

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order by board Chairman Aaron Steckler at 9:00

## II. ROLL CALL

### Preset were

**Staff:** Ryan, Thomas, And Valerie      **NRCS Acting DC:** By phone Katherine Brackel

**Board Members:** Aaron, George, Rocky, Duane, Richard

**Guests:** Jaden with BCSCD

## III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the minutes of the September meeting.

### Motion Carried:

**Voting Aye:**

**Voting Nah:**

Richard – George - Rocky

## IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasure's reports for August and September were reviewed by the board.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve the financial reports submitted by Valerie for months August and September for the district and 319 Program.

### Motion Carried:

**Voting Aye:**

**Voting Nah:**

Richard – George - Rocky

## V. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. Jaden Deckert with BCSCD came to talk to the board about teaming with the BCSCD and the County Extension in Morton and Burleigh to hold 4 garden events throughout the year of 2022. Was thinking of doing a hybrid option for those who do not want to or can't attend in person. Will try to get the events out there before they need to be done. See attached sheet for details on the event. Will try to get the word out through radio ads, Facebook, website, and other options. Would like to find places in Morton County to hold some of the events.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard for us to partner with BCSCD and Extension to host these events.

### Motion Carried:

**Voting Aye:**

**Voting Nah:**

Richard – George – Rocky

- b. Katherine Brackel acting NRCS DC is from the Adams County, Hettinger Field office. She will be acting until November 5<sup>th</sup>. Right now, they are working on annual payments and planning for EQIP applications. CRP is wrapped up. Kathrine will be working in the office 2 days a week and teleworking the other days. The office is at 25% staffing requirements, which is 4 people for the NRCS side which allows for one SCD personnel to work in the office at a time. The doors are still locked to the public and appointments must be made to meet with producers. There is also no travel advised between offices so there is no NRCS staff going to the other counties in the CDU. The numbers come from national level to let us know what level our county can be at.

- c. Renae Gress County Extension Agent – Not available – handed out flyer on Bovine training
- d. Alle Boelter Fam Bill Specialist – Not available – Nothing to report currently.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Recap of Eco-Ed – Had a nice day. All the schools where there except New Salem as they had the days mixed up. The kids all seem to learn and have fun doing it. They take test before they go through the stations and then they take another test after to see if they retained what they were taught. What would it take to start in Morton County? There are more schools with more kids would have to make it a 2- or 3-day event as each station must be 20 minutes long. The board suggested to keep supporting Center and their Eco-Ed and if they ever decide to stop doing it then MCSCD will look into other options.
- b. Covid plan – there are no mandates as of now for SCD or contractors with NRCS. The SCD has not been given any direct answers as of what needs to be done. The board asked if we could work from another location, Katherine was going to do some research on that.
- c. Rental ideas – Rollers are \$22 to \$45 thousand, Post pounders are \$11 to \$15 thousand, Tillers are 6’ pull behind is \$1,700 to \$3,500. Explore options for a pull behind tiller. There were no opinions from producers that read the newsletter.

Richard made a motion, second by George to have the equipment committee to look at the options and make the decision on what to purchase.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Richard – George – Rocky

**Voting Nah:**

Katherine left the meeting for another meeting at 9:50

## VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Achievement winner will not be carried over for another year. The convention will be going viral, and they will run a video with all the winners. There was discussion on having a recognition dinner for the achievement winner and possible the Leopold winner. The board decided to wait until after convention and see if the Leopold winner is Gartner and hold an appreciation meal for both.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tonneau cover, seat covers, running boards for Ford pick-up. Tonneau cover would come in handing when hauling trees back from the nursery and out for planting the sun and wind wouldn’t dry them out. Running boards are needed for easier in and out of the pickup. Seat covers will help to extend the life of the interior.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to turn it over to the equipment committee to approve the spending of these items.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Richard – George – Rocky

**Voting Nah:**

- b. Decals for the Ford Pickup – should we do them on the window or keep them on the door. Richard suggested to send it to the equipment committee to decide.
- c. Scholarship update. Would like to change the questions they have to choose from to write an essay. The board reviewed the questions and liked the new question ideas. It was asked to do updates to the application and letter and have the scholarship committee review it and then get it sent out to all

schools in Morton County and put in the newsletter and on Facebook.

**IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG – Doing final touches for the closing of the grant. Sign the last contract.  
Ryan has been helping Grant County out with their contracts and training the new district tech. Do we get credit for Ryan helping them, check to see if we can get in kind money or some sort of compensation?

**X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Secretary
  - i. Budget was submitted to the county auditor.
  - ii. Received a letter from Aaron Fields that said the legislature raised the audit amount from \$300,000 to \$750,000. Board will have to decide when they will want to do an audit.
  - iii. Tour with BCSCD – already discussed with Jaden from BCSCD at beginning of meeting. The board would like to see how many people are attending from Morton County.
- b. District Technician
  - i. Working on 2022 tree plans for plantings
  - ii. Tree order form is out and working on the web site to get the order form up and running.
  - iii. Added taller fruit trees to the order form. Board thought we had an agreement with the nurseries that we cannot sell fruit trees. Thomas to contact Bill or Brian about this and see if we can offer them on our order form.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - i. Have 2 contracts to sign after meeting. Contract goes till December 2022, but there has to be an annual report submitted to Greg. Wants to keep up on where we are and how things are going. Also keep up on when we need to reapply
  - ii. Lots of interest and trying to get more word out about other practices that we offer with 319 such as grass seeding.
  - iii. Would like to see if there is more info out there to help get water to wildlife, maybe through the game & fish.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE –**

- a. Envirothon is requesting funds to help run the program for high school kids to compete in events. The Staff will be going to help with the activities. In the past we have donated a monetary donation of \$500. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to donate \$300 as the staff going to help with the event to report back on the event what it entails, and teams involved.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Richard – George – Rocky

**Voting Nah:**

- b. Lincoln Oakes Letter – asking for district staff to help in their warehouse. They are addressing the mold issue with the trees. They are going to install a fishbowl system to track trees, with bar codes on trees. This system will be easier on all involved.

- c. NACD Dues are up for the year. Since 2015 we have been a gold sponsor. Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to pay \$1,100 for our 2022 dues.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Richard – George – Rocky

**Voting Nah:**

**XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –**

**XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting would be on November 11<sup>th</sup> which is Veteran’s Day, and the office is closed.  
The board moved the next meeting day to November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 o’clock at the Comfort Inn

**XIV. SIGN EXPENSE VOUCHERS, PAYROLL, AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS**

**XV. ADJOURN –**

Rocky motioned to adjourn at 11:15am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich  
Recording Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Steckler - Chairman