

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18th, 2021

1:00 p.m. CDT – Baymont Inn, Mandan, ND 58554

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Aaron Steckler at 1:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

George made a motion, second by Richard to accept the minutes of the February meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the February report for the district & 319 financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

V. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. County Extension Agent – Renaë Gress – (see hand out) - Livestock Judging wrapping up and took 3rd place. Finished pesticide training – doing water testing starting in April going through October. Also, there are water testing kits if you would like to do it yourself. – Got a grant to educate first responders on semi rollovers.
- b. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Wrapping up EQIP – EQIP contracts are a year behind – lots of phone calls & it could be a dry season. – calls on no-till contracts. – CSP deadline is April 23rd. Staffing update – Zach C is leaving and joining NRCS in Carrington and Val H is transferring to the Stanley Office as CDU Supervisor of Mouse River
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson – unavailable.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Manure spreader – The welder thought it could be between \$900 & \$1250 in repairs. Discussion on what that would cover for the repairs. There was also comment that one of the manure hauling companies is staying in the area.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to go ahead with the repairs by welding to fix it.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

It was then discussed about the purchase of a new one. There was talk about running another manure management program. There was discussion to raise the rent to put money aside to purchase a new manure spreader with no limits of a program. No one is on the list yet to rent it.

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to change the rental price moving forward from \$275 to \$300.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

- b. Plan of Work (POW) with NRCS – Jon and SCD staff went over the qualifications and plan & sent it in.
- c. Women’s Ag Night – qualifications to receive an invitation to attend. Duane said that back when it was set up, they had a list of ladies from board members submitted from throughout the county to attend. Now the qualifications are any female that pays taxes in Morton County.

There was discussion on what we can do for a thank you to the Farm Rescue for speaking and the Mandan High School Ag Department for the door prizes. There was a grant to help cover costs for prizes and donations were made to the event from businesses.

George made a motion, second by Rocky to cover the cost of the hotel room for the Farm Rescue speakers.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

The board asked that Valerie check with the teacher to see what they can accept for a thank you and bring the info to the next meeting.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line – the first day was hard to listen to or follow along with on zoom. Feel everyone missed out on the hallway visits and talk amongst other producers.
- b. Tree Promotion Meeting – done by zoom. Had some good speakers, but again feel that the new employees to the districts lost out on the in between visits to learn from the senior district employee’s knowledge.
- c. Never received any of the scholarship winners’ transcripts to send out their award. Board asked that Valerie send out a reminder letter to the 3 winners.

With that came the discussion that there were no applications for this year. The board asked if we can send it out again.

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to change the date to May 1st and send out the applications again.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Range Camp – Noticed in the years past that we paid for participants to attend Range Camp. Brought to the board to see if they want to do it again. It is \$140 per participant, to attend the camp. The board discussed options for attending the camp.

Richard made a motion, second by George to pay \$100 for up to 5 participants from Morton County to attend range camp, participants will be paid on a first come first serve basis. Request will be paid after the participant signed up for an attend camp.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

- b. Water festival: - Has been canceled. Board discussed other options to educate the kids that would have come to water fest. Donating books to those classrooms or to the school library. The Board asked Valerie to look and see how many 4th grade classrooms were in Morton County and/or how many libraries. Then see if we can get a discount on purchasing books for those rooms. Ryan will ask if 319 will be able to contribute some to this project. Will bring information to the next meeting.
- c. Earth Day – Valerie has been to a few meetings on helping with Earth Day promotions and we have donated 25 trees in the past and they are wondering if we would be interested in donating those trees again this year. If yes, then Lincoln Oakes will give them the trees and send us the bill. Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to donate 25 trees to the Earth Day event.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

- d. Leopold Award – Received an email asking for nominations or donations for the Leopold award. The board discussed possible nominations and came up with Lance Gartner. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to nominate Lance Gartner if he is interested in being a Leopold nominee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – interest is high – running low on funds. Moving forward now with those on a first come first serve basis.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Did an introduction for the North Dakota Grazing Land Coalition for their zoom event.
 - ii. Attending training classes put on by the NRCS. Is a 13-week program that happens about every other week or every 3rd week.
 - iii. Been working on women’s ag night stuff
- b. District Technician
 - i. ARS – hand plant update and what to charge for us doing hand plant trees. Other districts are charging between \$4 & \$5 per tree. Thomas handed out a sheet with statistics on cost of plating tree by hand and cost for auger and dibble bar. (see attached). Rocky made a motion, second by George to charge \$5 to hand plant trees for ARS and to purchase a dirt auger and dibble bars.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4) **Voting No (0)**

Rocky Steve George Richard
 - ii. Will be attending tree cooler training on April 14th at the Ward County Tree Shed.
 - iii. Completed level 1 training on the first day will take 2nd day this fall.
 - iv. Found a long-range plan for the MCSCD and would like the board to review it so we can discuss it at the next board meeting. (see attachment)
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Working with Greg to update the water shed plan of work. Needed new wording and updates to get it up to new boundaries. This is required to get money in the funding. Replaced the soil health mentor program with the saline soil plot tour.

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a. Committee met with Ryan and Thomas for their 3-month probation reviews. It is the committee's recommendation that they be removed from probation and move forward. The committee also suggested that they should each move up one step on the pay scale and that Thomas now qualifies for retirement.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to remove Ryan & Thomas from probation, move them up a step on the pay scale and Thomas to enroll in retirement. Ryan's updates start March 1st, 2021 and Thomas's updates will start April 1st, 2021.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

- b. Richard made a motion, second by George to have Valerie get Thomas a credit card to use.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

Rocky Steve George Richard

XII. CORRESPONDENCE – None currently

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS – None currently

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to Thursday April 8th at 9 o'clock, Valerie will send out an email with the place.

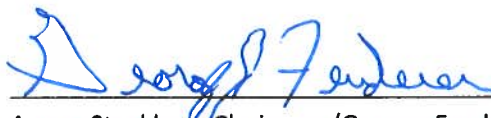
XV. SIGN EXPENSE VOUCHERS, PAYROLL, AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS

XVI. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:30pm by Rocky

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler – Chairman/George Ferderer – Vice Chairman