

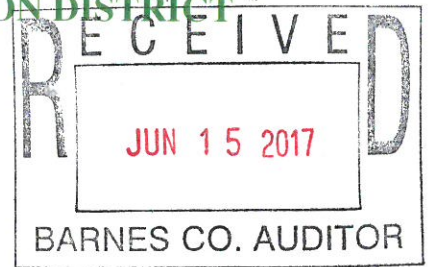
BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org

Minutes of Meeting

May 10, 2017

District Office / USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072



Board Members Present:

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

Others:

Stuart Blotter, Area II Office
Jason Elston, Tech
Jill Olson, Sec/Treas
Matt Shappell, Acting DC

The May meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 7:05 am at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the April, 2017 board meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

FINANCIALS:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None at this time

REPORTS:

Office Report: Acting DC Matt Shappell went over his attached report. He also handed out the Civil Rights information, and showed the board the new HydroSense II Unit available at the office.

Technician Report: Jason reported that he received a letter from the Forest Service on the Firewise Grant and an extension that was granted. He will be speaking with Tom and Derek from the Forest Service as to the budget they are requesting. The Riparian Park was brought up and Jason stated that it would be a good investment for the district to purchase a sprayer that attaches to the side by side for spraying at the park. The board approved the purchase. There was also discussion on how much a GPS unit would be for flagging and tree planting. Chairman McKay and board member Paulson will be looking into used units that would best fit our needs. Jason and Jill also touched base on the newsletter, costs, options for future print. They will put together numbers for the next board meeting.

Watershed Report: The board will have Jill email Dustin Krueger to see if he is available to attend the next board meeting with an update on the progress of the new 319 grant.

Water Board Report: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BMP Checking Account is now closed and the funds deposited in the Districts Savings Account.
2. 319 Existing Projects - As far as finishing up the Barnes Co. projects, Chairman McKay reached out to Cass Co. SCD to enlist the help of their 319 Coordinator. Cass Co. requested a half page proposal that will include the duties, time allowed and wage. Jill and Jason will put this together and send over to Cass Co.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Stuart Blotter from the Area II office spoke about the NRCS Hiring Freeze and the time frame as to when the new Soil Con. from Mandan will be moving over. He also stated that it will take time to get the second job position for another Soil Con. Open, posted and filled. In the meantime, Acting DC Matt Shappell can request assistance for the Area II office as needed.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14th 2017 7:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.
Approved: 06/14/17

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



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Date: May 10th, 2017

By: Matt Shappell - Acting 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- Awaiting Preapprovals

- 5 applications ranked. 2 Beginning Farmer/Rancher.
- QAR completed by May 12th. Field reviews to follow.

CRP- On Hold

- Continue working on existing CRP contracts.

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.
- On-site annual monitoring will be conducted soon. Likely with AO staff.

Other:

- Client Gateway - 2 not showing up in system. One more needed by Sept.
- Earth Team Volunteers - make sure we capture any and all volunteer hours.
- NRCS vehicles - SCD employees covered if using for NRCS business

- Amanda and I met with Rick Thoreson to talk about the plan at the Salinity plots for this year. Hal Weiser helped with seed mixtures.
- New HydroSense II for the FO. Measures soil moisture.
- New T&E Worksheet
- Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity discussion

Office Staff:

- Cody Hoggarth- Farm Bill Specialist, continues to assist with program workload.

Acronyms:

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

WRE: Wetland Reserve Easement

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program