

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday March 21st, 2019 (rescheduled due to weather)

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 Aaron Steckler at 9:30 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron Rocky George Chet Ryan Val H. Travis W.
Richard Valerie F.
Absent
Tavis R. Don Duane

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Travis W. made a motion, seconded by Rocky to approve the February 14th, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

IV. **TREASURE’S REPORT** – Discussion on two outstanding checks both belonging to Aaron will be reissued.

Board asked that Valerie contact all past due customers for payment.

Richard made a motion, second by George to approve the district & 319 financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Hire Intern – Have some applications, however none meet qualifications. Decided to not hire an intern this year. Will post for seasonal help and if applicants are of quality possible higher an extra seasonal employee in place of an intern.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to have the personal committee hire seasonal help.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

b. Scholarship – Will change the receive date to May 1st, 2019 and then will pick at our May board meeting. We will send to High Schools career counselors and Ag teachers.

c. Board Advisors – Aaron spoke with Greg Wanner and he is interested but not at this time.

Travis Rassow resigned from his position as board advisor.

Need names to contact for sitting on the board. They need to be a Morton County Resident and a land occupant of Morton County. Would like it posted on Facebook/website and newsletter.

Cheryl Doll was mentioned, and Rocky volunteered to contact her about sitting on our board.

(Travis Wilkens)

d. Tree Promotional Meeting—Was very good resource of knowledge for all areas. Along with the seminars the networking with other counties was very helpful.

Rocky mentioned that the Nursery would like for the counties to all have one end date for orders. So, they can open their sales after that to others. Rocky asked Ryan to run an inventory of tree as far as those ordered/sold and extras.

e. Locally Led—Val H asked if we could discuss at the end of the meeting as it may take a little time to go over. Redirected to end of the meeting.

VI. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Soil Health Work Shop – work shop was great. Attendance may not have been the best because of weather. The on-line link was great. Also, the other video's and audio that are on the Menoken website are very good.
- b. Women's Ag Night – Contacted all those who rsvp'd and told them about the reschedule and posted it on website and on Facebook. Originally had about 180 now we are at about 150. Would like the board members to be there by 5 o'clock to meet and greet the ladies and help where needed.
- c. Water Fest – April 16th - 7 Classes signed up so far. Board suggested dividing into two groups am & pm. Morton County SCD furnishes lunch for all that help in this event.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2019 Soil Conservation Achievement program: Looking to find someone in the western part of the county. Put a list of names together for next meeting. those who have used our programs and services. Contact Lance Gartner for his opinion.
- b. Leopold Award – is due by April 15th – to short of notice to put a nomination in at this time
- c. Tree Cooler Maintenance Workshop – Betty Brown from Divide County SCD puts on a workshop to show how to plant trees and apply fabric and how to maintain the tree cooler. Ryan would like to attend when we get more details.
Travis made a motion, second by Rocky for the staff to go to this work shop if it works into the schedule.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

Voting No (0)

- d. State Farm – Board said to set it up with Rod Skytland to attend next board meeting to go over insurance. Contacted his office and he will not be able to make the April meeting but will be able to attend the May meeting. They also would like all driver's info to run new rates.
- e. Newsletter/brochure – Board would like to see grazing designs/water development, water fest recap, women's ag day recap, article on cover crops, tree prep and fabric.
- f. Burleigh County Workshop – Handed out a list of events happening at the Menoken Farm. Rocky also mentioned that North Dakota will be hosting the 2020 National Convention. After looking at our budget the board will discuss a donation to the Burleigh County SCD for these events.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – There is 150 Thousand left unspoken for, questioning what to do with it. Would like to have a group meeting to discuss how to use it. Money must be used by June 2020. Chet will set up meeting that him & Travis W. will be able to attend. The board is leaving the decisioning how to use the money in Chet and Travis's hands.
Chet is also going to send out letters to remind them of their practices.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - i. Board gave Ryan the authority to purchase small items as needed to get equipment and things up and running. The tractor is in the shop getting its service work done and valve/remote put in. In the future Ryan will do these things as he feels comfortable.
 - ii. Flat bed trailer tires are worn and need to be replaced. Ryan presented the board with 3 quotes.
Travis made a motion, second by Rocky to put 14 ply tires on the trailer going with the lowest bid.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- iii. Other updates on equipment: Enclosed trailer, looks good working on the tracking devise. The planter/fabric machine will review with Chad from Burleigh
 - iv. Tree update: Trees are ordered, and fabric has ordered. All down payments have been contacted. Producers have been contacted for the duple cost share. Ryan to do research on what to charge other counties for picking up and hauling their trees.
- b. District Secretary
- i. Morton County Fair Ad – Richard made a motion, second by George to place the same ad that we placed last year.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- ii. Women’s Ag speaker Jenifer Holle – Gift card for speaking.
George made a motion, second by Richard to get a \$50 Visa gift card for Jennifer for speaking.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- iii. Quick Books will no longer support payroll for the version we have. As of May 31st, we will have to upgrade.
Travis made a motion, second by Rocky to upgrade our quick books program to support the payroll portion.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Watershed Model -- Chet informed the board that 319 will pay 60% of the cost if the county will cover the other 40%. The model runs \$1378.00. The board asked to wait to discuss it next month after they look at the budget.
 - ii. BMP training was done, and reimbursement was sent in and received for November through February.
 - iii. Waiting for info on water training course. Chet to attend and Ryan & Valerie possible attend.
 - iv. Chet will give a presentation in Hebron on what the SCD has to offer.
 - v. Working on revising the brochure for the new watershed project. Will have a poster made for the wall. Richard suggested to check with Quality Quick Print for pricing.
Richard made a motion, second by Travis to proceed with the brochure and poster with reasonable prices.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- vi. Chet will attend a board meeting with parks & rec

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- a. Would like to go ahead with another mentor ship program but with a smaller group @ 3. Would like to look at college grads for the new program. Chet to talk to Don about the program.

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist – Val Hartman
Attached is her report and the restructuring map for NRCS.
Val informed the board she will be applying for a supervisory position.
- b. County Extension Agent – Vacant
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Nothing new to report.

XII. Personal Committee

- a. With Travis Rossow resigning we will need to fill his position on the personal committee.
Richard made a motion to nominate George
Travis asked to seize all nominations, Second by Rocky

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- b. Travis made a motion, second by George to get Ryan a company credit card.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- c. Supervisors shirts/vest – get pricing on shirts or vest for board members.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Nothing currently

XV. Locally Led Conservation

Val H. would like to go over Locally Led at next meeting. We will order in lunch and discuss our next move. Val H. will send out the info before the next meeting.

XVI. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday April 11th, 2019 at 9:30 am at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

XVII. SIGN EXPENSE VOUCHERS, PAYROLL, AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS

XVIII. ADJOURN – Rocky made motion to adjourn meeting at 12:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Aaron Steckler - Chariman