

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 14th, 2021

8:00 a.m. CDT –Comfort Inn, Mandan, ND 58554

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** –Aaron called the meeting to order at 8:05am
- II. **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting – Board members- George, Steve, Richard, Aaron, Travis, Rocky, & Duane
District Staff - Ryan, Thomas, Valerie, & Tia
NRCS CDU Supervisor - Jon
Morton County Extension Agent – Renae
Aaron asked the intern Tia Guptill to introduce herself to the board and the board to do the same.
- III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve the minutes for the June meeting as submitted.
Motion Carried:
Voting Aye: George, Rocky, Richard, Aaron, Steve
Voting Nah:
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Richard made a motion, second by rocky to approve the May report for the district and the 319 financials that were submitted by Valerie Frohlich.
Motion Carried:
Voting Aye: George, Rocky, Richard, Aaron, Steve
Voting Nah:
- V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**
 - a. Jon- NRCS DC - Report is attached – field planning for next year. Alee will be working on the CRP workload. Jake & Bryce are rotating offices helping Selfridge. Will start making payments in September. All EQIPs are approved for funding. Jon has received the Cannonball River CDU supervisor position and will be starting that July 19th. Traffic flow for water has been high with the drought. The State Water Commission extended their deadline for water. The board had discussion about helping producers now and in the future for the next drought. The board would like to be proactive with producers in need of water. This should be a multi-year process. Maybe do a promo tour for water wells. Discussion on water drillers and water hook ups, with solar wells. Board would like to see us work with producers to help with not only this time but to be prepared for the next time. Would like to advertise a water development article for the newsletter and try to find a long term solution.
Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to have Aaron write a letter to encourage the FSA to open up the ECP to help producers through this drought.
Motion Carried:
Voting Aye: George, Rocky, Richard, Aaron, Steve
Voting Nah:
Jon also mentioned that the Soil Health Department will be doing an interview on Rocky for soil health videos.
 - b. Renae – Morton County Extension Agent- report is attached. Keep an eye open for blister beetles. With the dry conditions they are here. Doing over 37 water quality checks. There are some high blooms in 13

of the samples she took. Gearing up for the Morton County Fair the first week of August which will be Wednesday through Sunday.

- c. Alee – Farm bill Specialist – doing CRP planning and field reviews.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Shallow plow – need a 120-150 hp tractor. One county rent the plow and a staff member to go with it, and they charge .25 cents a foot. Can't find a price for a plow. Will keep looking and try ditch witch. The fuser for the pipe is \$1200. Pipe is in high demand but would have to be the producers spot to get it as we would not have a place to store it. The board asked that he continue research.
- b. Garden Tour – Update very good turnout. All local speakers very interesting to hear their stories.
- c. Safety Handbook – use for new employees and seasonal staff to review and sign. Add size to tie downs. Possibly change it to 4 tie downs. Discussion on tie downs and how it is worded was ok. Add water sampling to incorporate into our handbook. Ask the County HR or attorney to review the handbook – may ask the county for training documents to use also. Other changes would be to change the size of pickup to vehicle. And do background check on able drivers. Dress code added to field area.

VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Staff will be attending the Towner Demonstration tour on July 21st.
- b. Crops, Covers, Cows – sign up still open. Rocky wants to attend.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tires for enclosed trailer – the dodge pickup will also need tires and we will need a fender for the enclosed trailer as when the tire blew it ripped the fender off. To replace the fender, it will be \$130 to \$160 to replace it. Tires are from \$73 for 8 ply or \$80 for 10 ply. Rocky suggested to try NAPA for tires of different sizes.

Tires for the dodge are from \$1,100 to \$1,300 – board suggested to go with the quality tire for safety. And to run information by the equipment committee.

- b. Pens/chap stick/ t-shirts – Board discussed t-shirts and felt at this time it is not something that we need to purchase. We can ask the BCSCD if we can wear our logo for events.

Rocky made a motion, second by George to get pens and chap stick.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Rocky, Richard, Aaron, Steve

Voting Nah:

- c. Updated the handbook with the new holiday Juneteenth.

- d. Tree water expense – we used the same lady as we had last year. Watered the trees every weekend and would clean too.

Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to pay her the same as last year (\$400).

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Rocky, Richard, Aaron, Steve

Voting Nah:

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – sign an amendment to have them only keep 5% of the funds requested until the grant is finalized.

We have one more contract completed and 2 more started, with 2 on the planning list. Trying to use up the money only thing that would be easy and able to complete by end of grant is grass seedings.

Spoke with Grant County and they said they will talk to the board to see if they would want to go ahead with another OMG grant. They have a heavy workload as they have no technician yet. Oliver County said they would be interested but will check with heir board. There was discussion about switching to Sioux County if one of the other two didn't want to do it, and the board felt that leaving it the same 3 counties would eb best for now.

Left meeting at 10:00 – Renae, Duane, Ryan, and Jon

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Budget for the auditor. Meeting on Wednesday July 21st for the preliminary budget. Richard will attend with Valerie. Discussion on the budget as to what a mil is worth in Morton county and last year it was around \$190,000. The board discussed if we should request a number amount or a levy amount? We have a few things on the agenda to replace/ improve int eh next couple of years. The manure spreader and tree shed.
- b. District Technician
 - i. Doing 2022 tree plantings. Sent in Payment request for OHF funding. Waiting to get application for 2022 OHF Funding. Handed out the tree crews exit interview questions. The board liked that comments and thought it was a great idea to do. Tia will start survivability counts next week.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
 - i. Going well – have had 2 field visits in the water shed and have 2 more coming up. Still looking for a saline spot to have a tour.
 - ii. Lance Gartner was selected as a finalist and that was the last, we heard.
 - iii. Ryan will be heading out to attend a watershed meeting in Carrington the rest of today and tomorrow.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – none

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING – Comfort Inn at 8 o'clock.

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

XV. ADJOURN – George motioned to adjourn at 10:45

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

