

BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org

Minutes of Meeting
September 9, 2015
District Office / USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072

SEP 18 2015

Board Members Present:

Brad McKay, Chairman
Diane Olson, Vice Chairman
Charlene Stenson
Shelly Nelson

Others:

Lori Frank, 319
Jason Elston, Tech.
Jill Olson, Sec/Treas
Alex Reyes
Amanda Brandt, DC

The September meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 8:05 AM at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the August 11, 2015 board meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during August 2015, along with the outstanding bills due from producers were reviewed by the Board. Nelson made a motion to approve the Financials with D. Olson seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. David Hopkins letter thanking the board for their generous support on his soil research.
2. 2015 Waterfowl Hunters Party – Sept 23 Valley City
3. Dakota Plains/CHS letter
4. Mary Podoll will be scheduling a visit soon

REPORTS:

Office Report: District Conservationist Amanda Brandt handed out the attached report. See attached.

Technician Report: Jason reported that the drill has been busy moving around our county. He did a trial run with the new reel and pump with lay flat hose at the Nelson Farm. Jason also stated that the priming of the pump is time consuming and would recommend possibly looking into an electric primer. He also stated that we had some additional expenses with the Reel including some reinforced welding, new safety lights and chains.

Watershed Report: Lori spoke on her attached report, the plot tours set for Sept. 23rd and Sept. 24th. There has been a lot of Eco-Ed questions coming in to her that she is working on. See report.

OLD BUSINESS: The samples of jackets are in. Once they get ordered and embroidered, the board would like to take a new picture in them.

NEW BUSINESS: A new corporate resolution was completed on the credit card authorization for the District. Amanda discussed the local work group questions. The board reviewed the questions and made one revision on question #4 under cropland. See attached memo. The board was given many award winner plans and picture choices for our area producers. They agreed upon the winners for the different categories. These awards will be given out at our Christmas party or a special recognition supper at a later date.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th at 8:00am pending producers schedules and weather.

Respectfully submitted,

S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.

Approved:

ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ARE OFFERED ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS, WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP. ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SCD Board Meeting
September 9, 2015

Outdoor Heritage Grant/319:

Phase I - dollars have been spent
Phase II - \$43,606.45 has been spent

Contracted for 2015:	<u>OHF - \$30,575.34</u>	<u>319 - \$30,310.20</u> (cost-share)
	Bjerke – cross fence	Pritchett- septic reno
	Jungles – cover crops	Borchert – septic
	Wittenberg- grassed waterway	Severson - septic
	Kvein – artesian well sealing	M.Heinze- portable panels
	D. Steffen – tank & pipeline	Rieth - septic
	D. Berntson – x-fence	
	Cook – Pipeline, tank	
	Sorby – misc grazing	

Not under contract yet:

9 th St Project – erosion control	Diegel – well, pipeline, tanks, x-fence
J. Stevens – spring development	McFadgen – manure mgt.

Wildfire Grant:

Have completed backlog of landowner assessments

Will do Valley City assessment this fall – NDFS has been called to fight fires out west

Assessments completed - 94 ea.	Community Assessments completed – 12 ea.
Completed FW -180.5 ac.	

Have spent: \$54,026.37 (\$45,453.79 on BMP's) Award was for \$300,000.00

Next payment application will sent in the end of Sept.

(Elston, Richman, Bryn, Stowman, Cook - \$31,534.87 in cost-share payment apps signed)

(Reidman, Noeske, Vogel, Jorissen – in progress)

Eco-Ed: mailed in 2015 Annual Report, starting to get busy (phone calls, emails)

August:

6th – NDCDEA mtg

27th – Partnership Meeting (NRCS, NDASCD, SSCC, NDCDEA, RC&D)

September:

8th – Valley City Eco-Ed

11th – Barnes Co. schools Eco-Ed

14th – Grand Forks Eco-Ed

16th – Nelson Co. Eco-Ed

21st – NDASCD mtg

23rd – Cover Crops for Cattlemen Field tour

24th - Salinity Plot Tour



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Date: September 9th 2015

By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

The field office has been busy working on the following:

- Checking out and submitting payments for completed conservation practices in EQIP and WRP contracts. Completing modifications if needed. Calling contract holders to check on how things are going.
- Determining Continuous CRP eligibility and developing plans, maps and seed sheets (if needed). **29 conservation plans (on 961.46 acres)** have been written for Continuous CRP in the last month.

PROGRAMS:

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign up Coming:**
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will accept new offers to participate in CRP under a general signup to be held **Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016**. Eligible existing program participants with contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2015, will be granted an option for one-year extensions. Farmers and ranchers interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands.**
 - The 2014 Farm Bill created a new conservation program for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). It is the CRP Grasslands Program, which basically replaces the existing Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). CRP grasslands is a voluntary program where participants limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to use common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seed, subject to certain restrictions during the primary nesting season for birds in the local area that are economically significant, in significant decline or conserved according to the Federal or State law in consultation with the State Technical Committee. The signup began on September 1st and will end on November 20th 2015. Eligible offers will be evaluated in designated batching periods. For more information ask the FSA office!

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):**
 - Local Work Group (LWG) & State Funding pools: **Sign up deadline October 16th 2015.**
 - Local Work Group (LWG) ranking criteria questions and resource concerns- will discuss in new business.

Quality Assurance Review (QAR):

- Received review paperwork on 9/8/15- File code 300-16, see attachment.
- Thank you NRCS employees, SCD/319 employees and board members for your hard work and for supporting the work we do to meet the natural resource needs for agricultural producers in Barnes County.

MEETINGS/FIELD DAYS:

- **UPCOMING: Barnes County NRCS/SCD/319 Field Tours**
 - **Cattle & Cover Crops-** Greg Smith's Ranch- 9/23 from 9 am to noon.
 - **Salinity Plot Tour-** SCD Salinity Plot (Rick Thoreson's by Kathryn) - 9/24 from 9 am to noon.
- VCSU Soils lab class coming to the office for the rainfall simulator demonstration (3 pm to 4:50 pm) on **September 10th.**
- Jill, Jason & I are presenting to the VCSU Soils class on **September 16th** at 8 am- introductions about what we do.
- VCSU Wildlife lab going out in the field to talk about the wetland process- John Bauer, NRCS wetland specialist & Curt Francis will be attending on **September 28th** at 1 pm.
- Alex will be attending the Conservation Planning course training in Bismarck the week of **September 14th to 18th.**
- See Flyers for other upcoming field days/workshops.

FY2016 Local Work Group EQIP Ranking Criteria

LWG SUBACCOUNT _____

LWG Ranking Criteria (Questions must be formatted to be answered in a "Yes" or "No" manner.)

Cropland	
Question # 1	Does the EQIP application include the renovation of windbreaks and/or the establishment of new windbreaks or portable windbreaks?
Question # 2	Does the EQIP application include implementation of practices that assist in the control of invasive weeds?
Question # 3	Does the EQIP application include practices that will either result in a reduction of salinity, help control harmful salt concentrations in the root zone, improve soil salinity management, or address a saline seep/recharge area?
Question # 4	Does the EQIP application include practices that will reduce flooding, sedimentation, erosion, point and non-point pollution on local rivers and their tributaries?
Question # 5	Does the EQIP application provide for a cropland management system with a stir of 6 or less AND a rotation of at least 3 crop types to improve soil health and organic matter?

Grassland	
Question # 1	Does the EQIP application include a new livestock water development that would increase livestock water quantity and quality?
Question # 2	Does the EQIP application consist of a practice(s) that will reduce animal waste and sedimentation in wetlands and/or reduce the potential to contaminate ground water and/or have a positive effect on water quality?
Question # 3	Does the EQIP application provide for cover crops that will be used to improve soil health, soil erosion, and longer rest for pasture and rangeland by using crop aftermath grazing to shorten the season?
Question # 4	Does the EQIP application provide for the development or protection of food, water or habitat for domestic and/or wildlife species?
Question # 5	Does the EQIP application provide for the protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of wildlife habitat?

Screening Tool (Used for prioritizing applications prior to ranking. Only "High" priority applications need to be ranked. "Low" priority applications will only be ranked if funds exist following funding of all High Priority applications.)

__Y__N Does the LWG SUBACCOUNT wish to utilize a screening tool to prioritize applications?

Submitted by:
(Name) _____

Save spreadsheet as *your subaccount_FY16_lwg_criteria.xls*.

Submit to your ASTC(FO) and tracy.dove@nd.usda.gov by October 30, 2015.

Natural Resource Concerns

Soil Erosion

Soil Condition

Water Quality

Water Quantity

Air Quality

Plant Suitability

Plant Condition

Animals - Fish and Wildlife

Animals - Domestic

