

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Thursday, August 13th, 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
Chet Valerie
Guest: Renae Gress Bryce Peters

III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Steve made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the July 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 George 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. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig –Office is busy. 3 EQIP funded and possible 3 more. Last week got 5 renewals for CSP. Trying to get out to the field for contracts when we can. Halfway through acting CDU Supervisor. Engineering intern is done this week. Office is still in phase 2 of reopening.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – Have to wear masks if not 6’ away. The crop tour and the county fair went well. Attendance was down a bit, but it was expected. Fair was videoed and will probably be something they continue to do. ¼ newsletter went out if not on please sign up.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson –unavailable – Has been doing CRP’s. Has a big workload with multiply counties.

***Adjustment in the agenda. Moving to new business to allow guest speaker to speak.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Big Muddy – Greg Sandness – with not a lot of interest in the Danzig Dam/Hailstone Creek area Sandness suggested expanding the area to include the Big Muddy. Allow for more acreage and more producers to take advantage of the project. With the new addition you can request for more money and more years. The Big Muddy would more than double the project area now. Would have to divide the area into sections for so many years, but still allow anyone to join whenever they hear about it. There would be more test sites with this addition. After the completion of this addition there would only be the Mouse Creek left and then it could start all over. Discussion was also about the OMG program. More people interested in that now so have been busy with that. Proposals are due October

1st. Grant for Danzig/Hailstone ends 2022 can get an extension till 2023 and then add Big Muddy after that. After more discussion between the board, Chet, Jon and Greg the board asked to table the decision until the next meeting. The board would like SCD Staff, Jon & Greg could sit down and figure out what would be the best option and bring it to the next board meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Square Credit Card Machine – was purchased and trying to set it up. Looks like we need to add a personal social security number to the machine. Doing some more research will report at the next meeting.
- b. Budget – discussion was had about having more accounts to keep mill levy money separate from district income. Richard made a motion, second by Steve to add Rocky to the Financial Committee to help segregate accounts more properly.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- c. Dodge – discussion on the dodge was if trade it in or do sealed bid. Needs tires soon. Could possibly need it if 319 watershed expands.
Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to purchase a ¾ ton pick up off the state pool up to \$35,000 as budgeted and keep the dodge for now as the 3rd vehicle.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

VIII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

IX. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- a. Eco-Ed last year we donated \$500 to help cover expenses. Emailed JD in Center to see if they planned on having it and said it is on hold until schools starts to see how that is going to go. However they did have the Glen Ullin school interested in attending this year.

Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to donate \$500 to the Echo-Ed when/if it is held.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- b. Women's Ag Night – the feelings of the board are to get options and move ahead as normal.
- c. Jon Rask – down payment was unable to receive tree at hand plant pick up as he lives out of state and was unable to travel for the pandemic. What would the board like to do with the down payment? Board decided to keep the down payment as per paperwork that was signed.
- d. Achievement Winner – There is no banquet this year due to COVID – so they gave two options on what to do about the achievement winners for 2020.

Option #1 - Rollover the winner to next year.

Option #2 – Pick a new winner for 2021, 2020 winner picture will be displayed but they will not attend banquet or be in slide show.

Board discussed it and George made a motion, second by Richard to rollover the 2020 winner into 2021?

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- e. Signing for FSA – When the district must sign for FSA contracts, we will email the board to see if anyone is around and if not, the board will decide at that time if an SCD employee can sign.
- f. Scholarship updates – change the wording to college students and send to colleges to pass out to their students.

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG –as of August 3rd unobligated funds were at \$117,000 to be used by November 1st, 2021. Morton County has 3 producers that need to be paid by 2020.
Right now, 3 producers that are starting projects now or this spring and these projects will need to be done by November 2021. Also have possibly 7 new contracts that have come in, in the last couple weeks.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

a. District Secretary

- i. Audit – doing 2018 now, do we need to budget to do 2019 & 2020 in 2021? Board suggested to wait to do only 2019 in 2021 and see if things can get changed for the amount of income.
- ii. Photo Contest – showed the board the poster and the categorizes. Liked the idea.
Richard made motion, second by George to move forward with contest and give a \$20 visa gift card to the winner in each category.
Steve amended the motion to give a \$50 visa gift card, Second by Rocky. The feeling being that more people will enter for \$50.

Motion to amend Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

Motion Carried for original motion to move forward with contest:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

- iii. Hand Sanitizer – price went up 67 cents. How do we want to move forward? Richard suggested checking with Pride of Dakota.

Steve made a motion, second by George to spend \$1,000 dollars on hand sanitizers

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (4)

Voting No (0)

George Richard Steve Rocky

b. District Technician

- i. Tree planter is fixed but, in the process, they damaged the seats, new seats have been ordered and the bill will be sent to RG Manufacturing.
- ii. The drill had a recall on the hydraulics which new parts have been received and replaced.
- iii. The one ton has been up to date on all maintenance
- iv. Will have a list of parts and prices for replacement pieces on the drill for next meeting.
- v. Tree survival – Bryce has been performing tree survival counts on plantings done this year. This information will be sent out in a letter along with the voucher to receive a discount on replacement trees that they purchase.

Ryan will meet with producers who have large loss amounts.

Bryce explained how they determined loss of trees.

Board liked the report and would like to see that done every year.

Will email out a copy of the letter and voucher for board to review.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

i. Greg Sandness updated board on project. Chet will review and bring ideas to next meeting.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

a. HDR Inc. letter about Road Project

XIII. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

XIV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

Next board meeting on September 10th, 2020 at 8am CDT at the Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan.

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

XVI. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:35 am by Steve

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman