

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:30 a.m. Thursday April 11th, 2019

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.	Don	Duane			
Absent						

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, seconded by Travis to approve the March 21st, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

IV. **TREASURE’S REPORT** – Question on the \$53 dollar with drawl (for Women’s Ag Speaker Jennifer Holle). Send past due notice to lady again.

Travis made a motion, second by Richard 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. Seasonal – narrowed to 3 people, one never returned phone call, one never showed up for the interview, one is still in high school

Richard suggested Hannah Gress (701-595-3046) might be interested in intern position. Travis to call her and discuss with her.

John Berk (701-391-3224) might possible be interested in planting trees.

Next time for intern would like out in August – need it out earlier to get it seen.

Seasonal positions can be advertised in local papers around the county.

Tim Kuntz is coming back to drive tractor

b. Scholarship – Letter was mailed to schools and an email was sent about 3 days later to inform them of the letter.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

a. Women’s Ag Night – For rescheduling turnout was good. Main speaker got sick the day before and we asked Sue Balcom to speak. All speakers where good and the ladies where happy on all surveys turned in. Left over supplies was purchased by the board at cost and each staff personal got one also at no charge.

b. Water Fest – April 16th need about 10-12 volunteers and to be there about 8:30.

c. Budget Process – Need to have in by July 1st to the county commissioners, then it goes to the auditor and then the treasure collects and send the money to us. Need to have a public hearing.

Rocky gave paper work and informed about the questions asked back in 1992. Rocky suggested we ask for 2 mil.

Valerie will create a print out of the last year (2018) expenses and what next year (2020) should be and bring to next meeting.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Achievement Program (see attached) Due May 14th, 2019.

Top 3 –

West Area – Little Knife – John Kessler – Travis Jacobson

Central Area – Mark Stegmiller

South Area – Darlin Schmidt – Paul Govig

Richard made a motion, second by Travis to nominate Paul Govig

George made a motion, second by Rocky to nominate Darlin Schmidt

Rocky moved to cease nominations, Richard 2nd it.

Info on the two that were nominated:

Paul Govig- made the final last 3 years, Plants lots of trees, absentee land owner, bought for hunting

Darlin Schmidt – Has done many practices, no till

Board asked that Chet and Val H do research on the two nominees for the past 10 years and send out and mail with the findings to everyone to review and be able to vote by 4/26/19. After board reviews the information they will submit their votes to Valerie F. by 4/30/19. Richard will call the winner on May 1st, 2019.

George made a motion, second by Travis to have information sent by email and to vote with return email.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

Next year for nominations to make this process easier. Keep track throughout the year and bring the names to meetings earlier.

- b. Tree Cooler Maintenance Workshop – Betty Brown from Divide County SCD -- Work shop is April 23rd and Ryan and Chet will both be attending.

- c. Burleigh County Workshop – table to next meeting to decide what we will contribute.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to give the same as last year \$8,000 for now.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- d. Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity – See hand out --

Val H. reviewed the rights with the board members. There may be possible sign language training in the future.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – Morton County (Chet & Travis), Grant County, and Oliver County met to discuss the remaining OMG Grant money. They decided on adding on to existing contracts. Most of the funds will be paid in overages. The 3 counties agreed to meet again in July to see what was left and decide what to do with the extra money if any at that time. Everything needs to be done by June 1st, 2020.

Starting new contracts is not a great option if culture resources are needed, because there is not a quick turnaround.

Grant County is handling the grant now and they only have 2 people. There is talk to possibly move it to a different county to do the book keeping. This grant does not cover/reimburse for employee's time to do the processing.

This is a positive grant and we should do it again. When do we need to start the processes of applying for a new grant. Check to see if grant can be used for salaries, or if we can get that in the grant along with price of procedures.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Technician

- i. Safety Policy/handbook – asked other districts – found a 1-page hand out in the North Dakota District hand book. We would be starting from scratch. Can ask the county if they have one as they said they would help us come up with one.

this tree planting review with employees the basics and keep notes from tree planting to start the process of the handbook.

- ii. Tree pick up dates are as follows weather permitting Lincoln Oaks April 25th, Big Sioux April 26th, and Towner April 29th. Was informed that some districts have stopped using Towner and went with Big Sioux due to quality of trees.

If weather doesn't cooperate Ryan is looking into starting planting with just trees from Lincoln Oaks.

Hand plant pick up dates are set now for May 3rd and May 4th at the tree shed.

Chad from Burleigh County came to give a run down on equipment/machinery.

Dakota Refrigeration did a cooler check all is ok.

- iii. Customer complaint from last years planting. Customer complained that new weeds where introduced to the area. Row spacing wasn't right. Ryan and Chet went to look at the planting. They found after reviewing the planting sheets there was no notes for alternating rows. Found that the species were alternated on the south side but not the other side. The survival rate was 84 dead out of 246 planted. Suggested to producer to manage weeds by mowing instead of tilling. When asked what he would like from us he would not say.

Board suggested to send out another bill/statement and a letter addressing the points that they found and to invite him to the next board meeting to discuss his concerns.

Richard made a motion, second by Travis to send a letter with our concerns and invite him to come to our board meeting in May. Chairman to sign letter.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George Travis Richard

- iv. Producer not ready for trees this year will lose his down payment, wants to change the plan.
- v. Ryan wanted to let the board know that he is a certified crop advisor.

Paused for lunch

b. District Secretary

- i. AR Aging report – Discussed earlier with treasures report
- ii. Audit – meet with the accountant on May 1st, 2019
- iii. NDASCD – rooms at the Ramkota – discuss at the next months

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Christ the King Demonstration – Chet will do demonstration and hand out a certificate for a free tree after the demonstration.
- ii. Game and Fish Presentation in Hebron went well, they had over 36 people attending.
- iii. Attended the Planning and Steering for the Morton County parks & rec to go over surveys that where sent out. The top thing people want to see more of is more landscape parks, along with boat ramps. They will put together a 10-year plan
- iv. 319 zoom meetings – Mary Kena will be doing these quarterly the first one was about applications with engineer and producers. These meeting will be recorded and will be able to go back and use for review.

v. Also doing OMG – Check outs and 319 planning

X. SPECIAL COMMITTEE

a. Soil Health – Nothing planned for now – possible this fall.

XI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. District Conservationist – Val Hartman -- report is attached
Pollinator study – we connect with the land owner and get their approval to show that certain bugs are not endangered.

restructure is moving forward – Val H. applied for 2 positions with Mandan being her 1st choice.

Emily Spolyar with Precision Ag would like to come to a meeting. Board suggested her coming to next meeting.

b. County Extension Agent – Vacant

c. Farm Bill Specialist – Nothing new to report.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Annual report of the NACD for 2018 – Review and tossed

b. Dot letter about strip improvements – Nothing for us to do.

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Nothing currently

XIV. Locally Led Conservation

see attached

Come up with our top 5 concerns from letters sent out and the meeting that was held.

when we come up with these Val H would like for another letter to go out to all that originally received the first letter as a follow up and put something in the newsletter.

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

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

XVII. **ADJOURN** – Richard made motion to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Aaron Steckler - Chariman