

# BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org](http://www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org)

Minutes of Meeting

October 15, 2014  
District Office / USDA Building  
Valley City, ND 58072

Board Members Present:  
Brad McKay, Chairman  
Diane Olson  
Bill Bertram  
Shelly Nelson

Others: Lori Frank, 319 Coord.  
Jason Elston, Tech.  
Karen Olstad, Sec, Treas.  
Amanda Brandt, NRCS DC

The October meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 8:00 AM at the District Office in Valley City, ND.

Minutes of the September 12, 2014 regular meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

## FINANCIAL:

A list of bills paid during September 2014 was reviewed by the Board along with the Financial Report from September 2014. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bertram, to approve the bills paid and accept the September Financial Report. Voting: Bertram, aye; McKay, aye; Nelson, aye; and Olson, aye. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

**From Karen Olstad:** Thank you.

**From NDASCD:** Guidelines for Federal Shutdown, Natural Disaster, etc.

## REPORTS:

**Office Report:** District Conservationist Amanda Brandt submitted the attached report.

The Board reviewed the FY2014 Local Work Group EQIP Ranking Criteria. Olson mad a motion, seconded by Nelson, to make no changes to the 2013 guidelines and to use the screening tool to prioritize applications. Voting: Bertram, aye; McKay, aye; Nelson, aye; and Olson, aye. Motion carried.

**Watershed Report/Eco-Ed Report/Firewise:** Lori Frank submitted the attached report.

**Technician Report:** Technician Elston reported that he has completed 2 farmstead windbreak renovations this fall and is working on another. Elston reported that the pump is broken down at a producer's site and repair parts are difficult to obtain. He reported a lot of frustration with the pump as far as producer errors, delivery hazards, weather, etc. The Board recommended that Elston repair the pump and bring it in to town for the season. Over the winter we will look in to update options for the equipment, trade-in options, or selling the pump. We will discuss options with the Health Department since the pump was funded by 319.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**The Ag-Appreciation Banquet** was discussed. The Ag Committee at VC Chamber of Commerce is proposing to sponsor an event on March 18<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with National Ag Day. Barnes County businesses and service clubs would be invited and the program would illustrate agricultural input into the local economy. BCSCD would also be able to explain our programs and the contributions they have made to the local economy. The power point for awards would be part of the program.

**The 2014 Tree Report** was completed and given to the Board for review.

NOV 14 2014

**NEW BUSINESS:**

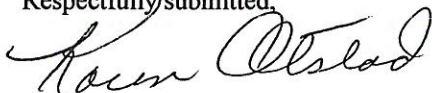
The Board received packets of information regarding the NDASCD Annual Meeting on November 23-25 in Bismarck. Olstad reported that hotel reservations have been made and the meeting reservations need to be made by November 4 to avoid the late charges. The board members will let Olstad know if they will attend.

**Notary Commission:** Olstad reported that her Notary Commission will expire on 12/31/14 and she is not going to renew it. The Board asked Lori Frank to apply for a Notary Commission.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM. The next scheduled meeting of the Board is November 12 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Olstad".

S/ Karen Olstad, Sec/Treas

Approved: 11/12/14



**NRCS Activity Report  
to the  
Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board**

Date: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

The field office has been busy working on the following:

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Planning with producers
- Checking out and submitting payment for completed conservation practices in EQIP & WRP Contracts
- **EQIP Deadline:**
  - Set for November 14<sup>th</sup> 2014
    - Local Work Group, PPW&GRP, Organic, Energy, High Tunnels & Honey Bee Pollinator Effort
- **Meetings:**
  - Have a ND Pollinator Partnership teleconference
    - We will get an overview of two new programs being offered by our partners, Pheasants Forever and ND Natural Resources Trust via the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Pheasants Forever program will assist landowners with seeding pollinator habitat on Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)/PLOTS land, and the Natural Resources Trust program will provide additional funding to landowners for water retention, wetland creation, water storage, etc. More information to come...
    - District Conservationist Meeting in Jamestown on 10/29/14- Curt is attending in place of me
    - Technical Management Unit (TMU) Meeting in Jamestown on 10-30-14- Curt is attending in place of me
- **Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance Fact Sheet**
- **Local Work Group (LWG)- 2015 EQIP Ranking Criteria**
- **Leave:**
  - I will be off tomorrow and Friday (16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>).
  - Then I will be on leave from October 23<sup>rd</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>- Curt will be my Acting District Conservationist for that time.



# Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Compliance

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## TALKING POINTS

- Conservation compliance requires producers to have a conservation plan approved by NRCS if they plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible soil and prohibits producers from planting on converted wetlands or converting wetlands for crop production.
- In addition to identifying crop insurance premium subsidy as a covered benefit, the Farm Bill provides special timelines, priority for technical assistance and mitigation authority to help certain producers meet the new requirements.
- Producers who convert a wetland after enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill (Feb. 7, 2014) risk losing their eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy. This can also affect eligibility for other USDA programs, consistent with the continuing conservation compliance requirements in effect prior to the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Producers not in compliance can still purchase crop insurance, but they will not be eligible to receive the government paid premium subsidy.
- Some mitigation options are available for producers who wish to convert wetlands for agricultural commodity production purposes. Producers should contact their local NRCS office to discuss options available to them.
- Producers subject to conservation compliance for the first time because of crop insurance recoupling will receive priority for technical assistance when needed.
- Persons who do not have a valid form AD-1026 on file with FSA must complete and file one by June 1, 2015, to be eligible for any crop insurance premium subsidy in the 2016 reinsurance year.
- June 1 was established to allow producers adequate time to file an AD-1026 with FSA and have that information be provided to RMA before the beginning of the reinsurance year (July 1).
- Producers only complete the AD-1026 once, unless there are operational changes or activities that may affect compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- In fall 2014, USDA will publish a conservation compliance interim final rule that will provide details on the new conservation compliance requirements and exemptions as it relates to eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

SCD Board Meeting  
Oct 15, 2014

Outdoor Heritage Grant: 1<sup>st</sup> Status Report sent 8-28-2014

Will try sending in another report before the Nov. report is due.

Velure – cross fence

Bartz – cross fence, contractor backed out

\*S. Smith – Partial manure mgt, waiting to send pay appl

Jungles – watering facilities

Eberle – Partial manure mgt

\*Barnes Co. Hwy Dept. – 3 badly eroded sites, dirt work complete, need to seed 1 site

D. Berntson – x-fence

Stensland – bid opening Sept. 3, will rebid in early spring

M. Berntson – cover crop

Chautauqua Park – permit apps have been mailed out, still waiting on Water Commission

\*Brotten – cover crops, complete, waiting to send pay appl.

\*PBJ Farms – cover crops, waiting to send pay appl.

Harvest Partners – cover crops, never heard back

C. Peterson – waiting on design

Cook – spring dev ?

J. Elston – septic reno

\*T. Logan – critical area pltg, needs to be seeded, dirt work complete

D.Steffen – Partial manure mgt

Completed Projects: \$49,296.07

Kjelland – septic reno

Metcalf –diversion

Sauer – critical area planting

Jungles-fence,pltg

Lausch – hayland pltg

P.Heinze - septic

Eberle – hayland pltg

D.Berntson – dugout repair

WILDFIRE Grant:

61 assessments completed

12 Community assessments completed, Valley City assessment next spring

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Reimbursement sent Sept 30: \$1865.72-wages & mileage, \$4230.25-renovations

Eco-Ed:

Sent in 16 county reports

FEMA: (Young property) buyout - \$1.00 ??

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – soil tunnel sessions at Prairie Waters

14<sup>th</sup> – wetland sessions at Washington school

22<sup>nd</sup> – ND Environmental Conf. – speaking on 319

28<sup>th</sup> – Hillsboro, local work group for the Red River Retention Authority