

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 9th, 2021

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

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Staff: Ryan, Thomas, & Valerie NRCS: Jon & Bryce

Board Members: George, Duane, Travis, Rocky, Richard, & Aaron

Guest: Renae with NDSU Extension

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard made a motion, second by George to approve the board minutes for the November meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George – Richard – Rocky

Voting Nah:

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the October financial report for the district & 319 statements.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George – Richard – Rocky

Voting Nah:

November's treasures report was tabled to next meeting as the bank statements did not arrive by meeting time.

V. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. NRCS- Bryce hand out attached. Working on EQIP- 6 active moved to next year. Soil Cons are doing a rotation to Selfridge to help with their contracts. The ranger was found and has been impounded. The District Conservationist was filled by Landon Weiser out of Hillsboro, and he will be starting January 18th, 2022.

NRCS – Jon reviewed the civil rights and co-op with partners. See attached. Jon read and reviewed it with the board.

b. NDSU Extension – Renae hand out attached. Producer day at the Mandan Eagles. Pesticide training. BSC Market club will be online. War on weeds program in March. Livestock judging to start the end of December.

c. Farm Bill Specialist – Alee – last day is Friday and not sure when the spot will be filled.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Area 4 – duties include accounting/sponsorship, minutes for 2 yearly meetings. Debbie's hours were paid to the district, as she would do the work during normal business hours. Will need to change the check signing card. Will have to deposit checks and pay bills. Rocky feels it will be easier for them with someone in town.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to have Valerie do the Area 4 secretary and other duties that need to be done, for a year and see how it goes.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George – Richard – Rocky

Voting Nah:

- b. Achievement Supper – Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to host an achievement and Leopold recognition supper, Valerie to find a spot and work out the details and let the board and guests know.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George – Richard – Rocky

Voting Nah:

- c. Insured for theft – Valerie checked with the insurance company and we are insured for theft.
- d. Discussion on year meeting. Why is Lincoln Oakes happy with a 2% loss, and why is all the money in bonds? Rocky said the stock market went down, cd's weren't getting anything for interest. With this discussion came the question as to why does MCSCD have their money in CD's? and can a district invest in stocks & bonds. Ask at the planning meeting if we can invest in those with grant money and mill levy money.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. FRBL – will be both in person and livestream, on February 22nd 7 23rd, 2022 at the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence.
- b. Garden Series will be starting in February with the first event being held the 17th at the Burleigh County 4-H building in Bismarck.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FRBL – speaker for farmer panel – Aaron was suggested but he will not be around that day.
- b. North American Grazing Land tour – No date set yet but summer in 2022 – looking for a place in Morton County to tour and possibly have a speaker from Morton County.
- c. FSA is looking to post a job opening and they are wondering if they can post it on our Facebook page. After the board discussed it, they don't see a problem with us posting a job for them.
- d. Government Shut Down – the board discussed that they would have to have an emergency meeting to discuss what will need to be done. As the time of year and the length of the shut down all play a part in the decision as to what to do. With it is hard to put what can be done on paper for future so it will have to be handled when they come up.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – had a 3-county board meeting. Connie retired from Grant County. They pursued funding through Natural Resource trust. To get the extra money from OMG it would have to be reapplied and may take months. The contracts are going to be split between the OMG & Natural Resource Trust and one will be transferred to 319 watershed. There will be one contract that will not be paid in full, and that producer does not want to sign the papers to go through the Natural Resource trust. So, there will have to be another board meeting in the future to decide what to do with he funds. The board asked that they reach out to the OHF funders to see about getting in covered. We need to help get him paid, as it makes all counties look bad.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Tom Gibson – Schedule for 3 days throughout Morton County
 - ii. Scholarship – sent it all to the colleges in North Dakota – Will send to the High Schools

- iii. High Tunnel – finished up the proposal and hoping to fund 10 throughout the state.
- iv. Debbie from Selfridge is retiring, and they are having a party for her – would it be ok for me to attend? The board said yes, they see it at networking
- v. Sponsor letters for the newsletter are being finished up and will be sent out.

**Jon informed the board that Valerie now has the most experience among the 3 counties in the Cannonball CDU and that she may have to help the other 2 districts.

b. District Technician

- i. So far have about 120,000 feet planned for planting in 2022. May be only 80,000 or 90,000 if the funding doesn't come through. Last year did 64,000 feet.
- ii. Cemetery would like some trees again this year. They would like 14 2-3' popular trees. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to donate the 14 popular trees to the Veteran's Cemetery this year.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

Voting Nah:

George – Richard – Rocky

- iii. Potted plant sales are over double so far this year, over last year with over 300 potted plants ordered from big Sioux. They did raise their price, so we adjusted our price to accommodate the increase.
- iv. The ND Forest service is coming out with a new program and hoping to have the details by the next board meeting.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Focusing on OMG – however there were 2 contracts to sign for payment. One being the Omg transfer and another for a well abandonment. been out planning with others. Trying to get information out about crop and seeding to grass as well as water projects.

Discussion on water fest. Valerie informed the board that she reached out to the lady in charge, and she said that they will be doing it this year, just waiting on a new contract.

Achievement idea for the county. Any thoughts just keep it fresh in the mind.

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a. Set up annual reviews before the next board meeting. Dates that work for the committee as the afternoon of the 21 or 22nd. Valerie will get the room set up and paperwork ready. She will send out an email to the committee with the date and time.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – none currently

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS – None currently

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. January 13th starting at 9:00 o'clock and if we can back to the office in the conference room. Valerie will send out an email with the information when the date is closer.

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

XVI. ADJOURN – George made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman