

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

9:00 a.m. CDT – Black Stone Tavern, Mandan, ND 58554

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

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron	Rocky	Duane	Travis W.	Valerie F.
Ryan	George	Thomas	Steve	
Guest:	Jon Fettig			

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

George made a motion, second by Rocky to accept the minutes of the January meeting.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve the January report for the district & 319 financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – report is attached – finished up CSP & GCI. Finished up CSP payments for 2020. Working on EQIP. Have about 15 producers on planning list. Asked FSA to put NRCS info in their newsletter.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – unavailable – Nothing to report.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson – unavailable – Jon reported that he is working on CRP and that the deadline has been extended but not sure till when. Also working on EQIP.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Manure spreader is a 2009. Thomas handed out a report on numbers for what Duppong's Inc. thought it was worth. It is now at Morrell's welding to get a quote on doing the repairs. Duppong said trade in value is \$14,000. Board discussed what they thought should be done. Board asked to bring the welding repair numbers to the next meeting and they can decide from there.
- b. Photo Contest winners – Val showed the board who the top winner was for all 4 categorizes. They have been mailed their gift card and the winners have been posted on Facebook.
- c. ND Grazing Land donation done by email.  
Steve made a motion, second by George to make a \$250 donation to their virtual programs they are offering.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George

**VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Farming & ranching for the Bottom Line – the links should be emailed out to everyone. Staff may have to go on site to help with questions and such during the broadcast. Rocky made the comment that the lineup was very good.
- b. The SCD staff will be attending the virtual tree promotion meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Burleigh County Soil Conservation District is asking if we would want to take part in their Cows, Cover, Crop, or their driving tour this year. The board suggested Lance Gartner and Travis Wolf. Aaron was also mentioned but he said he will not be able to help at this time.
- b. Plan of Work (POW) with the NRCS. With this plan they would cover 50% of our payroll for all projects that we help on. If there are any field check outs that will need to be done, we would have to use the SCD vehicle as we are not able to legally drive an NRCS vehicle. This would be done on a quarterly period.

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to come up with a plan for the MCSCD to do the POW with the NRCS.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

Rocky Steve George

**Voting No (0)**

**IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG – has a couple producers interested. Been working on EQIP and current OMG projects.

**X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Secretary
  - i. Women’s ag night is coming along. Picked up the material for the ag department at the school to make projects for door prize giveaways. Have a \$1,000 grant and have only used about \$300 of it. The grant can be used for the speaker fees also.  
the board suggested extending an invitation to the teacher and 5 of her students to attend our women’s ag night and hand out the prizes.
  - ii. As of now we have \$1500 in newsletter sponsors.
  - iii. Newsletter question – changed it from a question to anyone that filled out what we can do to improve would be entered and we have not gotten one response. So would like to try it again next month. Board suggested maybe not only answering by email but maybe text too.
- b. District Technician
  - i. ARS would like us to do a hand plant project for them this year. It would be to replace the trees that did not survive the planting from last year. We would need to get an earth auger to drill the holes as there are about 250 plus trees to plant. We would be able to rent out the earth auger if we decide this is not something we want to get into. The board had lots of discussion on this and think it would be a good idea to run a trial hand plant with the ARS to see if this is something we would want to get into. The board asked for more information on this process such as price of earth augers and cost to plant the trees and bring it to the next meeting.
  - ii. As a new employee, will need to take the level 1 training – but will not be able to take it in March so looking to find alternative dates.

- iii. Wondering about hiring an intern again this year. The board feels like it is a good idea to hire someone if we have good applicants. Also wondering if the crew from last year will be coming back. The board suggested to reach out to the past crew to see if they will be returning. Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to place an ad to hire an intern for the 2021 tree season.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Have been working on EQIP & OMG projects as well.
- ii. Saline project – update: Made a phone call to George Kreidt to see if he would be interested in doing the saline tour on his land. Also received a few other calls about it and Edwin Egli was also interested and his neighbor. May also want to team up with fish & wildlife, Pheasants Forever or others for a cover seeds and sponsor project.

Steve brought to everyone’s attention a presentation being made in Montana about where the SCD came from and what they do. A video like this can be used for schools, legislative, and other sources. Rocky thought this was a very good idea and will bring it up to the state board too.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE – None currently**

**XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

**XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to change the next meeting to Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Baymont Inn & Suites at 1:00pm.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George

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

**XV. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:00pm by Rocky**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

  
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Aaron Steckler - Chairman

