

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 10th, 2020

8:10 a.m. CDT – at the Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan, ND

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

II. **ROLL CALL**

Aaron Jon Rocky Steve Richard Duane
Chet Valerie Ryan
Guest: Renae Gress Dan Casey

III. **AMENDED NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Dan Casey – gave his presentation on conservation and partnering with MCSCD to help with that. They cover 68 counties in 4 states. They do a 50/50 match. See handouts.

IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the August 2020 minutes that were sent out by email and handed out for review.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to approve the District and 319 Financial reports as submitted by Valerie Frohlich.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

VI. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. District Conservationist – Jon Fettig – there have been a few late EQIP contracts funded. The deadline is 17th. All but one that applied for funding got funded. Been working on planning for 2021. Got notice that payments will be moved up a month.
Really are missing the producers in the office. Feel like the connection is not what it used to be. Office is still in phase 2 of reopening.
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress – gave handouts for review. Also have a confirmed case of cyanobacteria in the county. There have been 4 spotting's of Palmer Amaranth. Also, a confirmed case of anthrax.
- c. Farm Bill Specialist – Zach Compson – unavailable – Has been doing CRP's, deadline is Friday.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to fix/help NRCS. There was discussion on adding more jobs in the CDU. There was also discussion on how to consolidate papers and make it portable. If NRCS employees can come up with what they would like to see done the board can come up with a resolution. The board suggested maybe having a meeting with the other 2 county boards and see how they feel about it and to get their opinion on it. Add to agenda for next meeting.

VII. BUDGET REVIEW MEETING

- a. Everything looks good. No one showed up for the open budget meeting. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to approve the budget as is and submit it to the county auditor.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Square Credit Card Machine – Richard to check if we need to add a social security number. Tabled to next meeting.
- b. Big Muddy – the best option for our county is to expand to the big Muddy. All 319 grants have been extended an extra year because of the lack of producers interested in watersheds. The suggestion for our county would be to expand to the Big Muddy to get more producers in the area. There will be no extra money at this time. If there is a need for more money it can be asked for at that time. Another factor in this was the OMG grant, the other counties don't want to do it again once the money runs out. There will be an OMG meeting next week to discuss and see how much money is left to be used by 2021. There is always the option of doing a Morton County grant in place of the OMG grant. Rocky made a motion, second by Richard to expand the 319 watershed to the Big Muddy with no extra money for now.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- c. Women's Ag night – Baymont Inn really only place large enough to hold with covid guide lines. Richard made a motion, Second by Rocky to host the Women's Ag night on March 18th at the Baymont Inn in Mandan.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

- d. Vehicle Logo -the board reviewed the quotes and asked questions about the price as some covered 2 sides while others covered 3. There was discussion about adding the phone number and if we should use the black or colored logo. Richard made a motion, second by Steve to add the black logo to all 3 vehicles, trailer sides and back of trailer, leaving off the services we provide and phone number. And to go with the lowest bid which is Sign Pro.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

IX. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Farming & Ranching in February is a go and it will be done all virtual this year.
- b. Area 4 meeting – recap, the board met to decide what to do with the ½ section of land that Randy Nelson wants to sell. As of now the board moved to purchase it. They have until March to come up with the purchase price.

X. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- a. Meeting room – Valerie gave pricing on the Baymont and the Comfort Inn. The board asked to look into the Black Stone.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to hold the October board meeting at the Baymont with a breakfast.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve Rocky

- b. Budget money for 2020 – Equipment fund is running out of money and there are still repairs to be made. There is some money left in the building fund.

Rocky made a motion, second by Steve to move \$3000 dollars from the building fund budget into the equipment fund budget to cover the repairs.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve Rocky

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG –Some confusion on what money is left and what contracts are left to be covered. Will be holding a meeting on the 17th to go over the contracts and the funding. Will see who can and will be able to finish projects by deadline of November 2021.

- b. One producer has not been able to get ahold of all summer. Board suggested sending the letter certified to cover our bases.

- c. Discussion was had on weather or not to continue with the grant. The nice thing about this grant over 319 funding is that the OMG grant covers the whole county.

Richard made a motion, second by Rocky to move forward with the grant with or without the other counties.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Voting No (0)

Richard Steve Rocky

XII. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary

- i. Audit – almost complete. They sent emails to Aaron and Rocky & Travis.
- ii. Working on a work plan for 2021 – Need ideas. Would like to do a county event either shop talk, plot tour or anything else after the covid is lifted.
- iii. Working on the newsletter. Have the new tree order form in it and will add the Big Muddy boundaries.

- b. District Technician

- i. Drill has 1340 acres on it. Time to do some maintenance to it. Ryan will work with the equipment committee (Aaron & George) on which parts.
- ii. Lots of plantings in the works. No down payments collected yet. Waiting to hear from OHF Funding. This year OHF was 75% covered at NRCS specs. Letters with tree survival rates will be sent this week.

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

- i. Chet will be using the watershed display at the Eco-ed in Kidder on Monday.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE

a. FFA Financial Report

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- a. Purchase pickup pricing will be extended till the end of the year. New pricing will be out in January.
- b. Scholarship changes – Richard will work with Val to get the changes done.
Richard made a motion, second by Steve to change the wording and some clarification updates to the scholarship.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye (3)

Richard Steve Rocky

Voting No (0)

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

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


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

XVII. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:15am by Richard

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler – Chairman / Rocky Bateman – Vice Chairman