

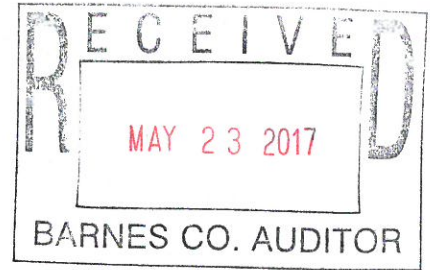
BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org

Minutes of Meeting

April 12, 2017

District Office / USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072



Board Members Present:

Pete Paulson
Diane Olson, Vice Chairman
Charlene Stenson
Brad McKay, Chairman

Others:

Amanda Brandt, DC
Dustin Krueger
Jill Olson, Sec/Treas
Matt Shappell
Jason Elston, Tech

The April meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 4:05 pm at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the month of March, 2017 board meetings were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during March 2017, were reviewed by the Board. Vice Chairman Olson made a motion to accept the March 2017 financial statement as presented with Stenson seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Reviewed the 2017 NDASCD Convention and Annual Meeting Memo from Brian Johnston.

REPORTS:

Office Report: DC Amanda Brandt discussed her attached report with the board. When Amanda is on leave, Matt Shappell will be acting DC.

Technician Report: Jason reported that we will be flagging next week and picking up our trees on April 26 and 27th. He would like to start planting on May 1. Hand plant pickup cards will be going out in the mail the week of the 24th. The pickup dates are set for Saturday April 29th and Saturday May 6th from 8am to noon only. He also hired a tractor driver and a new college student for this tree season.

Watershed Report: Lori's last day was April 7th. She had spent some time training Jason on 319, OHF and Firewise. She also spent time training Jill on Eco Ed. Jill is the new State Wide Eco Ed Coordinator. Jill and Jason will be splitting up the rest of her duties.

Water Board Report: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BMP Checking Account will be closing out next week. The funds will be deposited back into the Districts Savings Account. The rest of the BMP folders went to Bob Flath in Lamoure/Dickey. He will be the new coordinator on the project.
2. Area II meeting was held in Fargo and hosted by Cass County. Diane, Charlene, Amanda, Matt and Jill all attended. Good discussion on a lot of items including, a new presented resolution, legislation and letters of support, new trees from Lincoln Oakes Nursery, tech grant funding, OHF and EPA items of concern.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The 2017 Barnes County Overall Achievement winner was decided upon. The Board has chosen Greg and Meagen Smith of Marion. Jill Will be contacting the Smiths on behalf of the board.
2. 319 EPA Grant – Jill visited in length with Greg Sandness about the 319 grant and options as far as finishing up contracts and finishing up the final report. The board discussed bringing in the Cass Co. 319 Coordinator to finish up the contracts and grant. Chairman McKay will contact Jeff Miller the District Manager in Cass Co. to see if this would be a possibility.

Dustin Krueger, 319 Technician from Stutsman Co. was in attendance and the board addressed the possibility of Dustin potentially writing a new 319 grant for Barnes Co. later this summer. Dustin showed interest and further discussion will be had at future meetings.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th 2017 7:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.
Approved: 05.10.17

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.



NRCS Activity Report to the
Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board

Date: April 12th, 2017

By: Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist

PROGRAMS:

EQIP- Local Work Group (LWG): We have been working on the contracts and conservation plans for 2017 contracts.

- Grassland: Working on contracting one at this time- legality issues holding it up.

EQIP- Beginning Farmer, Certified Organic & Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) applications

- Certified Organic: 1 application-
 - 1 preapproved for funding- working on contracting this one.

EQIP- Special Project:

- Sign up deadline: May 19th 2017
 - In between May and June, onsite field visits need to be made (test EC readings, develop seeding and cover mixes, measure proposed fences, etc.).
- Ranking deadline: June 2nd 2017
- Preapproval deadline: June 9th 2017
- Submit to Area office for review: July 21st 2017- Program Staff will review.

CSP- Sign up deadline was February 3rd 2017- Ranking deadline is April 17th.

- 78 applications moving forward to ranking. Ranking deadline is this Friday, April 17th.

CRP- Grasslands Program:

- Received one application- NRCS has to complete pastureland inventory on the fields in the application before any other paperwork is completed.

WRE: 10 WRE applications are at the state office being reviewed for funding.

- No WRE applications in Barnes County were preapproved for funding at this time.

Other:

- See the documents Lori gave me, she said I can give the SCD board a copy if I wanted. She mentioned something about the SCD board writing a notice to put in

the paper about how the bank stabilization area didn't fail. **Bullet 3 in the first paragraph on her sheet.**

- Let me know when you are going to have Bill's party, I would like to come if I am able too ☺
- Matt and I need to meet with Rick Thoreson to talk about the plan at the Salinity plots for this year.

Office Staff:

- Everyone in the office will be busy out in the field for the next few months. Therefore the office door may be closed a lot, unless someone wants to come in and answer phone calls, take messages, etc.? We can give you a day notice probably but that's it since our field work depends on the weather and farmers schedules.
- Matt, Cody and I met and talked to Stuart on Monday, April 10th about the office staff and how the office will "flow" while I am on leave. At this point Stuart doesn't see the new Soil Conservationist that was hired being able to start in Valley City anytime soon. The State conservationist is looking into trying to get her reassigned to our office due to the office being short-staffed (Mary is not sure if we can do that or not).
- Cody Hoggarth- Farm Bill Specialist, will be coming over a few days a week to help Matt with workload. Matt was instructed by Stuart to request assistance from the Area Office Staff if he needs it. It is dang near impossible for one person to do three jobs, therefore please try to support Matt and any assistance he needs from you ☺

Maternity Leave:

- I will be taking roughly 10 weeks off as of Friday April 28th (if not sooner). Matt Shappell will be the Acting District Conservationist in the office, which means he will be doing my job and everything it entails while I am out. Please go to him with questions, concerns and guidance on anything for the time I am away. He will be attending the SCD board meetings.

Acronyms:

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

WRE: Wetland Reserve Easement

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program