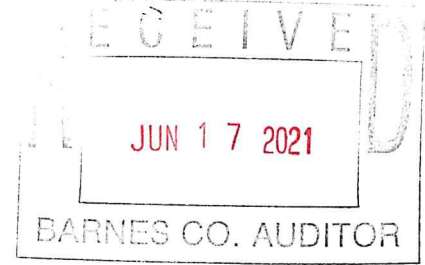


BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org

Minutes of Meeting
April 14th, 2021
VCSU Student Center
Valley City, ND 58072



Board Members Present:
Charlene Stenson
Diane Olson
Bob Bruns
Pete Paulson
Shelly Nelson

Others:
Shelby Larson
Jason Elston
Jill Olson, Clerk

The April meeting was called to order by Stenson at 4:03 pm at Valley City State University, Student Senate Room, Valley City, ND. Minutes from the March 08th, 2021 board meeting were reviewed, Stenson declared those minutes approved as presented and adjusted.

FINANCIALS:

A list of receipts and bills paid during March 2021, were reviewed by the Board. Paulson made a motion to accept the March financial statement as presented with Olson seconding it. All in favor aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Reviewed and handed out information for NDSU Extension
2. Reviewed Letter from NDIRF

Office Report: See attached report.

Technician Report: See attached report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Grass Drill – it was decided to borrow Bob’s grass drill to try on a couple of producer tree plantings. This will help make the decision of going forward with the grass drill for the district.
2. Mill Levy- stay with the current mill request, show the adjustment in purchase of assets and submit to the auditor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Scholarship application – the board reviewed the application that we received from Peter Byrn. Nelson made a motion to accept the application, Olson second the motion, all in favor, aye. Motion carried. Jill will send out a congratulation letter to Peter.
2. Trailer – Jason discussed purchasing a new trailer with the funds that we received from the sale of the Marshall Saw. He had priced out a couple different options. The trailer that would fit our needs is located at Visto’s in Fargo. Our current trailer is not big enough for the weight and size of the new tractor with the attachments of the tree planter and or weed barrier machines. Bruns made a motion to go ahead with the purchase of a new trailer with the intent of selling our old trailer. Paulson second the motion. All in favor aye, motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th 7:30am, 2021. The next meeting will be at the tree shed weather permitting.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Jill Olson, Sec/Treas.
Approved: 04.15.2021

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. USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Valley City Field Office
110 Winter Show RD SW
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-3114 Ext. 3

NRCS Activity Report Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board

April 14th, 2021

Shelby Larson, Acting District Conservationist (DC)

I have about two and a half weeks left in Barnes County. I believe my last day is the 30th. I'm hoping to leave the contracts a little more cleaned up and ready to roll for 2021. I've been working with producers to get them ready for the practices they have scheduled and hope this helps things run more smoothly.

As of now the Valley City DC job has not been reopened. Therefore, there is not an idea on when someone new will be filling in permanently.

I submitted 2 EQIP applications up to the state for review of ranking and funding available. We will hopefully hear by the end of this week if either application will get funded.

Barnes County has 1 person interested in renewing their CSP Contract. He has signed the application and came in and talked about different options. However, CSP has changed it's guidelines and the process of getting into CSP more than once is becoming quite complex. We will continue working with him and see what we can come up with.

Two producers have signed up for the general CSP. Alex and I will be working with them to get them to meet eligibility and move forward with planning different practices to meet their operations goals.

Cody submitted 6 different WRE's up to the state office for review of ranking for Barnes County. Roughly 4-10 Waterbank applications will be due on May 7th. This varies because it will depend on who wants to continue with their application.

Covid Update: No board meetings in the office. Masks are required by all employees to wear full time when in the office. The NRCS/SCD is allowed to have 4 employees in the building and FSA is allowed to have 4 employees in the building at a time. Others are encouraged to work at home. The offices are to set up rotations. The doors are closed to producers, but we are accepting appointments and letting farmers in then. We are allowed to do field work and have Box/OneSpan to utilize.

Technician Report Mar/April 2021

- **Trees:**

- Currently have roughly 80,000ft of trees contracted on 20 sites for Spring 2021.
- Have substantial tree orders from 3 nurseries (LO, Towner, Big Sioux) planning pickup last week of April.
- Hoping to start planting week of May 10th.
- Listed job openings for seasonal laborers and received 6 applicants.
- After interviews hired 2 VCSU students (Easton Hesch, Avery Bennefeld) to work as laborers and hired Paul Metcalf to drive tractor this year.

- **Equipment**

- Sold our Marshall tree saw on Wednesday March 24th to Roger Christianson (Plaza, ND) for \$7,250.
- Will need to install new tires on trailer soon. Would prefer to update trailer due to being undersized and overweight with our equipment.
- Got several quotes and looked at several models (ABU, LoadTrail, Midsota) and took measurements to make sure they would fit our needs.
- Vistos Midsota 22' trailer was the best built and dimensions were exactly what we need. Its 2 ft longer, capable of 2,000lbs more payload and 6inches lower than our current trailer. Quote is \$6,795.00.
- Trade in on our trailer is poor but was advised to sell ourselves. Value of our trailer is still in the \$3,000-\$3,500 range. Trade in was \$2,100.
- Installed Timbren Rear suspension assists in our 2010 1 ton Silverado to help with weight problem on rear of truck.