

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Thursday June 16th, 2022

8:00 a.m. CDT - USDA Service Center – 2540 Overlook Lane Mandan, ND 58554

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

II. **ROLL CALL**

Board members-

Aaron

Richard

Rocky

Travis

Steve

George

Landon

County Extension Agent –

Renaë

SCD Office staff –

Ryan

Thomas

Malissa

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Richard moves to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Steve

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

IV. **TREASURE'S REPORT** – May 2022

Ryan indicated that the financials have not been finalized at this time. Richard motioned to table financials at this time, email them to the board when finalized.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

a. District Conservationist – Landon Weiser

i. presented NRCS activity report (included with minutes)

ii. Rocky indicated CSP was \$20-30 million, reduced to \$10 million

iii. discussion indicated 90% of producers want water shed assistance, some cover crop

b. County Extension Agent - Renaë Gress

i. received pamphlets in her office regarding soil conservation

ii. grazing last fall affects in spring

iii. pamphlets received in NRCS/SCD office

iv. livestock camp, 49 attended with 2 from Morton county

v. July 21 Friends & Neighbors

vi. July 28 Gietzen Camp

- vii. August 3 LON
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Blake Sogge
 - i. not present, no updates at this time

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Review of telework policy
 - i. Jon presented Federal policy information
 - no more than 2 days per pay period with supervisor approval
 - ii. office closure, utilize administrative leave
 - iii. discussion of spring blizzard and how it was handled
 - pushed policy, state office makes the call and follow lead of the Bismarck office
 - iv. Ryan recommended update to policy such as an addendum
 - v. Jon suggested the update have some flexibility as not all scenarios can be foreseen
 - vi. Richard motions to look at handbook re telework policy, seconded by Rocky

Motion carried:

Voting Aye (5)

Voting No (0)

- b. Area IV – part time position update
 - i. Ryan indicated our office did not receive any applicants via the ND workforce ad.
 - ii. Fara was hired directly by area IV and will work jointly with District Secretary. Her start date is in July.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Surplus Sale Recap
 - i. Thomas indicated that there are 800 remaining trees of the 4500 compared to 1000-1200 last year. Surplus sale duration was 9:15am to approximately 12:30pm and went fairly smoothly. Some comments on wait time compared to previous years.
 - ii. Ryan ran quickbooks for invoicing and took payments. Malissa re entered the invoices this week due to the quickbooks update
 - iii. Steve asked regarding advertising of the sale, per Landon it was advertised in 5 different newspapers
- b. July 15th – End of State Fiscal Year, 319 reimbursements due
 - i. Ryan re capped
- c. July 23rd – BCSCD Garden Tour
 - i. Ryan re capped event, public event
- d. August 10th – BCSCD Crops, Covers, and Cows
 - i. Ryan re capped event, indicated they were meeting today

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG Grassland Improvement Project Renewal
 - i. Ryan indicated Sam and Grant are moving back to guiding and have a part time clerk
- b. Steve indicated that the deadline is July for new budget
 - i. If need to raise budget, suggest \$1 million and can not amend once submitted
 - carryover on budget operates at \$0
 - ii. Val and Rocky had presented budget in previous years at budget hearing meetings
 - Dawn can assist

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Secretary – Malissa

i. nothing to report at this time, first week; start date 6/14

b. District Technician – Thomas

- i. Tree planting went well, fabric started on 6/15 and expecting to be done week before 7/4
- ii. OHF due 7/14 products for planting

c. 319 Water Shed Coordinator – Ryan

- i. 1200 invitations were sent out for the tour, 2 RSVPs received with several calls and positive feedback received post RSVP
- ii. ideas re rescheduling
 - cooperative with another agency discussed, possibly stockman's or other counties?
 - Richard recommended brief mailing with RSVP such as a postcard for next date
 - recommendation to advertise outside Morton county
- iii. NWQI Watershed Program
 - new Federal program, more water quality focus
 - additional funding in areas where already have a water shed
 - wanted to extend outside Big Muddy but funding is focused in that region
 - interest is there, currently approached as a cost saving measure
- iv. Project extension is 1 year for water shed from the EPA

X. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Hiring update

b. Richard asked to table and would be discussed in executive meeting

XI. CORRESPONDANCE

a. Ryan provided form to Rocky

b. Mileage was discussed for the last meeting

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a. NRCS – contracts

- i. Landon presented four EQUIP contracts for signatures
- ii. Ryan presented one water shed contract for signatures

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Review costs at future meeting for services – seeding, tilling, drill, tree planting

Next meeting is Thursday July 7 at 8:00 am at the USDA Service Center, Mandan, ND

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

XV. EXECUTIVE BOARD

a. met regarding personnel at 10:25am

XVI. ADJOURN – motion was made to adjourn meeting at 10:40am

Respectfully Submitted,

Malissa McKee

Recording Secretary

Approved: _____



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

(George Ferderer
acting chairman)