

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 10th, 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 Ryan
Guest: Renee and Jon

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the November 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 November.

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

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve George Rocky

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Val will email the report. CSP renewals, there are 5 up for renewal. The priority for approval is set by national & state.
5 CSP contracts are going to expire. 26 active contracts, 16 for CSP and 10 for EQIP for Morton County. 7 EQIP are waiting for funding.
FSA base acres is receiving payment from NRCS if left in grass for haying/grazing. 2 active GSI with 2 more possible.
There was a 5% spot check which is done every 3 years on technical stuff. Morton County got a good report. Hoping for the office to open to producers soon to have things pick back up and get back to somewhat normal. Board asked Jon how many producers there are in Morton County? They also would like to know what % is landowners vs renters for applications.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – Attached is her list of upcoming events.
There will be 3 face to face meeting with producers on pesticide renewals. January 21st will be in Mandan. Working on newsletter. Valerie to send the scholarship information for Renae to put in their newsletter. The NDSU marketing webinars are being recorded to watch later. If you would like to join the BSC Ag Marketing Club contact Renae for the link.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson –unavailable – nothing to report.

vi. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. 1099 for 2018 and 2019 will be going out next week. Have been working with the accounting office to get everything filed correctly.

- b. State meeting is December 14th and this will count for a training for all the supervisors that attend. The meeting will be done by zoom.
- c. Vehicle Ryan spoke with the sales rep and ordered the new pick-up, it was ordered with the larger motor and the hitch. Price came in at \$33,500. They are looking at a delivery date of April 2021. Hopefully in time for tree planting.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Personal Committee –**

- i. After interviews for the 319 position, Ryan Kobilansky was offered the job and he accepted. He will start as of December 1st in the position as 319 Watershed Coordinator. Ryan will be on a probation period for 3 months. He will not lose any benefits while on probation.
- ii. Hire district technician – start advertising in all options for a district technician. Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to allow personal committee to hire a district technician.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Steve George Rocky

Voting No (0)

- iii. Yearly reviews will be set up before January.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – 2 producers will be wrapping up this fall. There is a meeting December 11th at 9 o'clock to go over the budget and review the contracts. There are still a few producers that have expressed interest in the program.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Secretary

- i. I was elected as a direct for area 4 for the NDCDEA – will need board chairman to sign letter stating that it is ok for me to attend meetings and be a part of the committee.
- ii. Working on 1099 with accountant to get out next week.
- iii. Newsletter – how many people read it. Put in an article about doing a saline plot tour and asking for producers to work with us on this. There was discussion on what we could cover and possibly getting a SIG grant. Also, would like to put a question in the newsletter to have them email their answer to me and get their name in for a prize. Discussion was had about the newsletter and what we could do with it. Send it out by email. Richard made a motion, second by George to offer a \$25 visa gift card as the prize to answer the question for the newsletter.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Richard Steve George Rocky

Voting No (0)

b. District Technician

- i. Tree refund for producer was sent. Fabric was ordered, getting the early order discount. Compensated Kristi Becker for watering trees. Purchased the pick-up. Working on tree orders and getting down payments.

- ii. Manure spreader – Needs some work done to it. The question is to have it replaced or repaired. The board asked Ryan to see what it would cost to repair it, replace it and trade it in or with a sell out right option.
 - iii. Safety manual – has not been finalized/approved. Board suggested to put water sampling safety in it.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
- i. Getting transmitted into the 319 position. Spoke with Greg to get the programs put on computer and will set up a meeting in February. Greg said there are a few 319 trainings that Ryan should attend.
 - ii. Revamping the water sampling to include the big muddy.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Nothing currently

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Nothing currently

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next board meeting on January 14th, 2021 at 9 o'clock at the Comfort Inn, Mandan

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

.. **ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:25am by George

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler – Chairman

