

BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

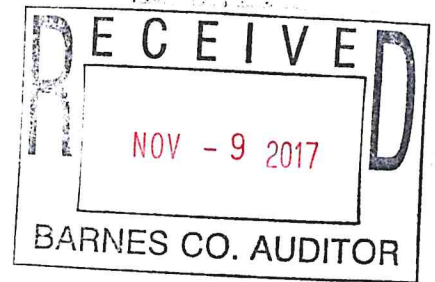
www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org

Minutes of Meeting

October 18th, 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:

Amanda Brandt, DC

Jill Olson, Sec/Treasure

Jason Elston, Tech

The October meeting was called to order by Chairman McKay at 8:05 am at the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the September, 2017 board meeting were reviewed and Chairman McKay declared those minutes approved as mailed.

FINANCIALS:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Confirmed Reservations for the Nov. Conf. with Supervisors
2. Reviewed Soil Health Workshop Nov. 21st in Bismarck
3. Handed out the information on the Technical Assistance Grant from NACD, Roger Christenson. Amanda and Jill will review and find out more information to report to the board next month on this.

REPORTS:

Office Report: DC Amanda Brandt was unable to attend, Jill Olson gave her report. See attached report.

Technician Report: Jason handed out his attached report. See report.

Watershed Report: Dustin Krueger did submit a grant application for 319 funds for Barnes County. This will along with the Eco Ed Grant that Jill submitted will go before the Task Force in late November, early December for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jill emailed Susan Davis with Dakota Prairies RC&D for more information on what she represents and does. After further discussion with the board, this is something they are not interested in at the time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NACD dues are up for renewal. Last year the board voted to donate \$1,000 to NACD. Nelson made a motion to donate \$1,000 once again to NACD and Paulson second the motion. All in favor aye, motion carried.
2. Barnes Co. rents a storage unit for our Big Gun Irrigation System along with the pump and reel. Discussion was had to keep the storage unit and to continue to keep the Irrigation System and all parts to it there.
3. Marshall saw – this was purchased at the time that the district started the Fire Wise Grant. The grant will be coming to an end next June. Discussion was had weather or not to keep or to sell the saw. It was suggested that the district keep the saw and possibly rent out to producers at a set amount per day. More discussion will be had at a later time.
4. Discussion was had about the blue district pickup, mileage on it and upcoming maintenance due for it.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8th 2017 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.

Approved: 11.08.17



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Date: October 18th 2017

By: Amanda Brandt--District Conservationist

PROGRAMS:

EQIP-

- Following up on completed practices that were scheduled for 2017
- Meeting producers in the field for possible new EQIP's and scheduling a few more appointments.
- Continuous Sign-up- will hear of sign up deadline soon, usually October/November.
- Field checking the Working Wetlands Pilot Program fields which are due by 11/1/17.

CSP-

- Sent out letters for documentation required by producers for 2017 payment.

CSP- renewals

- Working on completing the 1 CSP renewal contract we have. Deadline was extended by 2 weeks due 10/27/17.

CRP-

- Field checking Emergency CRP haying fields.
- Barb came over to visit with me about CRP's. Per the CRP Notice-843 she could not accept FY17 CRP applications after May 3rd 2017.
 - 1 offer for trees and 10 others.
- FY18 CRP applications that were received before May 3rd 2018 could continue to be processed until the offer was approved.
 - Barb says she had 1.
- FY18 applications that were received after May 3rd 2017, could be processed but could not be approved or referred to NRCS for needs and feasibility. County Officers could not process offers beyond the "Submitted" status in their system.
 - Barb said she had none that were at this point.
- All Farm Service Agency County Offices shall NOT accept continuous conservation reserve program signup offers until a future notice is issued. **This is to ensure that CRP enrollment does not exceed the statutory 24 million acre national cap.**
 - *Exception:* They can continue to accept and process offers under an approved CREP and for CRP grasslands.
- David Shea and I visited about the CRP notice-843 and he concurred with all the information given by his employee.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

VALLEY CITY SERVICE CENTER

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VALLEY CITY, ND 58072-4034

Phone: (701) 845 - 3114 ext. 3 Fax: (855) 561 - 7866

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

WRP/WRE:

- Field checking WRP fields that were cut for emergency hay.

Office Staff:

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

Meetings:

- **VCSU Soils Class: October 18th at 8 am-** coming over to talk about soils and receive hands on training and learn what we do. I am going to demonstrate the Table Top Rainfall Soil Simulator and discuss soil health with them.
- **VCSU Soils Lab: October 19th 3 pm to 4 pm-** coming back to our office to go through Web Soil Survey and potentially the Tree forms. Jason is going to go through the steps of finding soil suitability for tree's, etc.
- District Conservationist meeting: October 24th 2017. Melissa and I will be attending.

Acronyms:

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

WRE: Wetland Reserve Easement

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program

CRP.

Technician Report-Sept/Oct. 2017

- FireWise
 - 5 Renovations completed and Reimbursement Request sent off 10/2/17-(Smith,Muncy,Elston,Borg-2)
 - All Assessments have been completed. Some people still undecided on renovations, but running out of time.
 - Total 3rd Quarter expenditures-\$32,369.92 (\$64,739.84 total)
 - Remaining Balance as of 10/2/17-\$57,712.03
 - 1 renovation and spring tree plantings all that remains to be funded. \$10-15K?
 - Tom Claeys will try to use up \$40,000 balance on other Forest Service projects.
- 319 Grant
 - Greg wanted us to utilize 319 fund first because we are applying for new 319 grant.
 - 319 funds have all been allocated. Dwight Steffens contract used all but \$700 in 319 Grant.
 - Will use remaining 319 money for final report wages.
 - Will have final 319 report done before end of year.
- OHF Grant
 - Have spent \$193,477.54 of \$200,0000 OHF grant
 - OHF has roughly \$6500 remaining after several producers opted out of contract and cost sharing remaining contracts.
 - Try to contract more? Or return remaining Balance?
- Trees
 - CRP trees from earlier discussions have been approved but have no start date on contracts. Since crops had been planted where trees were contracted to be, CRP contracts are not finalized until producer harvests crops and FSA State Office applies a start date.