

# MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF MEETING

9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. CDT – USDA Service Center, 2540 Overlook Lane, Mandan, ND 58554

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Aaron called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 am

## II. ROLL CALL

**Staff:** Ethan Gress, Chance Porsborg, Malissa McKee, Landon Weiser

**Board Members:** Aaron Steckler, Steve Tomac, George Ferderer (left at 9:50), Richard Tokach, Rocky Bateman (arrived at 9:50)

**Others:**

## III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Richard motioned to amend minutes of February meeting in old business re internet service; update from Thomas motioning to Richard motioning as Thomas is unable to motion/vote as an advisory supervisor. George seconded.

**Aye – (3)      No – (0)**

## IV. TREASURER’S REPORT

a. Richard motioned to approve the December financials as submitted by the district clerk. George seconded.

**Aye – (3)      No – (0)**

b. Richard motioned to approve the January financials as submitted by the district clerk. Steve seconded.

**Aye – (3)      No – (0)**

c. Steve motioned to approve the February financials as submitted by the district clerk. George seconded.

**Aye – (3)      No – (0)**

## V. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. District Conservationist – Landon Weiser

-two Meadowlark contracts sent to state office for review; six EQIP contracts selected for funding

\*currently reviewing with producers and signing paperwork before sending to state office

\*Steve inquired on the difference between Meadowlark and EQIP

1. different funding pool, same requirements

2. EQIP has to support plan of implementing

-new funding options and still having meetings to learn of the process

\*IRA and EQIP ACT now

\*must use climate smart practices specific to ND

-funding outside federal sources for practices such as cover crop, grass seeding, fencing and water developments

-planning list for upcoming field season is up to 15 producers

\*up-coming weeks will be contacting them to gather information and plan out what will be needed to gather during the field season

-CRP general 60 sign up has begun, joint meeting with FSA and will be having NRS specific meeting in near future

\*rates have been on the rise

-Jacob Dummer accepted Rangeland Management Specialist position for Cannonball CDU and Jon Fettig

- accepted State Range Conservationist
- b. County Extension Agent – Renae Gress  
-not present at meeting – did not have an update to provide

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Internet provider – MDU installed 2/27  
-Malissa indicated great improvement from Verizon for service
- b. SCD building sign – Landon  
-building owner indicated that SCD can put up a sign along with the USDA sign, as long as it is ‘not offensive’
- c. Morton Co Conservation Award Nominee Form  
-Malissa asked that board review updated Oliver Co form to Morton Co specifications prior to submitting to include in April newsletter  
\*board did not have any updates to recommend
- d. Billable Area IV hours – Malissa  
-area IV was billed for June 2022 to January 2023 for secretary work hours spent for area IV  
\*area IV board approved this billing at board meeting on 3/2  
\*Malissa wrote check from Area IV account to Morton Co SCD, deposited 3/14  
-area IV roles for district clerk have been updated to include fundraising  
\*Malissa would primarily be the face of the fundraising  
\*Richard motioned that Morton County SCD conditionally approved to fundraising for area IV, Steve Seconded

**Aye – (3)**

**No – (0)**

## VII. REVIEW WORK PLAN/CALENDAR

- a. 3/7-9 NDCDEA District Annual Meeting, Baymont in Mandan
- b. 3/9 Agricultural Market Situation and Outlook Webinar, NDSU Extension
- c. 3/10 – 12 PATH Intl Region 6 Conference, NDSU Fargo Campus
- d. 3/12 Daylight Savings Time
- e. 3/14 ND Junior Beef Producer Webinar Series
- f. 3/16 MCSCD Board Meeting
- g. 3/25 BCSCD Edible Landscapes in the Northern Plains, BSC Career Academy
- h. 3/25 ND Agri-Women Annual Meeting NDFB office, Bismarck
- i. 4/6 MCSCD Women’s Ag Night, Baymont in Mandan
- j. 4/13 Agricultural Market Situation and Outlook Webinar, NDSU Extension
- k. 4/22 Earth Day

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Morton Co SCD Audit – Richard  
-Malissa indicated that annual reports requested have been submitted via email to State auditors office  
-Richard suggested that for protection of current secretary/clerk as well as protection of MCSCD, due to recent year’s turn over, should do an audit of 2022  
-Richard motioned to have Malissa solicit bids for audit of 2022 financials, Steve seconded

**Aye – (3)**

**No – (0)**

- b. NRCS TA agreement document
  - Malissa indicated that she submitted 2022 4<sup>th</sup> quarter document and this was the first she was aware of the need for this documentation submission and was not requested prior, could not find any notes of this being submitted prior
    - \*staff changes in hierarchy of NDCDEA, discussed possibility of interruption of communication
    - discussed NDSU checks being received for 'quarterly payments' but no information what it was pertaining to specifically
      - \*Steve suggested call around, find out more info and ask about payment source if NDSU
- c. 319 reimbursement request(s)
  - Malissa will be training Chance on apps to input reimbursement request for employee hours for October – January
- d. Area IV Research Farm – additional roles for Morton Co Clerk
  - fundraising for friends and neighbors day
- e. Photo contest – final submissions due 3/20, review current submissions for voting
  - Malissa indicated that have two individuals that have submitted multiple photos for each category, will email out all photos for voting
  - unanimously decided will have a winner for each category as in years prior

## IX. REPORT OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- a. District Secretary
  - Malissa provided a printout synopsis of updates for the last month
  - annual financial reports for 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 submitted via email 3/9
    - \*will be filing tax form 990 in May
  - Women's Ag Night invitations mailed out week of 3/9
    - \*obtained supply list from HS Ag teacher, Ethan shopped and delivered 3/10
  - updated slide show in office to include up to date conservation award winners
  - currently working on April newsletter
    - \*first article from Mark Liebig at Area IV SCD Cooperative Research Farm, sharing article with other counties SCD in area IV for their newsletters as well
  - updated website, checked all links and updated any aged employee titles
  - will be updating main TV screen in office with current sponsors and any aged info as well
- b. District Technician
  - fabric order for the season is done and paid for, Chris will deliver to New Salem
  - attended annual meeting, previously known as tree workshop
    - \*learned more tenured tree tech in region than previously thought
  - helping Grant Co new District Tech, Brittany
    - \*spent one day down in Carson with her, in communication with her remotely as well since
  - OHF first deadline is 3/30, first learned of this on 3/7 at annual meeting
  - received application for tractor driver, is a hand plant order customer
  - summer help ad has \$16-\$18/hr with opportunities for OT
  - Steve suggested that the county should pair with SCD, take photos currently and monitor the snow issues currently in regards to living snow fences that need to be put in place
    - \*Malissa suggested this would be a good newsletter article topic

- c. 319 Watershed Coordinator
  - Attended community gardens meeting at the Mandan Court house on 3/8
    - \*little confusion on no till concept
  - update on NWQI, new brochure made, letters along with the brochure were sent out for interest Inquiry
  - 319 proposal extension received back, updates requested and will be working on this
  - have been in touch with Jim Collins, Grazing Lands Coalition regarding help fund grazing shop talk
    - \*goal get ideas on topics
    - \*Richard suggested solar wells
    - \*Richard also suggested Hebron Pizza Parlor as a 'non suit' location as an option
  - sent emails to Ag teachers regarding Envirothon and their interest to create a team

10:54 – meeting broke for an executive session

11:05 – meeting reconvened

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Mean & Hunt, Project 1-094(231)152, PCN 23594; I-94 and Sunset Dr Interchange, Exit 152
  - \*unanimous decision that no response was necessary

**XI. APPROVE APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS –**

- a. 6 EQIP and 2 RCPP Meadowlark contracts for signature

**XII. PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING – 4/20 @ 9:00 am**

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

**XIV. ADJOURN – meeting was adjourned at 11:22**

Respectfully Submitted,

Malissa McKee  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Aaron Steckler - Chairman