

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 10, 2021

9:00 a.m. CDT –Farm Credit Services, Mandan, ND 58554

Logged on to the Towner Nursery report by teams, to see what was new and what is coming up.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Aaron called the meeting to order at 9:15

II. **ROLL CALL**

Staff: Valerie – Ryan – Thomas

Board Members: Steve – George – Aaron – Rocky by phone

Others: Jon -NRCS

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

George made a motion, second by Steve to approve and accept the minutes of the January meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Steve – George - Rocky

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Steve made a motion, second by George to approve the January treasurer's report and the district and 319 financials submitted by Valerie.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Steve – George - Rocky

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. CDU Supervisor – Jon – is filling in for Landon as he was out of the office. Working on EQIP. Hoping to get a lot of them funded. Lots of planning is being done. Have about 16 applications. Also working on grazing plans. Office is still at 25%.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Planning meeting – table until next month when more board members are present in person.
- b. Achievement nominees – just want everyone to keep thinking of people to nominate. Listed a few of the runner ups and a couple more producers.
- c. Lilac tree – update we were able to get the lilacs we need from Big Sioux nursery.
- d. Tree planting signs – Thomas is checking with the welding department at Mandan High School. Waiting to hear back from them. If he doesn't hear anything will proceed to find quotes other places.
- e. Donation to BCSCD for workshops.
2017 donated \$1,750 – 2018 donated \$8,000 – 2019 donated \$8,000 – 2020 donated \$6,000 – 2021 nothing due to pandemic. Board asked to see what we budgeted for this year and bring to the next board meeting.
- f. Safety handbook – Richard submitted what he thought could be changed on the book. There was discussion on how we are to adopt this hand book. Travis questioned chaining down equipment, and chain size. Ryan to check with the DOT by phone call to find out the proper way. Richard did question

the 4-wheeler being loaded on the pick-up or just be loaded in trailer when being used. Board would like the preferred method is to be trailered. Will review again next month.

Listened back in to Towner meeting. Nothing new that pertained to us so went back to the meeting agenda.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Living Ag class room – February 15 & 16th – let board know again that we will be there
- b. Garden Tour February 17th about 50 people registered
- c. FRBL – everyone is registered for either in person or live stream. And have about 150 people coming in person
- d. Water Festival is April 5th – will need board help with this event

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tree Promo Meeting - \$50 per person to attend and they will have classes for all of us employees to attend to find out new ideas and help with our jobs.

George made a motion, second by Steve to pay for the staff to attend the Tree promo workshop.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Steve – George – Rocky

- b. Kelsey from Morton County Extension would like to team up with us to do a garden event of some sort. She thought fairy garden, container gardens, and other thoughts. She would like to attend our next month's board meeting to discuss options and where we can hold it, and when. Other thoughts on ideas were pollinator plantings and maybe do a project at the office or tree shed. Board said that she can come to the next meeting to discuss a plan.
- c. 319 tours – salinity workshop, or tours to show what projects we can cost share. Possibly go to Lance Gartner's and he is willing to allow us to do a tour. He would have projects to show of water, solar, fencing, grass establishments. Thinking of do a half day in the middle of June. There is a cabin in Glen Ullin that we would be able to rent to have a meal and a place to meet before the tour. Speaker suggestions Renae, Greg, Sedivik. Maybe team up with others from the area. Valerie to check if the cabin is open either June 9th or 16th. Will have board meeting in the morning and the tour in the afternoon.
- d. Leopold nominees – do we want to nominate Lance Gartner again or is there someone else that we can nominate? Board suggested to review the paperwork for Lance. George made a motion, second by Steve to nominate Lance Gartner again for the Leopold Award candidate.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Steve – George – Rocky

- e. Dodge – having some problems will stop running when you come to a stop. Had it checked out and it would not duplicate the same problem. Suggested to call Guncher Repair or check the internet to see if anyone has the same problem.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – program will be wrapped up. Grant producer signed the paper taking the amount of money that is left in the project.
- b. Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to do the OMG Grant again, with both counties.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting no (0)

Steve – George – Rocky

Hold a meeting with the other 2 counties to get feed back on the new grant and the pro & cons on the last grant.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Shared with the board the options the auditor gave for different audit types.
 - ii. Asked if the board would be ok with adding the Area 4 to our QuickBooks. They want a print from past years to keep things legit. Board is fine with adding them to our QuickBooks.
 - iii. Received an email from the state saying they have not received our audits. The state office is looking into getting us on their list for audits and Valerie will look for some quotes to get the audits done.
- b. District Technician
 - i. Posted job openings for tree planters and interns
 - ii. Have 101 thousand feet for trees this year
 - iii. Changed the OHF funding deadline to March 15th, 2022, for the 2023 plantings
 - iv. Tree orders have been placed
 - v. Will go to Runnings to look at tillers
- c. LON – Discussion on what is happening. There will be a meeting on the 24th, to have a discussion on what needs to be changed and to try to come up with a solution. There has been an increase in the purchase of trees with over 300,000 trees being sold. Hoping for good things to come from the meeting. Rocky has been getting phone calls on this topic for both sides. Looking for a new end date for districts to have their orders in by. They are looking to up the numbers of trees that they are planting. They are now planting over 300 species of trees which only uses about 10% of their fields. Would like to plant up to 5 or 6 million trees. They are doing business with over 500 + customers. Districts do about 45% of the purchasing. Board feels that Thomas should attend the meeting and George will go as back up.
- d. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Spoke with Greg and he said that the project has one year extension will hear by March for the one-year extension, this fall we will extend current project for 3-5 years. Wants us to get more practices out there. For now, we must be completed by November. This year we will have new watering sample sites as the project expanded its borders. 1 will be the same – a couple will be around Glen Ullin and one further south. Still meeting with producers on projects.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE –

- a. City of New Salem sent out a survey on water control

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –

- a. No contracts to be signed at this time.

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. March 10th, 2022, at 10:00 at the Farm Credit Office

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

XV. ADJOURN – Steve motioned to adjourn at 11:30

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved: 

Aaron Steckler - Chairman