

# BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## Minutes of Meeting

October 15, 2015

District Office / USDA Building  
Valley City, ND 58072

OCT 19 2015

Board Members Present:  
Diane Olson, Vice Chairman  
Bill Bertram  
Shelly Nelson  
Charlene Stenson

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

The October meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman D. Olson at 8:05 AM at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the September 9th, 2015 board meeting were reviewed and Vice Chairman D. Olson declared those minutes approved as mailed.

### FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during September 2015, along with the outstanding bills due from producers were reviewed by the Board. Stenson made a motion to approve the financials with Bertram seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. David Hopkins letter confirming receipt of funds and thanking the board for their generous support on his soil research. Stenson made a suggestion that we receive updates from Hopkins periodically on the progress of his research. Jill will send an email to Dr. Hopkins.
2. NACD – Meetings in Reno NV, Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2016 – review for anyone interested in attending
3. NDBCBS – letter to inform policy holders there was a cyber attack that resulted in a security breach and possible personal data exposed for Excellus members.
4. NDASCD – thanking Barnes Co. for their submission of a nomination for District Employee Award, but award was given to another employee from another District.

### REPORTS:

**Office Report:** District Conservationist Amanda Brandt handed out and reviewed the attached report with board members. See attached. She also asked that one of the board members attend the Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> Local Work Group Multi-County meeting in Jamestown reviewing the grassland and cropland ranking questions with her. Board member Nelson will attend.

**Technician Report:** Jason reported that Justin Vogel's renovation has been completed. Sent bill for balance due. Jason has given out a couple of tree renovation estimates, but most of the other estimates have resulted in complete removals and bigger projects than what the district does. Jason is working on tree plans, so far there is 30,000 ft of trees planned for planting with more to come for next year. The shed and equipment are cleaned up and put away for the year, but the drill and reel with pump are still available.

**Watershed Report:** Lori spoke on her attached report. The plot tours had a wonderful turn out with a lot of great information. See report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Annual meeting in Bismarck, scheduled for Nov. 22-24<sup>th</sup>. Reservations have been made. Need to confirm who are attending. So far we have Lori, Amanda, Diane and Charlene. Bill has declined, Brad will let Jill know by the end of the month. Shelly will get back to Jill by the end of the week.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The pollinator park flower bed is falling apart due to the way it was originally constructed years ago. Jason and Jill have decided to demolish it with the intention of relocating and rebuilding it. The new smaller constructed flower bed will sturdier, enclosed completely and be located closer to and more visible from the highway.

### ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 8:00am.

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



United States Department of Agriculture

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**NRCS Activity Report  
to the  
Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board**  
Date: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

The field office has been busy working on the following:

- Following up with contract holders on the progress of conservation practices being installed before freeze up and making payments on those completed.
- Developing Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) plans with willing producers on resource concerns they have.
- Starting to contract Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewals. Five up for renewal in Barnes County.
- Damage Assessment Report (DAM): It was determined that no crops in Barnes County suffered greater than 30% loss in yield in 2015. See handout.

**PROGRAMS:**

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign up:**
  - 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.
  - **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP):** waiting to hear on acres allocations for the new Fiscal Year. Planning is on hold until then.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands:**
  - The 2014 Farm Bill created a new conservation program for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). 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 1<sup>st</sup> and will end on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2015.** Eligible offers will be evaluated in designated batching periods and Barnes County has a rate of \$18/ac. **1 application on file at FSA.**
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):**
  - Local Work Group (LWG) & State Funding pools: **Sign up deadline October 16<sup>th</sup> 2015- THIS FRIDAY.** We currently have 18 applications on file.
  - Local Work Group (LWG), Multi-County meeting: **Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown at the Farmers Union building at 9 a.m. One representative from the Barnes County SCD board needs to attend with me.**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**
  - Renewals: Due to Program Liaison by November 13<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- **Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE):**
  - Sign up deadline is November 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. We currently have 14 applications on file.

**MEETINGS/FIELD DAYS:**

- See Flyers for other upcoming field days/workshops.

SCD Board Meeting  
October 15, 2015

Outdoor Heritage Grant/319:

Phase II - \$49,154.71 has been spent

Contracted for 2015:	<u>OHF - \$25,027.08</u>	<u>319 - \$30,310.20</u> (cost-share)
	Bjerke – cross fence	Pritchett- septic reno
	Cook – Pipeline, tank	*Borchert – septic
	Wittenberg- grassed waterway	Severson - septic
	D. Berntson – x-fence	M.Heinze- portable panels
	Sorby – misc grazing	*Rieth - septic
	D. Steffen – tank & pipeline	*waiting on payment from NDDoH

Not under contract yet:

9<sup>th</sup> St Project – erosion control

J. Stevens – portable wndbrk

Diegel – well, pipeline, tanks, x-fence

McFadgen – manure mgt.

Wildfire Grant:

Assessments completed - 94 ea.

Completed FW -213 ac.

Tree row removal – 46.6 ac.

Hazard tree removal – 7 ea.

Community Assessments completed – 12 ea.

Deadfall Removal – 42.9 ac

Structure removal – 4 ea.

Tree planting – 700 ft.

Have spent: \$103,717.99 (\$94,265.77 on BMP's) Award was for \$300,000.00  
Vogel – reno completed

Eco-Ed: waiting on check for \$30,420.16

\$ 6,818.36 will be reimbursed to Barnes Co. for our camps

\$ 1,372.96 will be reimbursed for my salary & travel

\$22,228.84 will be paid out to 13 other counties

September:

8<sup>th</sup> – Valley City Eco-Ed

11<sup>th</sup> – Barnes Co. schools Eco-Ed

14<sup>th</sup> – Grand Forks Eco-Ed

16<sup>th</sup> – Nelson Co. Eco-Ed

21<sup>st</sup> – NDASCD mtg

23<sup>rd</sup> – Cover Crops for Cattlemen Field tour

24<sup>th</sup> - Salinity Plot Tour

October:

1<sup>st</sup> – Wetland Presentation, Prairie Waters

6<sup>th</sup> – NDFS Firewise Tour