

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 14th, 2021

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Valerie Frohlich at 9:00 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron Rocky Duane Richard Travis W. Valerie F.
Ryan George Thomas Steve
Guest: Renae Gress Jon Fettig

III. **REORGANIZATION OF MCSCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

a. **Appointed Supervisor**

George made a motion, to appoint Steve and Richard as appointed supervisors, Rocky 2nd the motion
After no discussion – Aaron moved to cast a unanimous vote for Steve & Richard to be appointed
supervisors, George 2nd the motion

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky George

b. **Chairman**

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to nominate Aaron as Chairman

After no discussion George moved to cast a unanimous vote for Aaron for chairman, 2nd by Rocky

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Aaron Steckler is the chairman of the board

***Aaron took control of the meeting

c. **Vice-Chairman**

Richard made a motion to nominate Rocky, Rocky Declined the nomination.

Richard then made a motion to nominate George as Vice Chairman, Rocky 2nd the motion

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Richard George Steve

d. **Official Secretary**

Rocky made a motion, Richard seconded to appoint Valerie Frohlich as Official Secretary.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Richard George Steve

e. **Recording Secretary & Treasurer**

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard to appoint Valerie Frohlich as Recording Secretary &
Treasurer.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

f. **Advisory Supervisors**

Richard renominated Duane and Travis and moved to cast a unanimous vote, for Duane & Travis as advisory supervisors.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

g. **RC&D Representative & Back up Representative**

Richard made a motion, seconded by Rocky appoint Duane Olsen as the representative, with Rocky Bateman as Back up to the RC&D.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

h. **RDC Representative**

Rocky made a motion, seconded by Richard to appoint Steve Tomac as the RDC Representative

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

i. **Area IV Representative and back up Representative**

George moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint Duane Olsen as the Area IV Representative, with Rocky Bateman as the Backup Representative for Area IV.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

j. **Personnel Committee**

Steve moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate Richard Tokach, George Ferderer, & Jon Fettig as the Personnel Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Rocky Richard George Steve

Voting No (0)

k. **Financial Committee**

Rocky moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate Aaron Steckler, Richard Tokach, and Valerie Frohlich as the Financial Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

l. **Equipment Committee**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate Aaron Steckler, George Ferderer, and SCD Staff

as the Equipment Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

m. **OMG Board Member**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate to appoint Travis Wolf as the OMG Board Member.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

n. **Team Member Safety Committee**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate the Board Members and SCD Staff as the Team Member Safety Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

o. **Soil Health Representative**

George moved to cast a unanimous vote to renominate Rocky, Steve and Staff as the Soil Health Representatives.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Discussion was had to combine the Saline Soil Committee to the Soil Health Committee.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to combine the two committee and use the same representatives.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

p. **Handbook Committee**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky, Steve, Travis and SCD Staff as the Handbook Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

q. **Multi-County Soil Health Workshop**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint Rocky, Steve & SCD Staff to the Multi. County Health Workshop Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

r. **Women's Ag Night Committee**

George moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint Aaron and SCD Staff to the Women's Ag Night Committee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

s. **Scholarship Committee**

Steve moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint Richard and SCD Staff to the Scholarship Committee

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

t. **Tree Pricing Committee**

Richard moved to cast a unanimous vote to appoint George and SCD staff to the Tree Price Committee

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Richard offered some corrections to the minutes and then made a motion, seconded by George to accept these corrections to be made to the December 10th, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

George made a motion, second by Rocky to accept the minutes with the corrections being made

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

V. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

Voting No (0)

VI. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Finishing up CSP – 4 payments left. Been working on paperwork for a producer who passed away that has an active contract. Trying to figure out how to make CSP work better for the producer. Trying to ask them and help them with those items. Only have 7 EQIP contracts and some of this stems from the fact that producers cannot come into the office. A lot of the times we can visit with producers or they will visit amongst themselves to pass the word of programs that are available. There was discussion on CRP grasslands and how to reach more producers. Ideas on how to get the word out to more producers. Suggestions were letters, door knocking, coffee shop talks,

newsletter, emails. Check with presort for a mailing list.

- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – Attached is her list of upcoming events.
They started livestock judging and 14 youths.
The livestock water results are 329 samples from 168 locations of sampling surface water.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson –unavailable – nothing to report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Women’s Ag night update – to move forward with having face to face event on March 18th, 2021. We have Marci Narum as the guest speaker and will be having someone from Farm Rescue speaking as it is national farm rescue day. The board had discussion on what to provide for appropriation for them to come and speak. There was discussion also on them not asking our audience for donations. The board asked Valerie to touch base with the Farm Rescue speaker and see what they can accept for donations and if they will need a room and what their plan is for the event.
There was also discussion on party favors. The Mandan Ag class with be making door prizes for give away. Do we still want to hand out a party favor? Some suggestions were oven mitts, reusable bags, measuring cups.
Rocky made a motion, second by George to let the Women’s Ag Night committee decide on the party favor with a spending amount like last year around \$1000.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

- b. Manure Spreader update – machine is about 10 years old. Replace beaters \$16,000 – New machine \$44,500 was unable to get a trade in value as they wanted to see the machine. There has been a lot of hours on this machine. Board would like to get an estimate from a machine shop to repair it. And to also get a trade in estimate for the machine.

VIII. PERSONAL COMMITTEE

- a. New hire – Thomas Osterbauer hired as the new District Technician and Ryan Kobilansky moved to the 319 watershed coordinator. They will have his probation review in March after the board meeting.
- b. Yearly reviews – Committee had Valerie’s yearly review and told her she could take some QB classes and if there were other things to help with her position, she should let the board know.
- c. Committee also asked the board to approve a cost of living raise for all employees and to approve the raise for Valerie.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to accept the committees suggestion for pay movements among employees

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

IX. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Farming & ranching for the Bottom Line – Richard and Steve need to be signed up.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Insurance – Valerie brought up the cost of the insurance on the dodge and asked the board if they wanted to keep full coverage on it or liability as we are not replacing it but keeping it. The board discussed how they felt about both options.

George made a motion, second by Rocky to keep the Dodge pickup at full coverage.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Aaron Rocky Richard Steve

- b. FRBL – to stream this workshop for 2 days there will be a streaming fee wondering how the board felt about donating to cover this fee. After discussion they decided to use the money that we donated to BCSCD to help cover this fee.
- c. Schirado Inventions – would like the board to look at his motion water hydrant to promote it as a cost shared product. After discussion with NRCS this is product would not be covered under their specs as they require a tank for water supply. The board suggested to contact Mr. Schirado and let him know we cannot promote his product, but he can be a sponsor in our newsletter and people will see his name that way.
- d. Photo Contest – few suggestions for next year was to request the photos be taken in Morton County. The board received a packet of all the photos in each category and then they voted for their 1st place choice. It was suggested to post on Facebook the winners. For our first year the turnout was good.
- e. Richard asked if we are doing water fest this year. Valerie informed the board that she did email the lady in charge and have not heard back yet if it was going to be a face to face event or virtual. So, Richard had a suggestion if we do not have water fest that maybe we could purchase some books and donate them to the schools throughout Morton County. The book in suggestion was “Soil Quilt”. Valerie will order a book and bring to the next meeting for the board to review.
- f. Harmon Lake is trying to change the land restrictions for below the dam. In this quest to change the NRCS and MCSCD was named and involved in the startup of the lake. The Lake was built in 2015. Maybe try to review past minutes and see if there is anything about the lake that we should know.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – there is an AFP that needs to be signed and still transitioning into the position.

XII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Update that we were approved for the \$1000 grant for Women’s Ag Night
 - ii. Working on a sponsor letter to send out for our newsletter and other services we provide.
 - iii. We changed the question in the newsletter to get a gift card and to get a feel for if people are reading our newsletter was changed to if they fill out the form on what they would like to see us help them with. Which we have not gotten any back yet so we may have to try again next newsletter.
 - iv. Prairie RC&D update – changed their membership fees to \$50. They are still trying to get rid of all the funds which is why they dropped the member ship fees to \$50. They must charge a fee as per the bylaws.
- b. District Technician
 - i. Introduced himself to the board.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Have been doing some orientation programs as suggested for week by week training.

- ii. Have received a few calls on the saline soil tour. One in Almont and one south of Mandan. Looking for a place with easy access and high visibility.

CORRESPONDENCE

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday February 11th, 2021 at 9:00 am

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

XVII. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:50pm by George

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

