$106,000.

- f. Lewis & Clark Envirothon Sponsorship – Teachers had their envirothon and it went well.
- g. Auction Item – NDASCD Annual Meeting – Jim is working on building an item for the auction.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018 - Brandon provided an update on speakers to the board.
- b. Cover Crop Tour – Morton County SCD – September 2017 – Next week was the planned time to have the cover crop tour but due to staff workload the Cover Crop Tour will not be scheduled for next week.
- c. NDASCD Annual Convention – Bismarck – November 19th-21st 2017 – Beth confirmed who needed rooms.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tree Agreement/Other District Examples – Richard discussed some questions with Adam on the agreement. Adam will make the changes and bring it to the board for review at next meeting.
- b. Website Vendor Prices – Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to approve Beth to purchase the 10 hour pre-purchased plan for \$900.00 from Up & Running.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

- c. Working from the District Shed if Federal Building is Unavailable – The board discussed what the staff would do if the Federal Building is unavailable.
- d. Discount for Replacement Trees – The board discussed the possibility of providing a discount for replacement trees. Adam talked to JD from Oliver County and he discounts a \$1.00 off for replacement trees for plantings. The board decided to keep the prices as is for the time being.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Connie has been handling the reimbursements and payments. Brandon stated that that is going really well. The next batching period will be open October 2nd to November 10th.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam has been working on about 20 different planting plans. The Forest Service has another cost share opportunity this year. There is not many restrictions as long as the plan follows NRCS specifications. It is a 60% cost share for total costs. Adam has been working with Sharon and Shelly with EQIP things which the District can vouch for towards the contribution agreement. Adam is asking for a new measuring wheel. Estimated price is \$100-\$200.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve Adam to purchase a new measuring wheel.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

b. District Secretary

- 1. Admin Update – Beth has been working on the next newsletter format as well as the website. Beth and Brandon also completed and sent in the Award nomination for Jackie Buckley. Beth has been working on the contribution agreement with NRCS and 319 projects.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon has an agreement with the Water Commission for Water Festival. The only change in the agreement, is the contribution to the SCD from \$1,000 to \$750. The date is set for April 10th 2018. Aaron made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve the agreement with the Water Commission.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

Brandon has been working on the Hailstone Grant application. The staff sent out letters and surveys to the producers in the watershed, as well as a list of potential practices that may be cost-sharable if the grant gets funded. Rocky suggested seeing if we can find how much the city of New Salem is contributing to the samples.

2. Update on Soil Health Mentor Program – No update

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky – There will be an article in the Progressive Farmer Magazine about Soil Health and Crop Rotation. There will also be an article on the Farmer Panel that was at BSC.

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist – 2018 EQIP Batching Period is extended to November 17th. September 29th will be Shelly's last day.
- b. Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations) – Stuart Blotter – Stuart provided the board a report about the transition from not having a DC in the Morton County Office. Val Hartman will be Acting DC for as long as possible. There is not an exact clear time frame for hiring a new DC. Stuart wanted the opinion of the board of what they want in a District Conservationist.
- c. County Extension Agent – No report provided
- d. Farm Bill Specialist – No report provided

XII. CORRESPONDENCE –

ARS Station of Mandan called and would like to use our No-Till Drill would like our drill in Montana. Brandon is wondering if the board would allow them to use the drill. Rocky was wondering if the drill is out of state if the insurance would still be on it. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to allow ARS station to use the drill for no charge and have a written agreement for if the drill breaks that they would be responsible.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve –
Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the payment application for the Kunkel Brothers.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Tokach
Ted Becker

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, October 12th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XVI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman