

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 21st, 2022

9:00 a.m. CDT – USDA Service Center, Mandan, ND 58554

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

II. **ROLL CALL**

Staff: Valerie – Ryan - Thomas

Board Members: Richard – Rocky – George – Travis - Aaron

Others: Renae G. - NDSU Extension – Landon - NRCS

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

George made a motion, Second by Rocky to approve and accept the minutes from the March meeting.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard - George

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Discussion on a \$10 deposit. Valerie explained that was a payment from Area 4, as she used the District CC to pay for a tax fee on line.

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

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard - George

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. DC – Landon – report is attached – has 7 EQIP contracts, 4 high tunnels, 2 CSP renewals. Did some cultural resources walks before it snowed & will be certified next week for cultural resources. Will also be attending a pipeline training. Richard asked for the contracts that the board sign to be explained what the project is before the board signs them.
- b. NDSU Extension – Renae – Finished pesticide training only about 90 producers are recertified. Finished weed class. Started meat judging. Hope to start water quality testing in May. Handed out a form to fill out about the storm to get state help.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Blake – Nothing new to report.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Update on the agricultural playground in Burleigh County – is a playground being put up on the extension land for a 4-H leader. The money was raised by the 4-H club, but it is a normal playground
- b. Breakfast on the farm by Northern Lights Dairy is June 11th. There was discussion on setting up a booth with the waterscape or tree sales or to just volunteer. Board would like the staff to go this year and volunteer and see what we can do for next year as far as a booth.
- c. Achievement/Leopold updates – discussion on nominees for the achievement winner. Keller, Rebenitsch, Rossow, Jochim. There was discussion on what they each have done for projects and conservation.
George made a motion, second by Richard to nominate Mathew & Lisa Rebenitsch for the achievement

award.

Rocky moved to cast a unanimous ballot, second by George. No further discussion motion passed. Thomas will call Mathew and inform him that he was selected to see if he will accept the award.

Ryan is working on updating some of the paperwork to nominate Lance Gartner again for the Leopold award. He is getting pictures of the operation and looking to get another letter of support.

- d. Tiller – producer can rent it for \$100 a day – can only be used for tree planting purposes and not gardens. How does the producer haul it? There is a transporter that is beside the shop in New Salem not being used that could be fabricated to fit the tiller to haul it. The board asked for quotes to do this after tree season is over.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to charge \$75 an hour plus mileage, with a minimum of \$225 plus mileage if we do the tilling for the producer.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard – George

- e. Waterfest update – Went well, very well organized and one school sent a thank you and hoping to come every year. There were 2 stations that were a lot alike so next year will work to get a different station project. Those that attended signed the 319 sheet for In-Kind dollars.
- f. Update on the 319 tour – took a trial run and it will take about 2 hours to drive between locations. Spoke with Scott Ressler from ND Stockman's to speak on the manure management development at the Wanner stop. The cabin is reserved for June 16th. Ryan is working on a mailing list, Greg suggested to do it county wide. Ryan is also working on an agenda and tour guide information. Still need to work on a start time and food.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. BCSCD – tour in August – cows, crops, cover driving tour. After the emails that went back and forth, I gave up the day we thought we could have in Morton County. With no real place to have it, it was decided to just not do it in Morton County.
- b. Dakota Prairie RC&D grant representative was Valerie but now will go to Thomas.
- c. Other new Business – Rocky wanted to let everyone know that the NACD will be holding their meeting in Fargo June 6&7th.

Rocky also wanted to give an update on the LON meetings and such. They tried to fix the mold issue with putting in new humidifier system, but this has not fixed the problem. They are looking to the NRCS for guidance on the territory the seeds can come from. The seed that they ordered out side of the seed area will be sold to others purchasing trees and not the districts. Cost of trees is going up. They are doing an analysis of each tree to figure out how much it will have to go up. These prices are still in the works. The district will need to know and get the order sheets updated before they go to the newsletter for people to place orders. There is still discussion out there weather or not they need to publish their minutes. The board asked questions about with the price increase for trees what happens to the contracts that are in place of OFH contracts for 2023.

- d. Mill Levy – Rocky brought it up to talk about what the plan was about the tree coolers? If we want a new location or renovate the location, we are at. The talk was too possible put a building committee together to work on this. If we need more mill levy money, we will have to decide soon to request it. The board suggested to go to the auditor's office or the city of New Salem for a lot size and borders and what we can do with the lot in city limits like it is.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Secretary

- i. Audit – Spoke with the company who does the audits for BCSCD, and he said that would not be able to take on any new clients. He also said that if we have our name in on a waiting list with the state then we should just ride it out.
- ii. Area 4 – will stay with the new secretary and I will, or Jack will keep up on signing checks until the new person is hired.
- iii. Verizon gave me a quote to upgrade our phone and our wireless router, and the quote is less than what we are paying now. For both it would be \$104.00.

George made a motion, second by Rocky to move ahead with the upgrade that we were quoted for the \$104.00.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard - George

b. District Technician

- i. 10% off voucher – how do we want to enforce it? Can it be used on the producer’s whole order or just trees that were in their planting? The board said you will have to do as the certificate says and that is on conservation grade trees.
With that being said is it all right to give it to Paul Govig as he has a large hand plant tree order and does have a large order every year. The board agreed with giving him the 10% off on his whole order.
- ii. There was also discussion on not using the square at the hand plant pick up sale this year as there will not be a secretary there to run the transactions.
- iii. Thomas also asked how the board felt about fabrication some bracket on the manure spreader to hold the shafts, and to put a pin on a chain. The discussion was that the pin will never be the right size for everyone. The bracket even though it is a good idea, there may be more in the way than do good. The board decided against this idea.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Don’t have a lot of stuff going on. Waiting for 2 contracts to get their cultural resource walks done and with the snow it will be a while as there can’t be any snow on the route. Working on 2 water project designs on 2 other contracts
- ii. Started water sampling – holding now until the snow melts more can’t get to the sites. Have to water sample 6 times a month.

IX. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a. Summer Intern – Had an offer out to an applicant and he took a different job.
- b. Thomas to send out emails to the ag teachers at a few schools to see if there is interest there.
- c. The board then discussed if they are paying them enough. Wondering if they raise the rate if we would get more applicants.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to raise the seasonal help \$2 for everyone.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard - George

X. CORRESPONDENCE –

- a. Pheasants Forever – sent a seed mix pamphlet and pricing but Jon said that some of the seeds would not make NRCS standards.

- b. Moore Engineering sent a letter about updating the streets by the new high school
- c. NDFB have ag days in May looking for volunteers or booth sponsors. The board is leaving it up to Thomas and Ryan if they want to attend to help or if they will be planting trees.

XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –

- a. NRCS has 2 contracts that Landon will go over and have the board sign.

XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. **May 12th at 9:00 at the USDA service Center office -conference room**

******Rocky made a motion, second by George to go into executive session to discuss the secretary position.**

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard – George

And the present board along with Landon the DC and Jon the CDU supervisor went into executive session at 11:25.

After they had conversation, they asked for Valerie to join them.

Session ended at 12:45 and the meeting continued on.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to accept Valerie Frohlich resignation as of April 25th with the intent of staying on to help with the financials until a new person is hired.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard – George

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to give permission to the personnel committee to move forward and interview and hire someone for the vacant district secretary's position.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Rocky – Richard - George

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

XIV. ADJOURN – By Rocky at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____

Aaron Steckler - Chairman