

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** –George called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

II. **ROLL CALL**

**Staff:** Ryan – Thomas – Valerie

**Board Members:** George – Richard – Steve – Rocky – Aaron

**Others:** Renae G. & Kelsey D. – NDSU Extension – Landon – NRCS – Blake – Farm Bill Specialist

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rocky made a motion. Second by Steve to approve and accept the minutes from the February meeting.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the February treasures report for the district and 319 financials submitted by Valerie.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (3)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. DC – Landon – introduced himself as the new Mandan FO DC. See report attached. Finalizing EQIP. 2 CSP applications – 2 EQIP CIC apps. 4 high tunnel applications. Staff is still going to Selfridge. New farm bill specialist Blake Sogge and he will be working with CRP.

\*\*\* Aaron joined the meeting – 9:05\*\*\*

- b. NDSU Extension – Renae – Living Ag Class room had 870 kids. BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) training in Hebron, had a good turnout. ARC & PLC deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. The Livestock team did well this year being an all-new team. Holding a War on Weeds. Pesticide training at the end of March. Will start water testing again in April. The office move/moved and will probably have an open house, no more going through security.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Blake – Just started on Monday and introduced himself to the board. He is meeting people and getting a handle on the work load. He will handle CRP for the surrounding 5 counties, Burleigh, Kidder, Grant, Sioux, & Morton.
- d. NDSU Extension – Kelsey – Garden Series she introduced herself as she is the horticulturist for Morton & Burleigh County, started in 2020. Holding a 4-part garden series now and the 1<sup>st</sup> event 56 where registered and 33 showed up. There are about 60 registered for the next 3 events. She is wondering if Morton County would like to host an event. Some ideas she has are succulent, herb, fairy gardens, something for adult or children. Compost/rail barrel. There are 7 master gardeners in Morton County. Board would like to see an article in the newsletter about Kelsey. Talked/discussed Community gardens and Hunger Free Gardens. Would like to get something started in New Salem or Glen Ullin. Would like

to get some exposure in the smaller communities like New Salem, Almont, Flasher or Glen Ullin. The board asked if she had a comparison from growing to buying vegetables. She will meet again later to discuss topics and a place.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Planning meeting – review – feel we talked about having tours and more community involvement and we are starting to do that. The board would like to have another meeting with Aaron to continue in the right direction. They would like to do it in June or July. We should meet before to refresh and then to move forward. They talked about the meetings we used to have, and they would like to do something for farmers/ranchers and would like to do something different from Women’s Ag night. Something with livestock or grazing or cropping.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to plan an event for livestock/cropping/grazing to be held in Mandan the year of 2024.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- b. Achievement Award – The board asked Landon to come with a list of producers from the last 5 years that have done some good conservation practices. Few names that were thrown out were Bryan Keller and Matt & Lisa Rebenitsch. The board also asked if we could touch base with the Grazing Land coalition to see if they knew of anyone doing some good conservation practices.
- c. Tree Signs – Thomas brought a design of a tree sign to use for plantings over 3000 feet. We can still use the politician yard signs for the smaller plantings. There are 27 tree plantings scheduled for this year. we would need about 13 of the metal signs for this year. Thinking green background with black lettering. The board would like for us to supply the post and put it up for the producer. The thought was the intern could take it with them when they do the survivability count. Rocky thinks he has some T-posts and will let us know. The board also asked that we get a price on posts and signs for the next meeting.
- d. BCSCD – we have budgeted for an \$8,000 donation for the 2022 year. The board discussed that they like teaming up with BCSCD for the speakers and publicity. They also discussed that we are planning to hold one of our own tours this year. Richard asked how many events they plan to hold, and we told them about 4-6 events.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to donate \$6,000 to Burleigh County SCD for their events.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- e. Safety Hand book – Update with all the suggestions. Checked with the highway patrol on the binders and he said all was good with the way we are doing it. The board questioned the size of chain we have, and we will investigate the size. The board asked to change the 4-wheeler from in pick-up to trailer only. They would like for it to say only use in the trailer with proper tie downs. The board would like to review this next year after we have a year to use it and see how it goes.

Rocky made a motion. Second by Steve to change the wording for the 4-wheeler and to review every year.

Richard amended the motion, Rocky second the amendment to say after the wording is changed to send it out by email for a final vote on approval.

**Amended Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

**Original Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

Also email votes came in and the board all agreed that the wording was good for the 4-wheeler and adopted entire safety handbook.

- f. Lincoln Oakes Nursery update – the meeting took about 2 ½ hours. Thomas and George attended the meeting and felt it went very well. Was very civil, not a lot of heated discussion. Open sales to all others were December 1<sup>st</sup> and then November 1<sup>st</sup> LON will decide and let the districts know. There was also discussion that they should charge more to out of state and non-district buyers. They stated that they have 500 customers and 40 of them are districts. There was question if all the customers pay membership dues. There were suggestions to send out a newsletter and the minutes from meetings. They are selling over a million trees and are hoping to get to 2 million. Their part time employees are through a contractor.
- g. Review Living Ag Class Room – As Renae said there were over 800+ kids and numbers were down. Our display went well.
- h. Review Garden Event – As Kelsey informed up there were 56 registered and 33 attended the first event, which was a good turn out considering the weather was cold. Looking for higher numbers at the future events. Will find out from Kelsey how many are from Morton County.
- i. Review FRBL – George, Rocky and Steve attended, and they thought the turn out was good. The list showed 53 from Morton County. There were about 130 attending in person and that many online.
- j. Tiller – Thomas checked with Runnings, and they have 2 in stock for \$2999.99, King Cutter is the brand. Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to purchase the tiller and for Valerie to pay with a check.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

Discussion on the rate for the use of the tiller. Other counties are doing \$100 per day. The board would like it to put in the newsletter.

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to charge \$100 per day and we will do if we have time. There will be more discussion on the rates if we do it at a later meeting.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

**VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Tree Promo Meeting – staff will be attending this at the Radisson in Bismarck over March 15-17.
- b. Waterfest is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> and will need some board members to help this day. George said he is available in the AM.
- c. 319 tour – Checked with the cabin rental in Glen Ullin and they are open for both June 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Board decided on June 16<sup>th</sup> and that we should do a supper. The thought would be to visit sites of manure management, cover crops, water development, grass establishment. There was discussion on how to advertise the tour. Suggestions to see if there is a list of producers in the watershed area. Put it in the

newsletter, website, and Facebook.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request for an ad in the Morton County Fair Book. We have done the same ad for \$60 for the last 15+ years.

Richard made a motion, second by George to do the ad again in the fair book for \$60.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- b. Scholarships – we had a total of 7 scholarships submitted. There was one disqualified do to major. So, the committee ranked the remaining applications and came up with the top 4. The committee is asking the board how we should proceed to reward these applicants. We have budgeted for \$2,500 for scholarships and camps.

Steve made a motion, second by George to award the top 4 candidates \$500 to be paid out after we receive their fall grade transcripts.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- c. Verizon – our flip phone will not be workable after the end of this year. The board asked to come to the next meeting with some options.
- d. Breakfast on the farm - Wanted to know how the board felt on helping with this event. Steve also suggested maybe a tour of their manure management process. After some discussion it was suggested to reach out to them to see what we can do to help.

## IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
  - i. Audit – left 2 messages with the accounting office that BCSCD uses and have not heard back yet and have not heard any more from the state.
  - ii. We have 4 producers in Morton County that are interested in a high tunnel – I will be going out with Landon to look at their locations.
  - iii. QB will be expiring at the end of May and will need to be updated every year now.
  - iv. Just an update on our newsletter sponsors we try to budget for \$2000 and this year we have reached \$2,450.
  - v. MCSCD received a letter from the Earth Day group about us donating 25 trees for their event. Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to donate 25 trees from LON to Earth Day event.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- b. District Technician
  - i. Intern & tree planter applications are due March 25<sup>th</sup>. Set up interviews for the following week. Annette will be back to drive tractor.
  - ii. OHF plantings for 2023 are due March 15<sup>th</sup>. We have 85,000 feet for next year. There was talk they might do a second round of applications if there is money left over from the first round.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Started working on OMG grant. Deadline to apply for a grant from the Natural resources is September for ranking. We should probably start having meetings to discuss what we want to do with this grant.
  - ii. 319 has 2 water developments, 1 buffering, and 1 grass seeding in the works.
  - iii. So, with some of the practices offered by 319 may require a cultural resource walk. With this there is a fee, and the board needs to decide how we want to cover this cost. We can do a 60/40 or 100%. We don't want the cost to influence their decision to do the project. The average cost is between \$500 - \$1,500. After researching what was done in the past there was only one culture resource found and it was done at a 60/40 cost share. If you do any programs through the NRCS they have employees certified to do the walks so there is no cost to the producer, however through this someone would have to be hired to do the walk. Cultural walks can not be performed until the ground is free of snow. The decision can be made on a case-by-case basis if need be.
- George made a motion, second by Steve to do the cost share of a cultural resource walk on a 60/40 split unless there is a special case which will be brought to the board for a decision.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye (4)**

**Voting No (0)**

Rocky – Steve – Richard – George

- X. **CORRESPONDENCE** – None
- XI. **APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS** – NRCS –3 contracts to sign
- XII. **PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**  
April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at Farm Credit Services.
- XIII. **SIGN EXPENSE VOUCHERS, PAYROLL, AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS**
- XIV. **ADJOURN** – Rocky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

  
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Aaron Steckler - Chairman

