

BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Minutes of Meeting

March 10, 2015
District Office / USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072

APR 13 2015

Board Members Present:
Brad McKay, Chairman
Bill Bertram
Diane Olson, Vice Chairman
Charlene Stenson
Shelly Nelson per phone

Others:
Alex Reyes
Jason Elston, Tech.
Amanda Brandt, NRCS DC
Karen Olstad, Sec/Treas.
Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.

The March meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 3:00 PM at the District Office in Valley City, ND.

Minutes of the February 11, 2015, board meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

REPORTS:

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

Technician Report: Technician Elston reported that he will be installing a touch pad door lock on our tree shed. The renovations to the tree cooler have been completed. Waiting on different quotes for the irrigation wheel trade-in. Technician Elston has a tree crew in place for this season. Seed is ordered for the pollinator plot at the park. Will be replacing tires on the drill this spring before it gets into use.

FINANCIAL:

A list of bills paid during February 2015 was reviewed by the Board along with the Financial Report from February 2015. Bertram made a motion, seconded by D. Olson, to approve the bills paid and accept the February Financial Report. Voting: McKay, aye; D. Olson, aye; and Stenson, aye; Bertram, aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Resolution: A copy of a proposed Resolution to obtain a Nursery License if Districts were to sell "landscape-type" trees was mailed to all Board Members for review and approval. This resolution is intended to be presented at the Area II meeting held in Wahpeton March 11 2015. A motion to approve and present at the Area II meeting was made by D. Olson, Bertram to second. Voting: McKay, aye; Bertram, aye; Stenson, aye; Nelson, aye, D. Olson, aye. Motion carried.

From The State: Received a letter from the State explaining procedures as to how to submit a resolution at our Area II meeting.

Awards Banquet: We will be participating in the Chamber of Commerce Ag day On March 18. After discussion, a motion was made by Bertram to donate \$750.00 to the banquet instead of \$1500.00, second by Stenson, motion carried. We will honor our award winners by taking them out for dinner, March 27, 2015, 5:30 pm. Jill will be contacting local restaurants for availability and menu choices and send out letters to the board members and award winners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scholarship Application: We received 2 applications for the \$500 scholarship. Both were reviewed by the board members. After discussion, McKay made a motion to honor both applicants with \$500 each for this year only with the intent of recruiting more applicants next year, and give out 1 scholarship at \$1,000. D. Olson second. All in in favor Aye. Motion carried.

Insurance Coverage: Karen and Jill stopped by NDBCBS to set up coverage for Jill. They were informed that a group policy needs to be set up since the premium would come out of the business checking account for more than 2 individuals. Jill is waiting on a call from Jean at BCBS to find out what we need to do. By having a group policy, including Lori, Jason and Jill, we are anticipating lower premiums.

Bank Signatures: Karen and Jill stopped by the bank in order to update signature cards and found there were some past board members to remove and current board members to add along with adding Jill as a signer. Requested Stenson and Chairman McKay to stop by the bank and update information at their convenience.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8th 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.

Approved:

4/8/15

References:

Reference is made to correspondence from ND Department of Agriculture dated March 4, 2014, which states:

"In a good faith effort to address all parties involved, as well as abide by the nursery law NDCC 4-21.1, we are asking any Soil Conservation Districts that are selling/distributing non-conservation plant material to obtain a nursery license."

Reference is also made to ND Supervisor's handbook, District Operations section which states:

"The North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture has determined that soil conservation districts dealing with nursery stock plantings for the prevention of soil and wind erosion, or other conservation-type plantings, are exempt from a dealer's license and fee.

It is intended that soil conservation districts in carrying out their soil conservation program shall not enter into the wholesale or retail trade, or in any manner attempt to compete with the commercial nurserymen by making planting materials available or participating in "landscape-type" plantings. "

Also from the ND Supervisor's Handbook:

"State or local governments are exempt from filing Federal income tax returns (IRS Code section 115(2), paragraph 7140). They are also exempt from filing information returns, such as Form 990, which are required of other non-profit organizations. "

From Internal Revenue Service correspondence of 11/17/2004. "It is the position of the Service that income of governmental units is not generally subject to federal income taxation. If, however, an entity is not itself a governmental unit, its income will be subject to tax."

Resolution:

It is hereby resolved that any North Dakota Soil Conservation District that sells "landscape-type" trees or trees other than conservation grade trees, shall obtain a nursery license. Thus complying with NDCC4-21.1.

It is hereby resolved that those conservation districts who do obtain a nursery dealer's license to enter the commercial nursery business will thereby exempt their district from obtaining any City, county, state or federal grants or other monetary assistance to carry out their mission. This will include mill levies and technician grants and may require the district to file Federal income tax forms and pay taxes on all income.

This resolution is intended to protect those soil conservation districts who choose not to enter the commercial nursery trade but continue to carry out the original mission of North Dakota SCDs and abide by Federal and North Dakota laws and rulings.

Expenditure Summary For ND Envirothon Program

Period Of 5/1/2012 To 2/28/2015

A. Personnel	\$0.00
B. Fringe Benefits	\$0.00
C. Travel, Food & Lodging	\$0.00
D. Supplies	\$0.00
E. Rent/Utilities	\$0.00
F. Communications (Telephone/Postage)	\$0.00
G. Equipment	\$0.00
H. Consultant/Contractual	\$86,464.72
I. BMP	\$0.00
J. Other (Specify)	\$28,193.65
K. Administration (limited to 10%)	\$5,491.50
L. In-Kind Match	\$80,100.13

Total Expenditures: \$200,250.00

Local Match/319 Expenditures	
Total Section 319 Expenditures:	\$120,150.00
In-Kind Match Used:	\$80,100.13
Cash Match:	(\$0.13)
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Total Expenditures:	\$200,250.00



NRCS Activity Report
to the
Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board
Date: March 10th, 2015
By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

The field office has been busy working on the following:

- Contracting preapproved 2015 EQIP applications, waiting to hear on WRE application funding: Ranked EQIP-Prairie Pothole & Grassland Retention (PPW&GRP) applications as well as Water Bank applications.
- Checking out and submitting payment for completed conservation practices in EQIP, WRP & CSP Contracts. Completing modifications if needed.
- Determining Continuous CRP eligibility and developing plans, maps and seed sheets (35 completed so far).
- Developing wetland restoration agreements.

DEADLINES:

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Deadline:**
 - Almost done contracting the Local Work Group (LWG)
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**
 - CSP applications end this Friday March 13th.
 - Ranked by April 23rd, preapproved by May 1st and obligated by July 1st.
- **Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) deadline:**
 - Applications have been sent to Area office and now up to State office for review.
 - 14 applications were ranked, 2 applications were sent up.
- **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP):**
 - State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) & Farmable Wetland Program (FWP) - still acres available. Curt and Rachel have developed the documents for 35 contracts so far and deemed a few ineligible.

MEETINGS:

- February 19th- All Area 2 NRCS personnel meeting- Jamestown- Curt & I attended.
 - February 23rd- State Leadership Meeting (10-3) - Jamestown- Curt & I attended.
 - February 26th- Technical Management Unit (TMU) meeting- 10-3 in Jamestown- I attended
 - March 11th- Area 2 SCD Meeting- Wahpeton- I am attending, Lori is picking me up.
 - March 18th- Ag Dinner - Eagles- noon, Alex, Curt and I can attend.
- See brochures for upcoming producer meetings:
 - **East Central Soil Health Roundup- Carrington- Thursday March 26th 2015 from 9 am to 3 pm.**

NEW Employee:

- Alexandra Reyes- she will give an introduction about herself.
- Welcome Jill Olson and Alex!