

# NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES of the STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Bismarck, North Dakota

March 11, 2020 - 12:00 pm

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was held at the Radisson Hudson Room, 800 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Room 2130, Bismarck, ND. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm, with Barton Schott, Chairman presiding. The following persons attended all of the meeting.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

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  
Barton Schott – Governor Appointee, Chair  
Kelly Klosterman – Governor Appointee  
Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Soil Conservation Program Leader  
Sandra Schwede, NDSU Soil Conservation Administrative Assistant  
Nicole Wardner – NDSU Extension – Sheridan County  
Lynette Flage, PhD – NDSU Assistant Director – FCW Program Leader  
Greg Sandness – ND Dept of Environmental Quality  
Jim Collins – ND Dept of Environmental Quality

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KNUDSON, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> SSCC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **BUSINESS**

Bruce Schmidt reported on the grant funds and the operating funds which is in good standing. Also, Bruce reported to the committee that there is \$2198 in an indirect fund account which doesn't have a time/date limit on spending.

Bruce Schmidt presented the NASCA yearly dues for the amount of \$3000 and asked the committee what their thoughts were in joining NASCA. Warren Solberg attended the NASCA conference in Kentucky and talked on the benefits of being a part of this agency. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER FREDRICK TO APPROVE THE JOINING OF NASCA (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES)**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Greg Sandness and Jim Collins of the ND Dept. of Environmental Quality discussed the availability of EPA 319 funds for the adding of a field person for a pilot program that would help the 54 SCD Districts with implementations of new programs and trainings. They would like to start this as soon as possible with the hopes of having a person in place by fall of 2020.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR A PILOT PROGRAM FIELD PERSON. MOTION CARRIED.**

Lynette Flage gave the committee an update on the hiring of Bruce Schmidt's replacement. There is a hiring review committee made up of Lynette Flage, Wes Frederick, Barton Schott, Jodi Bruns, and Andrea Bowman. Lynette discussed

the position has to be publicized 20 working days which ends March 17, 2020. The hiring committee will start screening applicants on Friday, March 20, 2020 and will keep the rest of the committee advised.

Bruce Schmidt discussed the SSCC Program Leaders Report;

- The State Board of Agriculture Research and Education is a strong support for ND SSCC.
- DART program has priority areas that need completion, will be a good tool for the 2021 Legislative session.
- Level 1 & Level 2 Soil and Water Conservation Leadership Academy Trainings have been going very well with positive evaluations from participants.
- All 54 districts have submitted their mandated Supervisor Training Reports.
- SCD Election Information was sent out in March for the 2020 General Election.
- Surface Mining Report (SMR) was discussed – will be going to print this month. There has been outside interest in the report since the report being put on the NDSSCC website.

Bruce Schmidt requested for the committee's approval for a supervisor change for Benson County (North Central SCD) – Wayne Baustad to replace Ron Selzler. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH TO APPROVE WAYNE BAUSTAD AS SUPERVISOR FOR BENSON COUNTY-NORTH CENTRAL SCD. MOTION CARRIED.**

Bruce Schmidt requested the committee's approval for a supervisor change for Bottineau County SCD – ReAnn Ellsworth to replace Virgil Hall. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KNUDSON, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER FREDERICK TO APPROVE REANN ELLSWORTH AS SUPERVISOR FOR BOTTINEAU COUNTY-MOUSE RIVER SCD. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **OTHER**

Bruce Schmidt reported on his and Sarah Tunge's presentation at the National Soil Conservation Districts meeting in Las Vegas, NV in February 2020. Presentation went very well and several states inquired about the ability to purchase the DART program.

Bruce Schmidt reported on Nicole Warder's work on the NDSSCC district information modules. Bruce asked Nicole to give an update on current areas being worked on. Nicole stated that she has a draft available for the employee handbook, working on getting them completed for review.

Bruce Schmidt read the 'Thank You' card the committee received from past board member, Dennis Renner thanking everyone for the gift card in the amount of \$100 and being a part of the ND State Soil Conservation Committee.

Bruce Schmidt also discussed the upcoming NACD Summer Meeting taking in place July 18-22, 2020 in Bismarck. It would be good for the committee board members to attend and network. The committee was in agreeance and decided to have the next board meeting in conjunction with this conference.

Bruce Schmidt's last day with the ND State Soil Conservation Committee is Friday, March 13, 2020. The board members along with Sandy Schwede thanked Bruce Schmidt for his service, dedication and advancements made to the ND State Soil Conservation Committee and presented him with a farewell/retirement party after the board meeting.

**NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING** – July 20, 2020 in conjunction with the NACD Summer Meeting 2020, Bismarck Ramkota at 1:00p.

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Ag Coalition Roundtable  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
March 12, 2020 - 12:00 pm**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Donna Grann – Area I Supervisor  
Bruce Knudson – Area III Supervisor  
Jack Spah – Area IV Supervisor  
Kelly Klosterman – Governor Appointee  
Barton Schott – Chair, Governor Appointee  
Bruce Schmidt – NDSU Soil Conservation Program Leader

Bruce Schmidt discussed the NDSSCC's interest in partnering with the Ag Coalition. He shared with the members of the Ag Coalition an information newsletter highlighting what the SCD's are about. He explained the new tracking system DART (District Activity Reporting Tool) that has been implemented for reporting to the legislators the work of the SCD's.

There was a roundtable discussion about the misunderstanding of the roles between the SCD's and NRCS, which lead into the SCD's not having a brand and/or cohesive signage/logo for all their offices. It was also discussed the difficulty for small counties with lack of funding and staff and what are some of the opportunities and the generating of funds to help with these hurdles, (ie; partnerships with other local entities). They also discussed what are their target groups (ie; production farmers, soccer moms). The summation of the group at the end of the meeting was the relativity and relatability of moving forward of SCD's.

It was discussed to purchase IPADS for the program leader, committee members and the administrative assistant (9) IPADS total for assisting with the board meetings going forward. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 9 IPADS FOR BOARD MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the State Soil Conservation Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

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Bruce Schmidt  
NDSU Soil Conservation Program Leader  
Recording Secretary