

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:00 a.m. CDT - USDA Service Center – 2540 Overlook Lane 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 | George | Chet | Travis W.           | Valerie F. |
| Ryan    | Jon   | Steve  | Zach | Duane (joined late) |            |
| Absent  |       |        |      |                     |            |
| Richard |       |        |      |                     |            |

Steve Tomac introduced himself as our new board member. Excited to be on the board, has family members involved in SCD's in other counties.

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rocky made a motion, seconded by George to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Board discussed past due account of Melissa Warzecha; she was past due for purchase in 2018.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to remove Melissa Warzecha from the books and to put a note in her account that she cannot order.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

George moved, second by Rocky to approve the District and 319 Financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Audit- new state law states that we must perform an audit annually if we have over \$300,000 in revenue.

Board discussed shopping around for other CPAs. As well as, drafting a new resolution for the state committee to address this for all counties.

b. Living Ag Classroom- over 950 4<sup>th</sup> graders. We had 2 envirosapes which worked easier than the year before with only one.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

a. Soil Health Workshop – Farming for the Bottom Line – February 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Registration for Tree Promotion Meeting March 10-12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
George made a motion, second by Rocky to have the Morton County SCD Staff attend the meeting and pay for the registration.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

- b. Level 1 training – Ryan to attend.  
c. Scholarship Applications – Received 4 applications that will be reviewed by the scholarship committee.  
d. Northern Great Plains Joint Venture – Handed out their flyer. They would like to come to our board meeting and visit with us about their program.

Board reviewed the flyer and discussed it. Jon F. worked with a lady on the flyer so he will touch base with her to see about getting more information. Valerie will contact them and have them come to the next board meeting.

- e. Ryan registered for training on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for re-certified commercial pesticide.  
Ryan asked for the board to approve him attending the class for the day and to reimburse him for the \$155 cost. The re-certification last for 2-years.

Jon mentioned that the NRCS does not do any suggestions for pesticides they refer them to the weed board or the extension.

Steve made a motion, second by George to allow and reimburse Ryan to attend the re-certification pesticide training class.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

- f. Achievement Winner – board will think of producers and bring to next meeting. Jon will bring it up at the staff meeting to see if any producer is doing some good conservation.

#### VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG –there is a contract to sign that is complete.  
Chet went over what was covered on an OMG contract

#### IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician  
i. Bismarck/Mandan Garden Expo – Bruce Schmidt sent email to see if we would want to team up with Burleigh and split the cost of plugs that they hand out in April for this garden expo.  
The board asked Ryan to do a little more research on this event and bring it to the next meeting.  
ii. ARS/ND Forest Service would like to change the service contract to specify what each agency will be responsible for with the planting. The board discussed having that specified is a good idea and that they're both to sign the contract.

Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to modify agreement with their wording and to add an additional Cooperative signature line to have both agencies sign.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

- iii. Fabric from NYP – by doing a pre order it will save the district \$1500 and the order will ship with the order from Burleigh County SCD

- iv. Safety manual – still working on it.  
Also have received some applications for seasonal employees.

b. District Secretary

- i. Water Festival is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> will need board volunteers to help with this event.
- ii. Shirts & vest – will be bringing samples to the next board meeting to get opinions and ideas.
- iii. Calendar idea – Valerie brought up to the board to do a photo contest and then use those photos to have put into a calendar that we can hand out at women ag night.  
Board discussion brought up idea of doing a photo of the month and giving a promo item. Who gets the credit for the picture if we use it on social media or calendar.  
Lots of good discussion was brought up and the board would like time to think about it and discuss again at the next meeting with more information.
- iv. Gateway to Science sponsorship – targets 5<sup>th</sup> graders and has some schools from Morton County registered. The board decided to pass on this event this year as we have the waterfest which targets the same grade of students.
- v. If all board members can fill out a w-4 for their files.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Contacted other districts to see if any did water testing. Only New Rockford and they are just starting it this year and will be charging \$75 an hour.
- ii. Brochure and poster for 319 Water Shed Board and handouts.  
Image printing for 300 was \$643  
Flash Printing for 300 was \$183 plus art work (would not give figure for art work)  
Digital Printing for 300 Was \$251  
poster would be around \$60  
Chet showed options in both blue and yellow. The board discussed the pricing and bids that were received. Chet gave all 3 businesses the same information to get price quotes.  
Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to take the lowest complete bid that was received.  
Which would be Digital printing.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

Rocky and Chet are still on schedule for door knocking in the water shed area for February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- iii. Discussion at our workshop meeting with Burleigh county wondering if we knew any one in Morton county that plants green. Aaron said he does not. The board suggested Travis Rossow, Hoovestol, or the ARS.

**X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig

Attached is his report – Took program manuals and condensed them to make one.

CART training is going on and will be used for ranking

2 -CSP payments left. Ranking deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. GSI letters being sent out by FSA & NRCS is working on a plan as there are 3 GSI in Morton County. Working on CRP.

b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress Absent - attached is her report

- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson – Been busy working on EQIP and CRP. Conservation technical assistant. Precision Ag Specialist Emily was wondering if we can put her information on what she does in our newsletter. The board discussed the options that Emily has to offer and that other companies can offer.

Steve made a motion, second by George to put Emily's ad in our next newsletter.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Aaron Rocky George Steve

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE**

None currently.

**XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

- a. Review & sign contracts

**XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting was changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March as the office staff will be at meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March. Rocky made a motion, second by George to change the meeting to the third Thursday in March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020am at the USDA Service Center Mandan, ND

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

- XV. ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:50am by George.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

  
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Aaron Steckler - Chairman