

# BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Minutes of Meeting  
November 09, 2016  
District Office / USDA Building  
Valley City, ND 58072

NOV 15 2016

## Board Members Present:

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

## Others:

Amanda Brandt, DC  
David Shea, FSA  
Jill Olson, Sec/Treas  
Jason Elston, Tech  
Matt Shappell, Soil Con, Fargo Office  
Mary Podoil, State Conservationist

The November meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 8:00 am at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the October 12th, 2016 board meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

## FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during October 2016, along with the outstanding bills due from producers were reviewed by the Board. D. Olson made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented with Nelson seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. November Annual Mtg revised resolution list was distributed for all who are attending.
2. Reorganization meeting scheduled for Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm followed by the evaluations and our regular board mtg.
3. Thank you card from Lori Frank and her family regarding the plant the board sent in memory for her mother.
4. Reviewed the minutes from Barnes Co. CEB reviewing the Damage Assessment report for 2016 Crop Year.
5. Letter from KLJ regarding the sewer improvements starting in the spring of 2017 for areas surrounding the Winter Show road, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW and US Interstate 94.

## Welcome Mary Podoll:

Mary had planned on coming last fall but was unable to because she was in Washington. She had planned to make a visit after the QAR and DISC assessments last fall to answer and/or discuss outcomes of those meetings and any personal concerns. Mary wanted to make everyone aware that the CSP program was reinvented and renovated using updated tools in general to help make the process easier. CSP is also the largest conservation program in the United States.

Board Member Shelly Nelson stated that Local Work Group questions really don't pertain to Barnes Co. and is that why Barnes Co. didn't get any contracts funded. Mary discussed the local Work Group questions, and if there is a specific concern from every office that those questions be revised to target specific critical areas. For example: Soil Health for specific counties that have saline problems or Rangeland concerns for other counties. There should be more local concerns than generic concerns. There was also discussion on the EQIP program and to make it more transparent to accommodate the counties and to help make better questions. She also discussed keeping local Partnerships going instead of letting the big companies lead us.

Mary stated they had started working on training for all water boards. Board Member Nelson also asked Mary about the concern with NRCS and the continued job openings in the Valley City office. Nelson is concerned that Valley City isn't getting the help they need and the positions aren't being filled timely. Mary reassured Board Member Nelson that there will be another posting soon as regards to these 2 openings. The state office is looking into hosting 2 different recruiting fairs for North Dakota students. Mary thanked everyone for invite and good discussions.

## REPORTS:

**Office Report:** DC Amanda Brandt discussed her attached report with the board. She formally introduced Matt Shappell, Soil Con. Fargo Office. She appreciates his help and he will be here 3 days a week until the end of December. Amanda also referenced the CRP handout enclosed.

**Technician Report:** Jason has 20 tree plans in the works with 12 finalized. Still waiting on the CRP Trees that were in question from last month. Jason will be out doing some soil sampling this afternoon. The weather has been nice and warm this fall but when the temp changes and the ground gets below 40 degrees, the drill will be on the go for dormant plantings. He has also been water sampling several times, out measuring fences, pipelines and taking pictures for 319. Jason also spent several days taking shelterbelt award pictures and doing follow-up visits on older plantings to monitor the up keep for possible awards. He is currently working with producers that have had fire wise renovations and that need tree plans for this coming spring.

**Watershed Report:** Lori reported that the OHF will be short on funds if everyone gets their projects done and pay apps in. See report. The underlined producers will be paid, the others are still pending. The Wittenberg project is still not completed. After visiting with Albert, Lori gave him a deadline to get the south end completed.

**319 Sediment** – Lori isn't taking on any more projects this year and into spring and did not write another grant to continue the 319 program. The remaining funds will get Lori through the spring of 2017 and at that point she will be no longer be employed with 319 and the District. Going forward from here, the Board will be working with Lori and the rest of the staff to come up with a plan of action as to what direction they would like to go regarding 319, conservation practices and a possible new grant.

**Firewise** – This Program is to expire September 2017. Lori has a few renovations in the works along with new plantings being planned by Jason. Lori is still waiting on the City of Leal which in turn is waiting on bids from local contractors for their renovation.

There were no BMP's at this time.

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. CRP Tree update - David Shea stated that there is a new checklist being implemented now, so going forward there will not or should not be any more hang ups in the process. As far as the 3 CRP contracts that were in question from last meeting, David stated that all the apps have been finished, signed and are all in Washington waiting until the batching system opens up. There are 24 million CRP Acres and 23,900 million are contracted so far. CRP contracts going forward weather they are grass or trees, will all be treated the same in the FSA office. Since the Contracts are now in the batching system in Washington, there will be no appeal process to proceed with. If possible cancelled acres open up then these 3 CRP Tree apps might get contracted. The board stated if there is no progress with this, then they will be contacting our legislature representatives to voice their concerns.
2. Ranking Questions from the last meeting were discussed in the previous comments with Mary.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tree Award Winners. The board has decided on Mark and Karen Askerooth, as the Backyard Stewardship award winner and Blair Karges Farm as the Farmstead award winner. Jason and Jill will be checking into the Wildlife planting award winners and the history of the land owners in question before that award is given.
2. The Awards winners will be honored at Sabir's Restaurant December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 6:00pm by the Soil Conservation District.

## ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2016 3:00 pm.

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

## BARNES COUNTY CEB MINUTES

The Barnes County Emergency Board met at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the VFW in Valley City.

The following were present:

David Shea - USDA-FSA  
Amanda Brandt - USDA-NRCS  
Mark Schlenvogt - USDA-RD  
Randy Grueneich - NDSU-EXT Barnes County

### 1. Reason for meeting:

Members of the CEB met to review SED MSG 16-07, Request for Damage Assessment Report (DAR) – 2016 Crop Year. The SEB has received a request from Governor Dalrymple to have DAR's completed for any 2016 crop losses that may have occurred in the County.

The CEB reviewed the list of all crops grown in the county that have more than 3,000 acres planted and have at least a 5-year history. The Barnes CEB determined no crops in Barnes County suffered greater than a 30% loss in yield at this date. CEB determined the 2016 yields as follows:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Normal Yield</u>	<u>2016 yield</u>	<u>Loss</u>
Alfalfa	2.65 TON	3.0 TON	NO
Barley	63.7 BU	85.0 BU	NO
Corn	121.1 BU	190.0 BU	NO
Soybeans	33.4 BU	55 BU	NO
Wheat	51.7 BU	75 BU	NO

CEB determined the pastures did not suffer a loss.

CEB determined no crops were significantly affected by quality.

CEB discussed if one or more farmers suffer 30% crop loss and is unable to obtain credit. Credit Survey Trigger:

- Triggered if ONE farmer in county has 30% loss to economically significant crop and is unable to obtain credit through traditional sources
- Not Limited to EM Loans
- Any FLP Customer with a loss can trigger
- If using credit survey to trigger, be prepared to answer "Who?"

CEB determined no single producer in the county has suffered more than a 30% loss in production in 2016 according to the credit triggers. FLM's from Cass and Stutsman County were contacted and both stated no operator was affected by disaster conditions.

CEB did not complete the Damage Assessment Report as there were no losses.

### 2. Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Shea



United States Department of Agriculture

---

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

Date: November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

The field office has been busy answering daily questions (phone calls) & walk-ins, submitting wetland determination requests, NHEL/HEL requests and completing field checks on EQIP-PPW&GRP contracts (those have been completed).

**Staff:**

- Matt Shappell, Soil Conservationist from the Fargo Office, has been coming over to help me with program sign-up paperwork, NHEL/HEL plans, onsite field checks for contracts and onsite visits with EQIP applications.
- Area Office staff can and have come over to help when requested.

**PROGRAMS:**

**EQIP-** All Funding Pools- Sign up deadline was OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 2016.

- 20 EQIP applications on file at this time.

**CSP-** Sign up starts November 14<sup>th</sup>, next Monday. No sign up deadline announced yet. 11 Deferral letters went out to the applications we have file on October 19th. We have heard back from very few applicants about reapplying.

**CRP-** The second CRP Grasslands Ranking period will end November 10<sup>th</sup> and the third ranking period will run from November 14<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. See the handout for more information or visit with Barb at FSA.

**WRE:** Sign up deadline is November 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. Sent out letters to 38 applicants and have heard back from nine so far.

**MEETINGS:**

- See handout for upcoming meeting in Bismarck.

**OTHER:**

- Matt & I attended the state wide Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) meeting in Bismarck last week. Very informative of the new changes coming for CSP.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, Matt and I will be attending a Pasture and Rangeland Tools training in Jamestown.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>- I will be attending the NDASCD convention.

For: State and County Offices

**Announcing CRP Grassland Signup 200 Second and Third Ranking Periods  
and Small Livestock Operation Initiative**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**I Second and Third Ranking Periods**

**A Background**

Participants in CRP Grasslands establish or maintain long-term, resource-conserving grasses, and other plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. Unlike other types of CRP, the CRP Grasslands participants can still use the land for livestock production (e.g. grazing or producing hay), while following their conservation and grazing plans in order to maintain the cover. A goal of CRP Grasslands is to minimize conversion of grasslands to either row crops or other non-agricultural uses. Participants can receive annual payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land and up to 50 percent to fund cover or practices like cross-fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

Offers for CRP grassland are submitted continuously and are ranked after completion of an announced ranking period using Grassland ranking factors. FSA collects data for each of the ranking factors based on the relative benefits for the land offered according to 2-CRP and each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers with selections being made based on that ranking.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides:

- upcoming CRP Grasslands ranking period dates
- new ranking options for the third ranking period.

The second CRP Grasslands ranking period will end November 10, 2016.

The third ranking period, running from November 14 through December 16, 2016, will support a new initiative targeting small scale livestock operations. Additional information about the small livestock operation eligibility will be forthcoming.

All offers not accepted from prior ranking periods will be automatically ranked along with newly submitted offers unless the offer was withdrawn by the producer.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2017 11-3-16	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

SCD Board Meeting  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND: Phase II

2015 Grant \$200,000.00

\$140,987.70 - Paid out (\$19,434.84 to be paid out in November)\*

\$ 59,018.30- remaining balance

-\$ 66,548.61 - under contract

-7,530.31 – Balance (shortfall will be paid out with 319 funds)

Contracts:

Berntson – x fence

\*Eggert – fence, pipeline, tanks

Diegel – pipeline, tanks, spr dev

B: Roerich – fence, cover crop, past. pltg

D. Steffen – spring dev, cc

\*T. Velure – x-fence

Jungles - cc

\*McFadgen – pipeline, tank, fence

\*Joel Finn-erosion control

Helland – x fence

\*K.Marler – cover crop

Wittenberg- grassed waterway, Water Comm approved

319 SHEYENNE SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION:

2014 Grant \$305,205.00

\$237,993.67 –Paid out

\$17,110.90 -under contract

\$7,530.31 OHF shortage

\$42,570.12 -Balance

Contracts:

Eggert - windbreak

Diegel - septic

Sorenson - septic

Not under contract yet: Sorenson - septic

ECO-ED GRANT:

October - 13 counties paid \$32,988.17 \$760.70 for Coordinator Salary

November – 13 to be paid \$43,780.06 \$420.81 for Coordinator Salary

\$49,120.96 - Balance

FIREWISE GRANT:

\$300,000.00 - Initial Grant

\$170,195.71- Paid Out

\$34,349.40 - Under Contract

\$95,454.89 - Balance

Not under contract yet: B. Gubrud, City of Leal,

NPS BMP TEAM:

No requests

NOVEMBER:

20-22<sup>nd</sup> – NDASCD Convention