

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9 a.m. Thursday, January 13, 2021

9:00 a.m. CDT – Comfort Inn, Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** –Valerie F. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Staff – Thomas – Ryan – Valerie

Board Members – Aaron – Steve – Travis – George – Richard – Rocky

Others - Jake D. – NRCS & Renae G – Extension

III. REORGANIZATION OF MCSCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. Appointed Supervisors:

Rocky made a motion to appoint Richard and Steve as appointed supervisors, George second the motion.

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Richard & Steve to be appointed supervisors.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Arron – Rocky - George

Richard Tokach & Steve Tomac are appointed supervisors.

b. Chairman:

Richard made a motion to nominate Aaron as the chairman.

Rocky moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Aaron as Chairman, Steve second that motion.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – George – Richard – Steve

Aaron Steckler is the 2022 board chairman.

** Aaron took control of the meeting.

c. Vice Chairman:

Richard made a motion to nominate George

Rocky moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint George as the Vice- chairman.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve

d. Official Secretary:

George made a motion to nominate Valerie

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Valerie as the Official Secretary.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

e. **Recording Secretary/Treasurer**

George made a motion to nominate Valerie

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Valerie as the Recording Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

f. **Advisory Supervisor:**

Rocky made a motion to nominate Travis, Richard second the motion.

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Travis as the advisory Supervisor.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

g. **Prairie RC&D:**

Rocky made a motion to nominate Valerie

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Valerie as the representative for the Prairie RC&D.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

h. **RDC Lewis & Clark Representative:**

Rocky made a motion to nominate Steve.

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Steve as the representative for RDC Lewis & Clark.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

i. **Area IV Representative:**

Richard made a motion to nominate Rocky

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky as the representative for Area IV.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

j. **Area IV Representative back up:**

Richard made a motion to nominate Steve

Rocky moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Steve as the back-up representative for Area IV.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

k. **Personnel Committee:**

Steve made a motion to nominate George, Richard, Travis, & Mandan DC

Rocky moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint George, Richard, Travis, & Mandan DC as the personnel committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

i. Financial Committee:

George made a motion to nominate Aaron, Richard, & Valerie

Steve moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Aaron, Richard, & Valerie as the financial committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

m. Equipment Committee:

Steve made a motion to nominate Aaron, George, & Staff

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Aaron, George, & Staff as the equipment committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

n. OMG Board:

Steve made a motion to nominate Travis

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Travis the representative on the OMG Board.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

o. Team Member Safety Committee:

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint all board members & Office Staff as the Team Member Safety Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

p. Soil Health Representative:

Richard Nominated Rocky, Steve & Staff

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky, Steve, & Staff as the Soil Health Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

q. Handbook Committee:

Richard made a motion to nominate Rocky, Steve, & Staff

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky, Steve, & Staff as the Handbook Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

r. Multi-County Soil Health Workshop:

Richard made a motion to nominate Rocky, Steve, & Staff

George moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky, Steve, & Staff as the Handbook Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

s. **Women's Ag Night:**

George made a motion to nominate Aaron & Staff

Richard moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Aaron & Staff to the Women's Ag Night Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

t. **Scholarship Committee:**

Steve made a motion to nominate Richard & Staff

Richard amended the motion to add George to the committee

Rocky moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint Richard, George, and Staff to the Scholarship Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

u. **Tree Pricing:**

Richard made a motion to nominate George and staff.

Steve moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to appoint George & staff to the Tree Pricing Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve & accept the minutes from the December meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the November treasures report for the district and 319 financials submitted by Valerie.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

Richard made a motion, second by George to approve the December treasures report for the district and 319 financials submitted by Valerie.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

VI. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. Acting DC – Jacob – Report is attached. 21 active EQIP's, deadline is February 4th. Still going to Selfridge on a rotation through the office. Ranger left at the impound. Landon Weiser will be starting January 18th as the DC for the Mandan Field Office.
- b. Extension Agent – Renae – Report attached with upcoming dates of programs. Producer day was on Tuesday the crowd was small, but it was nice, and everyone had positive feedback.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – no new news currently.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Duane – phoned to say he will be retiring from the district and would like to be removed from the email list for meetings. The board acknowledge and accepted his resignation. The board would like to see a write up of Duane for the newsletter to show a sign of appreciation and a plaque or clock of some sort. Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to honor him in the newsletter and purchase a plaque/clock.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

- b. Water Festival – is scheduled for April 5th at Engage church. We will need board members to help with this event.
- c. Planning meeting – handed out the emails received from Aaron & Andrea. Asked the board to take them home and review. We will add to the agenda for next meeting and discuss it. The board felt it was a good meeting and got a lot out of it now just need to put it to work.

VIII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. KFYR – living ag classroom – is schedule for February 15&16, 2022. They said numbers are down 800 kids this year from years past. This event is geared towards 4th graders. Each presenter must give them a 6-minute presentation.
- b. Garden 101 – February 17th – put it on your calendars to attend.
- c. Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line – February 22-23, 2022. They are not going to charge for staff and board members – there is a live stream version that is available for free.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New advisory board member. Jon mentioned that Wayne Duckwitz may be interested in sitting in on the board. None of the board members know him so Aaron will contact him.
- b. Meeting locations – will be decided monthly as it will depend on what the office is staffed at to use the conference room.
- c. Lincoln Oakes Nursery – has been removing every district order for lilacs as they sold them to an out of state nursery. Thomas is waiting to hear back from big Sioux if they have extra if not, he may have to get them from Baileys in Minnesota. There is a lot of emails and phone calls circulating about the way LON is going about doing this to districts as it says that districts have till February to place orders. Rocky said that they will be changing the deadline to October 1st, and after that they will allow others to purchase trees.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to find and get lilacs from somewhere, to fill our planting obligations.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)**Voting no (0)**

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

- d. Tree signs – Thomas received quotes from Sign pro single side \$295 for 30 & double sided for \$333 for 30. Discussion is to have a more permanent sign for a set number of trees planted. Maybe an aluminum sign or steel. The board asked Thomas to do a little research and see what he can find and for what price. Maybe use a grant to purchase them.

George made a motion, second by Steve to order some double-sided signs for Harmon Lake plantings and smaller plantings.

Motion Carried:**Voting Aye (4)****Voting no (0)**

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

- e. Photo Contest – Valerie handed out the photos and the board selected their top 3 and then Valerie will total the photos with the most votes will receive the gift card for that category.
- f. Donate to BCSCD – board discussed and asked what we have done the last couple years and when we paid them. Valerie will get these numbers and dates together and bring it to the next meeting.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – Received the final check from the OHF grant to finalize the OMG program. Will set up a meeting with Morton, Grant, Oliver counties to decide what to do with the last of the money. They are waiting to talk about it until all payments are received from the Trust. The 3 contracts that were not able to get into the trust program were paid out of the OMG funding. It is still short money, and they will have an in person meeting with all board members and district employees present.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
- i. Starting to work on end of the year taxes w-2 & 1099 & sales tax
 - ii. The contact person for the food for the FRBL event
 - iii. Water Festival place and emails to finalize a date
 - iv. Area 4 needs a checks and balance with their bill paying.
 - v. Check with the accounting office to have an audit done on a smaller less expensive level.
- b. District Technician
- i. NDSF has a windbreak program they will cost share and ask if we will do the work. They will pay us for our services and for training. This program is not for new plantings, can only be used with removal of trees or adding to already established trees. They are averaging about 50% of the cost share.
Richard made a motion, second by George to be a part of this program.
Motion Carried:
Voting Aye (4) **Voting no (0)**
Rocky – Richard – Steve – George
 - ii. Purchased some more fabric from a company who sent it to us by mistake. We got it at last year's prices, so we got a good deal on it.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
- i. Planning with 3 more producers. Have completed a few practices and payments have been made. 319 program is scheduled to the end of this year. Talk was that it would be extended another year, and Greg was wanting to extend it even longer as we changed the boundaries.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The personnel committee went in to executive meeting at 11:40

They discussed the employees reviews and possible wage increases.

The executive session ended at 11:55

George then made a motion, second by Rocky to increase the wage for cost of living by 5.9%, plus a square increase per employee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting no (0)

Rocky – Richard – Steve – George

other discussion on reviews was that the staff suggested to do more events in Morton County. They would also like to see ½ year reviews (Valerie to put on the calendar) do workshops on range/livestock/grazing team up with extension or NDGLC. Do loan or succession planning with Farm Credit. Lots of great ideas to move forward and start working on them.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE –

Had board review the thank you card & the letter form the ND department of AG.

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS – None currently

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

February 10th at 9:00 – place will be decided on office staffing percentage. Valerie will send an email with the location.

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

XVII. ADJOURN –

Richard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

