

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 19th, 2020

9:00 a.m. CDT – by Teleconference

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

II. **ROLL CALL** – Received by teleconference

Aaron	Rocky	George	Steve	Richard
Ryan	Chet	Valerie		

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes for February meeting were tabled to next meeting as they were not emailed out for approval.

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Was emailed out to board members for review.

Richard made a motion, second by George to approve the District and 319 Financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Scholarship Winners – Scholarship committee reported that they had received four applications for the Morton Country Soil Conservation District Scholarship. One application was disqualified because they failed to meet the qualifications of the scholarship. The scholarship committee recommended that each of the three qualifying applications receive a \$250 scholarship for a total of \$750. Richard made the motion, second by Rocky to award a \$250 scholarship to the three qualifying scholarship applications for a total of \$750.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Discussion was also held on clarifying the scholarship application and how the scholarship was to be awarded. No action taken at this time.

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. Nothing to report.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Intern – college credits & applicants

We can provide college credits if the student, so chooses to receive them. Having this to offer to interns may help with the quality of interns that will apply.

Richard made a motion, second by George to offer college credit's to internships and to include that option on the next time we advertise for the position.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

- b. Intern/seasonal applications
Ryan & Chet gave an update on the applications that have already come in and with the limit to the office it was discussed to scan and send the top applicants to the personal committee for review and then set up interviews from there.
- c. Office Closing
A meeting held with NRCS and SCD employees said that SCD employees can take home their government lap tops to work from home. As of the time of the meeting the doors are closed to the public. We will know more about hours and staffing after meeting on Friday. For now, the board suggested we follow NRCS stipulations as we have in the past. May work from the tree shed in New Salem if need be. Will communicate with the board by phone or text message if need answers right away or can still email.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG –There are no pay applications right now. Connie should be getting checks out.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician
 - i. Manure Spreader – Wondering the boards opinion on if we can start renting it out. We have a list of producers from last fall who where not able to use it and we could contact them to see if they would be interested in using it. The board discussed the use of the spreader and decided that if the producer can use it if they do not damage it with frozen chunks. Ryan will try to inspect the spreader between uses by producers.
 - ii. Safety Handbook – Richard asked to check with the DOT specs for securing the tractor on the trailer.
- b. District Secretary
 - i. Water Festival is scheduled for April 14th but with the COVID-19 going on need to decide if we should cancel. Rocky suggested to check with the church as they may already be closed to the public. After more discussion with schools being canceled for this week and next it was decided to cancel.
Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to cancel water festival for this year and to notify the schools that registered by email and all by mail.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Door Knocking – got 3 people in the watershed now – 2 of these producers where from door knocking. There have been no call backs from producers who where not home and just left the information in their door.
 - ii. Water sampling – all supplies have been ordered and will start in April. Richard asked if there was a way to test to see where the nitrates come from.

X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – nothing to report – on leave - Jon & his wife had a baby girl.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress - Absent - attached is her report
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson –nothing to report

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

None currently.

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. None currently

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting was changed to a teleconference on April 9th at 8:00 o'clock. SCD staff will get a teleconference call in number for all to participate and make it available to the public.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to do the board meeting by teleconference again on April 9th starting at 8 o'clock.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

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

With the office being closed to the public and supervisor's it was decided to have Valerie scan bills and send to Aaron and Richard for approval for Valerie to pay and sign checks for the time the office is at a level II status.

XV. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:07am by George.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

