

NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

2718 Gateway Ave – Suite 304, Bismarck ND 58503-0585

Phone: 701-328-9715 – Fax: 701-328-9721

MINUTES of the STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Bismarck, North Dakota
November 18, 2018 - 3:00p

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was held at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Room 2130, Bismarck. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm, with Chair Dennis Renner presiding. The following persons attended all or a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Renner – Appointee
Barton Schott – Appointee
Donna Grann – Area I Supervisor
Warren Solberg – Area II Supervisor
Bruce Knudson – Area III Supervisor
Jack Spah – Area IV Supervisor
Wes Frederick – Area V Supervisor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Schmidt – Soil Conservation & Watershed Program Leader, NDSU Extension
Doug Goehring – North Dakota Ag Commissioner
Sarah Tunge – NDCDEA Director
Mary Podoll – NRCS State Conservationist
Kelly Klosterman – Past SSCC, Area II
Brian Kerns – Mercer County SCD Tech
Nicole Wardner – NDSU Extension Agent – Sheridan County
Sandra Schwede – NDSU Administrative Assistant for Soil Conservation Leadership

MINUTE APPROVAL

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER RENNER, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SCHOTT AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE JULY 9TH SSCC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

INTRODUCTIONS

Nicole Wardner – producing and recording new supervisor software training
Brian Kerns – producing and implementing new SSCC software for District reporting

ADVISOR REPORTS

Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist – Reported that 2018 fiscal year has ended with good news; waiting to hear on the Farm Bill, they are finishing water bank easements, CRP.

Doug Goehring, Ag Commissioner – thanked the SSCC for the invitation to attend the meeting. Doug spoke about the Farm Bill, chance to pass in the lame duck session; CRP – House/Senate have two different versions. He also spoke about the weather network and that western ND would be affected.

BUSINESS

Bruce Schmidt introduced Nicole Wardner, NDSU Extension Agent for Sheridan County. Nicole has been working in conjunction with Bruce Schmidt for creating the modules for the new supervisor training manuals. Nicole did a slide show presentation of the content of the modules and also has been recording YouTube videos; these videos would need a password to view. Each District would be required to setup an account and password. Bruce Schmidt mentioned that there is an effort to provide every District with a new IPAD or Notebook through grant funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bruce Schmidt dispersed the operating fund to have the committee members review; all members were in agreement – no further action needed. Bruce reported that 90% of the district monies are used, no leftover anticipated. Bruce is encouraging districts to keep sending fund requests in order to help with upcoming legislative session.

The Ad Committee Legislative Review was presented to the members and it was stated that this is an integral part of conservation, received a glowing review. The only recommendation is that supervisors attend and/or complete a yearly training. (Review copy is attached)

Bruce reported that Duane Hauck is assisting Dr. Greg Lardy with the upcoming legislative session and Duane plans to meet with Committee Monday morning at 7:00 a.m. There is a need for addressing the relationship between NDSU Extension and the State Soil Conservation Committee. Committee members were given a draft of the Memorandum of Understanding to review and comment. It was decided that the 2nd paragraph should be in conjunction with the 1st paragraph and to remove 'year-to-year'; once those revisions are completed, all committee members approved.

Bruce Schmidt stated that the surface mining report will stay with the SSCC – will start sending out report January 2019.

Bruce Schmidt introduced Brian Kerns, who has been writing a software program that will aid in how to track activities and report consistently. Brian did a video demo of the program he created, which is called the 'District Activity Reporting Tool (DART). **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KNUDSON, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE DART AND MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Bruce Schmidt reported that he would like to update the Retention Files Revisions List received from the State of ND. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG AND CARRIED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Bruce Schmidt presented a letter he received from the North Dakota Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education Memorandum of Understanding. The letter states this entity would like for all groups to work together and want the SSCCD to enter into this agreement. All committee members approved.

Bruce Schmidt discussed the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session which starts January 2, 2019; the SCDAP request is for \$1.2 million for this session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dennis Renner, Appointee has termed out. **BRUCE KNUDSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT BARTON SCHOTT AND DONNA GRANN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.** Barton Schott will be the new chair along. **DENNIS RENNER MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE WESLEY FREDERICK AS THE VICE CHAIR, DONNA GRANN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING – January during Legislative Session TBD

ADJOURNMENT

The SSCC meeting reconvened November 19, 7:00 a.m. and met with Duane Hauck NDSU Extension. The MOU was presented and Duane will take to Dr. Lardy to review. Duane his role and the upcoming Legislative session. There being no further business to come before the State Soil Conservation Committee, the meeting was adjourned on Monday, November 19 at 8:38 a.m.