

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8 a.m. Thursday, May 20th, 2021

8 a.m. CDT – Comfort Inn, Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – George called the meeting to order at 8:00 o'clock

II. **ROLL CALL & introduction of new NRCS employees**

Present for the meeting – Steve, George, Rocky, Ryan, Thomas, Val, Aaron

Guest: Renae Gress-NDSU Extension, Rod Skytland- State Farm Representative, Jon Fettig, Jake Dummer, Bryce Anderson, Alee Boelter – NRCS

III. **INSURNACE**

Rod Skytland see attachment. He went over the policies and what coverage we have on everything and if anything needed to be changed.

Arron took over the meeting

IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to accept the minutes as submitted.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

Voting No

Steve, George, Rocky, Aaron

V. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Steve made a motion, second by George to approve the March and April report for the district and 319 financials that were submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

Voting No

Steve, George, Rocky, Aaron

VI. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Report is attached. Stated that NRCS has new employees and he has been training them and they attended a soil health training. Working on EQIP and what will get funded and ranking with new contracts. There are over 50 producers who have expressed interest in a contract for EQIP that will need to be contacted to see if they are still interested. These contracts will/have been divided among the office staff.
Drought right now is at a D2 so CSP contracts can start in the nesting period. However, if they wait till after nesting period there will be less restrictions.
Jon is acting CDU supervisor for the next 120 days and they have opened the application process for the CDU supervisor position.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – flyers attached. Monday they will be holding a drought workshop, with 3 specialists, this will be an in-person workshop. Renae has been testing 7 locations, 3 of these test sites are high in sulfates. Dairy judging is under way with 11 kids. There will be a livestock camp in June this year. Waiting to hear if we will be moved into a D4 status from drought. The Department of Ag would like people to reach out on their hot line if they need seed, feed, or hay.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Alee Boetler – getting settled into her job. Will try to stop in at a meeting every couple of months and if there is something for her to report will come to meeting or have Jon report for

her.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Soil Books have been bought and bill will be submitted to the 319 expense for cost share on the books. Valerie made a sticker for the books saying who they were donated by and listed the soil health principles. All books were delivered to the Mandan Schools on Wednesday and Valerie & Thomas will be going to the rest of the schools in Morton County today.
- b. Leopold award – All paperwork has been submitted for Lance Gartner. They have extended the deadline for nominations. We will have to wait to hear back.
- c. Hand Plant Tree pick up – went well. Used the square for credit cards and it worked well. There was a great turn out only a few were unable to make the weekend and picked up at a later date.

VIII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Reconnect with your Food Tour the first of a 4-part series is being held May 22nd at multiple locations. See flyer. The next event in the series will be on Tuesday June 22nd.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tree Cooler electrical issues. There have been power surges happening and it was burning up equipment and appliances. There were voltage surges that were causing things to malfunction. So, we turned off everything and stopped putting orders together for hand plant packaging until we could have it looked at. MDU was called and found the problem to be a crimped end in the line. They made us a temp line to keep the coolers going and after 3 days they had the problem fixed and all is now well.
- b. Duane Olson Retirement – the board discussed who will fill his position from his resignation in March of 2021. The board would also like to do something special for Duane's years of service. Suggestions were newsletter article, open house, gift of some sort. The Staff will look for pictures and information on length of service for next meeting.
- c. Surplus Sale – The last of the trees were planted on Wednesday so we will be having the surplus sale this Friday and Saturday. It was advertised in the following newspapers, New Salem, Hebron, Glen Ullin, and Mandan News along with our website and Facebook page. The hours will be from 9-4 on Friday and 9-noon on Saturday or until gone. There are about 5,000 trees left as a couple plantings canceled due to the dry conditions.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – one contract from last fall is signed off on and will be starting soon. Sending in 2 contracts for reimbursement. There is about \$50,000 left for funding.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Worked on Quilt book sticker and letter to school and teacher
 - ii. Used the Square for hand plant pick up and was not able to get the sales deposited to the account. Figured out there was a step to how and when you wanted your funds transferred.
 - iii. Went on a tree planting with the tree crew to learn how they plant trees. Cross training.
 - iv. Will be doing an NRCS EQIP for a high tunnel
- b. District Technician
 - i. Trees were finished being planted as of yesterday. Will start fabric on Monday.
 - ii. The new pick up is nice lots of room, however it could use some running boards and seat protectors.

- iii. After tree/fabric season is over we will get it in for decals on the door and will get estimates for running boards.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Working with Greg to get the contract up to date for the expansion of the "Big Muddy". Once that is all updated, we can start projects. We also get "In Kind Money" for any OMG contracts that we have located in the "Big Muddy". There is also a chance that some of the EQIP contracts that don't get funded can go to the 319 for funding if they are in the area.
 - ii. Changing contract from soil mentoring to a saline soil tour is the main change. The board suggested contacting Abby Wicks for information and help setting it up.
 - iii. Greg also would like to know where we would like to go for our next 319 watershed. Thoughts for future sites to set up meetings and such.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE –

showed board the Annual report books from NDIRF, NACD, & NCF

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –

NRCS – has nothing currently

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

June 10th at the Comfort Inn at 8 o'clock

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

nothing to sign as Richard stopped last week

XVI. ADJOURN – George motion to adjourn at 10:40

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich

Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler – Chairman/George Ferderer – Vice Chairman

