

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2018

9:30 a.m. CDT – Morton County SCD Tree Shed – 201 South 9th Street New Salem, ND 58563

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Ted Becker at 9:36 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Beth McCleary
Adam Pachl
Brandon Schafer
Ted Becker

Rocky Bateman
Aaron Steckler
Duane Olsen
Travis Rossow

Don Tanaka
Richard Tokach
George Ferderer

Absent

Sarah Hamilton
Travis Wolf

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to approve the January 11, 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (3)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman

Richard Tokach arrived at the meeting.

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

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Newsletter- Due April 13th, 2018 – The next newsletter articles are due to Beth by April 13, 2018.
- b. Website – Beth updated the website and Facebook with the board meeting notice. Beth also updated the newsletter section of the website. Rocky suggested posting the Leopold Award Application Information to the website. Duane also would like Farming for the Bottom Line posted to the website as well. The board also discussed some options for nominees for the Leopold Award.
- c. Update on Tracking System for Equipment – Adam is trying to get it ordered. Adam had some questions and now he cannot get ahold of the representative from the company.
- d. Hire Intern – Adam set up the internship with BSC. Most of the students have an internship lined up. However, we do have someone interested in working with us for our internship. Ted suggested to have Adam send the internship information to as many universities as he can.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Holistic Management Introductory School February 21-23, 2018 – There are at least 29 people signed up at this time.
- b. Soil Health Workshop @ BSC February 28th, 2018

Sponsorship – Richard made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to sponsor \$8,000 for the following events: The Soil Health Workshop on February 28, the Grazing workshop on August 1 & 2, the Garden Tour on June 28, the Soil Health and Cover Crop Symposium on November 7 & 8, and the NDASCD.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. List of Committees – Beth provided the board with a list of the committees. Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard to split the Financial and Equipment Committee into two separate Committees.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Aaron Made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Richard Tokach, Travis Rossow, and Beth McCleary for the Financial Committee and to appoint Aaron Steckler, George Ferderer, and SCD Staff to the equipment Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to appoint Aaron Steckler to the Women's Ag Day Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to remove the following committees: CRP Summer Workshop/Tour Committee, Tractor Committee, Lock for Tree Shed Committee, RC&D Fund Committee, Soil Health Champion Committee, and the District Shed Roof Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to remove Rocky from the Scholarship Committee and put Richard on the Scholarship Committee.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

- b. Mill Levy Report- Rocky – Travis discussed the wording of the ND Century Code with an attorney. Rocky provided the board with a report.
- c. Achievement Winner Nominations – Beth provided the board with a list of previous winners. The staff will come up with a few nominees that they think would be deserving of the award, for the next board meeting.
- d. Shut Down Arrangements – The Morton County SCD staff worked out of the District Shed during the government shut down. The arrangement worked out well.
- e. Promo Items – Beth provided the board with a list of promotional items to choose from.

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Aaron, to order 500 Blue pens with Blue ink, and 500 green pens with black ink.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to order 500 lip balm and 500 hand sanitizers.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

- f. Morton County Ag Days – Mandan, ND March 15, 2018 – Adam stated that the date is conflicting with the tree promotional meeting, so we will not be able to attend this year.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 1. OMG Grassland Improvement Project – Morton County had 9 applications approved with a few contracts transferring possibly to EQIP. OMG is sitting at 800,000 dollars planned out currently. Depending on how many contracts get transferred to EQIP there may be another batching period.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Technician

- 1. Update on Trees and Fabric – Adam provided the board with a report. We have received a total of 90 handplant orders so far this year which is down a little bit from 2016. In 2017 we sold a total of 8,171 hand plant trees (without the big tree order). We have already sold 8,900 trees for 2018.
- 2. Adam provided a report to the board about the Wild Life Society Conference that he attended.

b. District Secretary

1. Admin Update –

Beth asked the board if they would like to do another external audit report or do a report with the state auditor as required. Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky, to have the audit go through the state auditor for 2017.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard, to approve Beth's Leave without pay for January 2018 Payroll.

Motion Carried

Voting Aye (4)

Ted Becker
Aaron Steckler

Voting No (0)

Rocky Bateman
Richard Tokach

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Update on Watershed Program – Brandon attended the Watershed Leadership Academy Training and provided the board with a report.
 - a. New 319 Grant – Brandon will correct the final things on the new 319 Grant. Brandon will send pre-approval letters in March. Brandon was asking the board if he could go to the Farming for the Bottom Line Workshop. The board approved Brandon to attend Farming for the Bottom Line Workshop.

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop 2018 – Rocky
- b. Soil Health Mentor Project– Rocky

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist/Acting – Val Hartman – Val provided the board with her report and it's attached to the minutes.
- b. County Extension Agent – Marissa Leier – Not present
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Sarah Hamilton – Not present

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – Chamber Connection Magazine and ND Water Magazine.

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Review and Approve

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

9:30 AM Thursday, March 8th, 2018 at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

XVI. ADJOURN

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCleary
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman

NRCS Activity Report
To the
Morton County Soil Conservation District Board
Date: February 13, 2018
By Acting District Conservationist Val Hartman

WORKLOAD

Programs

EQIP

- 34 active contracts
- Ranked 8 applications
 - 7 LWG – 4 preapproved for funding – **Contract by March 2nd**
 - 3 cropland
 - No-till, trees, grass seeding, cover crops, tank, cross-fence
 - 1 grassland
 - Water developments & fence
 - 2 grassland not funded
 - 1 Beginning Farmer preapproved for funding – **contract by March 16th**
 - well, pumping plant, pipeline, tank, fence
 - 1 irrigation – preapproved – **Contract by March 16th**

CSP

- 17 active contracts – 53,000 acres
- Application deadline for 2018 contracts – **March 2nd, 2018**
- Deadline for 2018 payments March 15th – 5 remaining – 2 need records yet

GRP

- 5 active contracts

MEETINGS, TRAINING, SCHEDULE

February 13th – SCD Board meeting – 9:30 – SCD Building, New Salem

February 15th – 20th – Val Leave

February 19th – President's Day Holiday

February 28th – March 6th – Val leave – Ryan Foster is Acting DC

February 27th – Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line – Brandon

February 28th – Soil Health Workshop – Beth, Adam, Brandon, Paula