

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:15 a.m. Thursday, August 12th, 2021

8:15 a.m. CDT –Comfort Inn, Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – By Aaron Steckler at 8:15 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members: Steve, Richard, Rocky, & Aaron

Staff: Ryan, Thomas, & Valerie

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Steve made a motion, Rocky 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve & pass the minutes from July as submitted.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Rocky, Richard, Steve, Aaron

**Voting Nah:**

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rocky made a motion, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the 319 & district financial report submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

**Motion Carried:**

**Voting Aye:**

Rocky, Richard, Steve, Aaron

**Voting Nah:**

V. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jenna Palczewski – Absent
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – Absent
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Alee Boelter - Absent

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Shallow Plow - \$160,000 for a new machine that would go down 30". Need a semi & trailer to haul it. A Vermeer unit is similar in price and that they are at least a year or more out to receive one. There are no used ones as of now. Board decided that this is out of our budget.

Justin Mosset arrived at the meeting 8:30 am

- b. Justin Mosset – introduced himself to the board as the CED of Emmons County and said that he has been the acting for the Mandan office since January. Justin spoke to the board on the ECP program and the letter that Aaron had sent on behalf of the board. Justin stated that the State Water program is a better and faster result program than the ECP program would be. If they implement the ECP program it would cut off the State water program. The ECP would be a longer process to get help and the reimbursement would not be as good. No purchases or work can be done before approval. Right now, State water can get it done faster and with little to no approval. The LFP program is to start in Morton this week. E-LAP is always there and funding to pay for hauling water with mileage. They are working with producers to get them help in this time of drought. Justin also mentioned that CRP should be getting better in the years to come. The board and Justin had a good discussion on these topics.

Justin Mosset left the meeting at 9:30 am

- c. Cows, Crop, & Covers Tour recap – very good turnout. Crops looked like everyone’s with no rain. The speakers were good. Liked the cover crop mixture and try to design the cover crops to promote the pollinators to the area.
- d. County Commission meeting recap. Richard, Rocky & Valerie all attended the meeting. Richard spoke to the board about our budget and gave an update on things happening with equipment and the business. Rocky spoke about the cooler needing to be replaced and that it is back up for the Custer Health as a back up morgue. Rocky informed the board that the new cooler in McKenzie county was over \$700 thousand. The board asked for us to look into the cooler and to figure out how many square feet we would need for the new cooler. Need to look at this for a 5 – 10-year plan.

**VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR**

- a. ND Leopold Tour – Staff can attend with the fee being covered.
- b. Food Preservation Workshop – is August 26<sup>th</sup> – staff will be attending.
- c. Lincoln Oakes Tour September 8<sup>th</sup> – Rocky gave a little history on it. Giving a reason for tree stock and having the funding to do new improvements. They are going to implement bar codes on all trees as a form of tracking in case of bad stock. Right now, they are only using 12 of the 132 acres they have. Wants the SCD’s to see where their stock is coming from.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Convention in Fargo – Who is going and what is protocol. Anyone can go and the district will pay for the achievement winner room and anyone else that wants to go. Only Information we have so far is that it is at the Holiday Inn in Fargo.

**IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- a. OMG - 1- rural water hook up. 1 grass seeding. 2 ready for check out. The last 10% of grant project won’t get paid out until the paperwork is complete. However, there was an amendment to the grant to change it to the 5% instead of 10. Will start working on the new grant this winter and we will be the administrators of the grant.

**X. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

- a. District Secretary
  - i. Scheduled budget meeting for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. Will get this info to Dawn to get it published.
  - ii. Ordered the trinkets that were approved from last meeting.
- b. District Technician
  - i. Working on OHF plantings, they are due on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.
  - ii. Sent out follow up letter with count on how many were found dead.
- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - i. Been busy with water developments. Have been planning with producers on 4-5 water developments. Trying to get the word out to let them know that the program does solar power wells too.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Richard asked Thomas to look into purchasing shade for the tractor, to grab a couple quotes and bring to the next meeting. Also, to look at how this shade will hook onto the tractor and how it will be for hauling the tractor.

- b. The board would also like us to look into another source of revenue for the district. Would like to do something that will help cut the mill levy request and would also like to not have to hire another employee. Suggestions were roller from grant county, watering, & shallow plow. The board asked that we check other counties for their sources of revenue ideas.
- c. Talked about the email sent out from NCASCD for new ideas or policies on issues. Suggestion to send out an end of the year wrap up or what is done in drought that is right or wrong.

**XII. CORRESPONDENCE –**

**XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –**

**XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING**

September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 am – starting with the budget meeting.

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

**XVI. ADJOURN – Rocky motioned to adjourn at 10:50**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

  
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Aaron Steckler - Chairman

