

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 12th, 2020

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

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

II. **ROLL CALL**

Rocky George Duane Steve Richard Valerie
Aaron Travis Ryan on the Phone
Guest: Renee and Jon

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Richard made a motion, second by George to approve the October 2020 minutes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The board reviewed the Treasurer's report for September as they were not available last month and Octobers report.

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the September District and 319 financial reports submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the October District and 319 financial reports submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Valerie explained why some accounts have credits and how a down payment stays in their account until an invoice is made.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Danelle Dahlke took a new position at the Bismarck office. She did all the EQIP planning. There is no idea as to when they will advertise to fill her position. Right now, there are 5 CSP renewals. All 2020 CRP payments have been made. Application numbers are up across the CDU. The plan is to get all those wanting EQIP into the 1st batching if they don't make it see if they can be transferred to 319 or OMG programs.
Office is not opening any time soon. Might end up going back to one person in the office at a time per agency, as COVID numbers are so high.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – Attached is her of upcoming events.
Court house is on mask mandate. They have been working from home and office. There will be no Living Ag classroom for the kids they are asking that each presenter submit a video they can forward on. The BSC Ag Marketing was done by Zoom and it had a very good turnout.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson –unavailable – nothing to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 1099 – Lynnell Rude from Haga Kommer explained some of the ways we can fix the problem of not sending out 1099 for the years 2018 and 2019. With the way the program is set up these producers where set up as a customer and not as a vendor. Rude helped Valerie change this process. There were 2 producers from 2018 and 17 from 2019. Rude suggested sending a letter with them to the IRS explaining what happened and asking for maybe a less of a punishment. There have been ways to make sure this doesn't happen in the future.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to send out the 1099 for both years with a letter to producers and with another letter to the IRS.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Convention has been changed from a one-day meeting to Zoom. They felt that with most of the members being up there in age and with the COVID numbers being so high it was decided to hold the meetings by Zoom. Each area will hold their own meeting first and then they will have a statewide Zoom meeting.
- b. Vehicles – have the logos added to both pickups and the trailer.
- c. Credit card machine update. Last meeting it was suggested that the chairman be the one in charge of adding their info in order to use the machine. Aaron said he will do it for as long as his term.

VIII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

IX. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- a. NACD – yearly dues. The board discussed what we have been paying and the other payment options. After this discussion Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to continue to pay the same amount we paid last year.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – is on track. The producer that was to be done by November 1st has a few things to finish but should be done by the end of the month.
Practices are still being implemented and the funding is still there.
The board likes what the OMG has to offer and wants to continue on with this program. If the fellow counties are not willing to continue with the program, we should ask other neighboring counties to join.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Have a speaker chosen for Women's Ag. Also have farm rescue representatives coming. Discussed with the board on what we want to do if we cannot do a face to face Women's Ag Night. The board wants to go forward like we are doing face to face and decide when the time gets closer. May have to postpone for one year.

- ii. I was asked to sit on the board for NDCDEA as the area 4 representative. There will be a meeting on November 20, 2020 to elect these new positions. If elected the board will have to sign off.
- iii. Tom Gibson TREES program is going to be by ZOOM this year. I informed all the schools in Morton County and 4 schools have already signed up.

b. District Technician

- i. Tree refund for producer who is not buying the lot he was going to plant trees on, so he would like his 40% down payment back. Ryan informed the board that the trees have not been ordered yet, so there is no cost into his planting.
Richard made a motion, second by Steve to refund the producers down payment as the trees have not been ordered yet.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

- ii. Fabric quotes – NYP is \$70.68 per roll Agassiz is \$81. Looking at ordering 100,000 feet have about 62,000 feet of trees right now. Like to use it all as then there is room in the shop for all the machinery. Board suggested putting the extra fabric in the trailer for storage.
Steve made a motion, second by George to purchase the fabric from NYP and to pay in January to get the early order discount.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

- iii. Tree waterer – last we paid her \$400 in a gift card. This person waters the trees every weekend and holiday for the month of May and part of June.
Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to pay her \$400 again this year.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

- iv. Pickup update on pricing. Nothing new the prices are extended to the end of the year. Board commented that it was approved in past meeting to purchase a pickup and they feel we should do it now before the prices change. Look at the F250 crew cab pickup. If there are any questions about the options for the pickup can be decided by the equipment committee.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Ads have been placed for the position. The personnel committee has received all applicants.
Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to give the personnel committee approval to hire someone for the position.

Board went into executive meeting @ 10:40 – for personnel committee to discuss exit interview with Chet and new hire information. Also discussed other options for the employees and board to be involved in.

Board left executive meeting @ 11:15

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Nothing currently

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Nothing currently

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next board meeting on December 10th, 2020 at 9 o'clock at the Comfort Inn, Mandan

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

XVI. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:25am by Rocky

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler – Chairman