

MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 9th, 2021

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Aaron at 8:00

II. **ROLL CALL** Present for the meeting:

Board members – Duane, George, Steve, Richard, and Aaron

District Staff – Ryan, Thomas, and Valerie

NRCS Acting DC – Jenna

Aaron asked Jenna to introduce herself

III. **BUDGET MEETING** – Discussion was had on the amount of the budget and it was suggested to raise the amount requested by \$20,000.

Richard made a motion, second by George to raise the budget request by \$20,000 to \$188,400.00.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

George made a motion, second by Richard to approve the budget and submit to county auditor.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve the minutes from the August meeting as submitted.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

V. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No treasures report for the month as bank statements were not received.

VI. **REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES**

- a. Jenna – Acting DC – reported 17 active EQIP, 5 active CSP, 3 active CSP GSI. There are 17 new CRP contracts, the farm bill specialist Alee has them completed. The office has been attending training on Burning, range land and others. There is a new rangeland specialist in the office Tim Renschler Jenna's last day as acting is tomorrow and in 2 weeks, we will be getting the new acting Katherine Brackel.
- b. Renae – County Extension Agent – Absent
- c. Alee – Farm Bill Specialist - absent

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Leopold tour – recap – good turn out with about 60 some people there. Stopped at a few places on the farm and did a field demo on water infiltration. Duck Unlimited had a big part in it and they own some of the land that the tour was on.

- b. Food Preservation Workshop – recap good turn out and the 3 speakers did a great job. There was a lot of interest in this workshop. We should do something like this in Morton County. The board thought that would be a great idea to do something like that. Put on a little workshop for the urban and rural ladies.
- c. Convention – on hold until they have their meeting and decide. What do we want to do about our achievement winner again? Hold over for another year, do our own recognition. Tabled till next meeting and see what is decided about convention.

VIII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. Photo contest – can we do it again this year and if so, can we do \$50 gift cards again for each category? Richard made a motion, second by Steve to approve \$50 gift card for each division of the photo contest.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Meeting to come up with a 5–10-year plan. Board agreed that we need to spend an afternoon on it discussing where and what we want to achieve. The time frame on when to hold it would be November or December after a board meeting. Ask other counties if they have a 5- 10-year plan. Ask Aaron Field, Bruce Schmidt, Sue Belcolm, and possibly a facilitator. Valerie will find a couple dates in those months and see what works best for everyone.

- b. Eco-Ed in Center held by Oliver County, will be holding their annual eco-ed in September. Having this one in September will put them back on track from covid.

Steve made a motion, second by Richard to donate \$500 to their Eco-ed program to help with the costs as schools from Morton County attend it.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

- c. Covid Plan – after discussion on what is going on in the office and what may be asked the board decided to wait to make a plan until we hear what the procedure is going to be.

- d. Flasher Park Board – Thomas is on the Flasher Park Board and they have 4 trees that the deer are messing with can we donate 4 tree tubes to help protect them.

Steve made a motion, second by Richard to donate 4 tree tubes to the Flasher Park Board.

Motion Carried:

Voting Aye:

George, Richard, Steve

Voting Nah:

X. REPORT OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- a. OMG – just wrapping up projects. Application for payments will be ready to sign by next meeting. The Grant is done November 1st. We will then have to do a final report. Ryan will try to find a dollar amount that is left in the grant to the next meeting. Will have a closing meeting with JD & Connie.

XI. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
 - i. Newsletter article written by a board member. Ask about expanding our rental, what does the producer like to see. Maybe do an opinion page. Ideas for the newsletter were: donated books,

approach drought in the future ideas, tree articles, watershed articles, planting specific drought resistant variety, ask extension to add something. Talk about it at the board meeting for ideas.

ii. Working on writing a grant for high tunnels, through NRCS.

b. District Technician

i. OHF 2022 plantings are in, hoping to hear if approved shortly. 7 jobs were submitted for a total of 57,000 feet and right now there is another 9,000 not cost shared.

ii. Cooler – spoke with Burleigh County and their building was around \$280,000 with \$60,000 of it being dirt work.

iii. Other income ideas – post ponder, tree saw, 6' tiller, water trailer, roller, or tree auger. To check the rent all page for ideas.

iv. Pricing for a canopy for the tractor ranged from \$555 to over \$680. The board suggested it go to the equipment committee to make the decision.

v. The board asked to measure the cooler for size.

c. 319 Watershed Coordinator

i. Not much change from last month – 4 or 5 producers in the planning stage. 1 is approved from last month. 1 is waiting for the well driller info on where to put the well.

ii. Who can sign off on 319 contracts? The board said that anyone can sign off on them, however, try to bring them to the board meeting for signing.

iii. The annual report needs to be done by October 1st.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Nothing to report

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE – None at this time

XIV. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS – Nothing to sign

XV. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING

October 14th at 9:00 at the Comfort Inn

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

XVII. ADJOURN – Richard made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Frohlich
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Aaron Steckler - Chairman

