

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 9th, 2020

8:10 a.m. CDT – at the Legion Park, Mandan, ND

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Aaron Steckler at 8:10 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron George Jon Rocky Steve Richard Duane
Ryan Valerie Travis

Chet was on by telephone

Guest: Renae Gress Bryce Peters

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rocky made a motion, second by George to approve the June 2020 minutes that were sent out by email and handed out for review.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer's report was emailed out to board members, and copies were available for review.

Richard made a motion, second by Steve 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. Garden Tour @ Menoken Farms -- it went well had Jon Sitka speak numbers were lower than years past. The event was live streamed.

b. Credit Card machine update – Spoke with the bank there is not a fee from them to use the machine. So, the machine cost \$299. They charge 2.6% + .10 cents on each transaction that is processed.

Steve made a motion, second by Richard to purchase the Square credit card machine and get used to using it before tree season.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

VI. **REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

a. Crops, Covers and Cows Tour at Menoken Farms partner with Burleigh County SCD. The tour will be July 23rd, 2020. Guest speaker is Chris Teachout and hoping to get Greg Busch and Morgan Jacobs.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Budget Review – Rocky will go with Val to the meeting on July 28th, 2020.

Discussion was to start putting money in the Interim account. With the amount of time the board had they reviewed the numbers and said that Rocky and I could present it at the meeting as a tentative budget and the board wanted more time to review the budget and ask questions.

b. Amount office can spend without having to get board approval. It was discussed that it can be brought to the financial committee, so they are aware of the purchase. The amount was thought to be \$200.

It was also suggested that memorials be used from the sponsor account.

Other discussion brought up that instead of donating flowers for memorials that we should plant a tree

in their memory. The board agreed that this was a good idea and the office could investigate where this could be done. Rocky mentioned that Lincoln Oaks has started planting a tree memorial.

- c. Richard asked that we add the Dodge to the agenda for next meeting to plan on what we are going to do with it.

VIII. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG –Still working with Connie on canceled contract. Need to schedule a meeting to figure out how to divide the money. Grant County has a few new contracts too. So, they will have to decide if they want to do another batching for the additional contracts.

One OMG contract is done and has been checked out needs board signatures.

All other contracts know they must get them done.

IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Technician

- i. Update board on the 1-ton pickup. It is at 46,000 and there some maintenance things that should be done. Differential, transmission, and coolant should all be flushed and serviced. Board said if it is maintenance issues they should be done. Maintenance along with any other repairs and such can be done by going through the equipment committee. Then it can be mentioned at the board meeting.

Drill will need some maintenance done as it has about 1200 acres on it.

The Drill was being used and the producer had to make a temporary repair to it to finish using it. Until the drill is returned and we have inspected it we do not know at this time what will need to be replace or repaired.

Manure Spreader is back in New Salem the floor was replaced under warranty, but the labor was not covered. They didn't want to mess with the hydraulic hose that was leaking, so Ryan will remove it and get a new hose. The manure spreader will be in need of new tires.

- ii. Tree coolers have been updated with new paint. Also painted the trailer.
- iii. Tree planter opener tip needs to be repaired. Took the planter to RG Mfg. for a quote to repair it and he figured it on the high end with 7 hours for \$835. Board asked to see if there is replaceable kit for it. Then run the findings through the equipment committee.
- iv. Chokecherry trees are from a poor stock this year. Other counties were having the same problems. Will wait to see if there is a form of reimbursement from them.
- v. Thank you letter and discount coupon. Other counties send a thank you letter and coupon to the producers that have had a tree planting that year. Wondering how the board felt if we should start this. After discussion on how long the coupon should last and the percentage. Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to send a thank you letter with a 10% discount on trees purchased for replacements that year.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

- b. District Secretary

- i. Jackets are purchased for new board members.
- ii. Will check minutes for who is purchasing shirts/vest.
- iii. Asked to purchase some trinkets that we are out of such as , lip balm, hand sanitizer and maybe t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to purchase 1000 hand sanitizers pocket size.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Spoke with Greg about the watershed and he said he has been getting a lot of counties that are struggling to get producers interested. Possible send out a survey. May try to get an extension on the 319 programs for at least a minimum of a year. Another option is to open it up to a wider area to get more interest.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard that we want to be in on the extension of the contract if we can.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

- ii. Water sampling may have to be done by Ryan or Val while Chet teleworks.

X. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – Responsibilities are a lot busier taking over Val’s position until she returns. They have been wrapping up contracts, with the priority on CRP renewals. Trying to get out to the field for contracts when we can.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress - attached is plot tour card, this is their first event since Covid. Have been doing field days online. County Fair will be at the end of the month, going to be a weeklong due to Covid.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson – unavailable – Has been doing CRP’s

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Summer Tour for Leopold Winner taking place July 31st, 2020. Suggest a \$20 Donation for supper. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to let staff attend the tour and pay the supper fee.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

XII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

XIII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next board meeting on August 13th, 2020 at 8am CDT at the USDA Service Center, if able.

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

XV. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:08 am by Rocky

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman