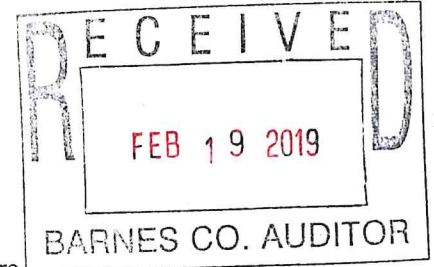


BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.barnes.nd.nacdn.net

Minutes of Meeting
January 9, 2019
District Office / USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072



Board Members Present:
Shelly Nelson, via phone
Diane Olson
Charlene Stenson, Vice Chairman
Bob Bruns

Others:
Amanda Brandt
Jill Olson, Sec/Treasurer
Jason Elston, Tech
Stuart Blotter

The January meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Stenson at 8:05 am in the District Office in Valley City, ND. Minutes from the December 12th, 2018 board meeting were reviewed, and Vice Chairman Stenson declared those minutes approved as emailed.

FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during December 2018, were reviewed by the Board. Bruns made a motion to accept the December 2018 financial statement as presented with Olson seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank You's from ND Envirothon were reviewed
2. ND Leopold Conservation Award Nominations Due April 15

Office Report: DC Amanda Brandt handed out her attached report, see report. Amanda's last day is January 18th. She has taken a job with the LaMoure office. Amanda also stated that our ultima employee – Victoria's contract is extended to the end of February. The reorganization of NRCS is on hold until after the government shut down.

Technician Report: Jason stated that the tree plans are low. He has sent out 20-25 letters to producers that have been interested in planting trees. Jason also has a newsletter article written up for the January newsletter which will be sent before the end of the month. He helped Jill with the Clausen Springs survey letters and attended the Paddle trail meeting. Jason asked the board if they want him to aggressively advertise the saw and the irrigation pump. It was decided to hold off until next meeting and Jason will contact Greg Sandness about the possible sale of the irrigation pump and proceeds.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Clausen Springs – reviewed the updated survey, everything looks good. Jill and Jason will send out. After reviewing the budget from Andre at VCSU, there is no budget included for expenses on the district side of things. It was suggested that we set up a meeting with Andre to review a budget from the district. Bob made a motion that ½ of all costs associated with the Clausen Springs assessment on the district side should be reimbursed, including postage, envelope costs, and wages. Diane second the motion, all in favor aye, motion carried. Jill will set up the meeting with Andre and Bob will attend with her.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. District Budget: Bob made a motion to approve the preliminary budget for 2019 including raising the mill levy request to 1.5 for the year 2020. Diane second the motion. All in favor aye, motion carried.
2. The Annual Work Plan was tabled until next meeting.
3. Stuart Blotter gave the board some updates on the hiring process for Amanda's DC position and the government shut down. As of right now NRCS has funding possibly to the end of the month.
4. Diane Olson asked the board if they wanted her to continue representing BCSCD on the State Envirothon Committee as the Sheyenne James RC&D Council will be dissolving shortly. Nelson made a motion to have Diane continues with Bruns seconding it, all in favor aye, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2019 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.
Approved: 02.13.19



United States Department of Agriculture

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

January 9th, 2019

By: Amanda Brandt--District Conservationist

PROGRAMS:

EQIP:

- Taking applications for FY 2019.
 - All Program deadlines are on hold due to partial Government Shutdown.
- Checking in with contract holders on the status of their 2018 practices and modifying or paying for those practices.

CSP:

- Certified six CSP contracts for payment in 2018. Those have all been processed.
- Last week we certified two CSP contracts for payment in 2019.
- Currently have three CSP contracts to review documentation on (waiting to receive the documentation from producers).

Melissa has been working on developing 2019 prescribed grazing plans for all contract holders who have prescribed grazing scheduled for 2019. She has also been processing contract payments and developing conservation plans, along with all supporting documents for potential FY2019 EQIP contracts.

Victoria has been processing contract payments, answering HEL information questions, assisting with contract modifications and taking care of NRCS mailings.

Cody has been working on CRP contract modifications for contracts that require management in 2019. He is also developing conservation plans, along with all supporting documents for potential FY2019 EQIP contracts.

Over the last month I have been trying to wrap a few "problem areas" up and make any contract payments that I can before I leave. I have also been working on a report for the Acting D.C., as well as developing potential FY2019 EQIP contracts and reviewing Victoria, Melissa and Cody's work.

Office Staff Update:

- I will be starting my position in LaMoure County on January 20th (22nd really).
 - Matt Shappell, Soil Conservationist in the Cass County Office, has graciously agreed to be the Acting District Conservationist in Barnes County, for three months as of January 20th.
 - He is coming next Tuesday, January 15th to go over a few things in the office.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
VALLEY CITY SERVICE CENTER
110 WINTER SHOW ROAD SW, SUITE 3
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.

Workshops/Meetings:

- 3rd Annual NDSU Soil Health Café Talks- See Flyer for more information.
 - January 15th- 11:30 am to 1:30pm- Edgeley
 - February 5th -11:30 am to 1:30pm- Edgeley
- Livestock Producer Meeting- See Flyer for more information.

Acronyms:

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

WRE: Wetland Reserve Easement

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program

LWG: Local Work Group

COB: Close of Business