

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:30 a.m. Thursday May 9th, 2019

8:30 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 8:30 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron Rocky George Duane Val H. Valerie F. Don
Emily from Pheasants Forever
Absent: Travis Richard Ryan

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Rocky made a motion, seconded by George to approve the April 11th, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George

IV. **TREASURE’S REPORT** – Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve the district & 319 financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George

Adjusted the agenda to have Emily from Pheasants Forever to speak to the board.

V. **New Business part A:**

- a. Emily Spolyar (handout) – She explained how she can help with ROI per acre with farmers/land owners. How she can help turn a profit. How to use cost share to put programs in use. Help growers look at how to improve sections of their land. They can help with EQIP overflow.

Emily left the meeting.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Scholarship – There was no applications received for the scholarship awards.

VII. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Budget Process – need to put on county web site, post on the door along with the agenda, and in the Mandan newspaper.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to move the budget process to a committee of Rocky and Valerie F. to work on and have ready by next meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Achievement Program: ended in a tie. The group had more discussion on the two candidates.

Schmidt – has lots of practices but worried about the picture showing he feeds cattle in a creek.

Govig – crop land is nothing special. Doesn’t do no till. Plants a lot of trees.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to revote on the achievement candidates with everyone around the table by a show of hands, Chet will reread each candidates’ qualifications.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Aaron Rocky George

Voting No (0)

Govig won by one vote and will be awarded the Achievement Award with it wording only for the trees he plants. Chet will contact Paul to see if he will receive the award.

- b. Burleigh County Workshop – giving \$8,000 until budget is finalized.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – Taking pictures of producers who have projects going on.
Working on adding on to two producer contracts.
Visiting with the producers about their practices.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - i. Planting trees
Hand plant sales went well
Trying to do a plan for the rest of the planting season
 - ii. The complaint customer – Ryan made phone call and sent letter never heard back and hasn't paid. – Board suggested to send another letter and statement, before legal action must be taken.
 - iii. The lady never responded to the intern position
Have two high school kids but they can't start until school is out. Possible hire Libby Bateman if she is interested until high school kids can start.
- b. District Secretary
 - i. Audit – all paperwork is at the auditor's office
 - ii. NDASCD – rooms at the Ramkota – discuss at the next months
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Contacting the producers that are in the watershed area
 - ii. Drill is getting busy. One has already used it and at least ten more on the list.
 - iii. Attending the water sampling class on May 15th, 2019. Possible attend livestock tour in Dickinson May 30th, 2019.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- a. Soil Health – Rocky and Don will discuss this more in late summer. Possible in the Danzig Dam area or the NW area.

XII. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist – Val Hartman -- report is attached
Restructure positions of the 18 units available 14 positions where hired for. Val H. got the position for Morton, Grant, Sioux, and will be starting in this position in July.
Her position will have to be advertised to fill but will probably have an acting until it is filled.
- b. County Extension Agent – Vacant
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Nothing new to report.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Jim Collins sent email about low interest loans for producers, wondering if board members thought about this.
Our board said it's not a good idea. Use the money to promote grants, plant cover crops, and clean streams.
- b. Great Plains Directory – plat maps for sale.
Rocky made a motion, second by George to purchase a plat book for the office.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Aaron Rocky George

Voting No (0)

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. Nothing currently

XV. Locally Led Conservation

Val H. passed around the final letter to send out with the results to the original group the first letter was sent to.

The most important being do more outreach.

XVI. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday June 13th, 2019 at ~~9:30~~ 8:30am 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 10:33

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Aaron Steckler - Chariman