



NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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MINUTES of the STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Bismarck, North Dakota

June 11, 2020 – 8:00a - 10:00a

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was via Zoom teleconference meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:00a by Barton Schott, Chairman. 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

Sandra Schwede, NDSU Soil Conservation Administrative Assistant

Lynette Flage, PhD – NDSU Assistant Director – FCW Program Leader

Jodi Bruns – NDSU Leadership and Civic Engagement

Andrea Bowman – NDSU Leadership and Civic Engagement

Aaron Field – Incoming NDSU Soil Conservation Program Leader (*start date August 3, 2020*)

MINUTES APPROVAL

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG TO APPROVE THE MARCH 11TH SSSC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Barton Schott introduced Dr. Aaron Field to NDSU Extension as our new Program Coordinator for Soil and Water Leadership Development. Aaron will start his duties on August 3, 2020 and be located in Morrill Hall 307 in Fargo.

Aaron comes to us from Chadron, Nebraska, where he has been a faculty member in agriculture and rangeland management at Chadron State College since 2016. At Chadron, he has taught a variety of courses including ecology, plant science, plant identification, soils, agriculture and natural resource management. He has also developed and taught a course in land ethics, which is designed to promote collaborative, interdisciplinary problem solving.

Aaron has his bachelor's degree in biology from Jamestown College, and his master's in natural resources management and Ph.D. in range science from NDSU. While at NDSU, Aaron served as a teaching assistant and co-instructor for multiple courses leading him to additional graduate level coursework in education, and a college teaching certificate in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). In his current position, he has conducted program level assessments, curriculum mapping and course development that utilizes a variety of formats, including face-to-face, online and hybrid. His experiences and education galvanized him to pursue education as a profession, and provides an excellent background for the work he will do with NDSU Extension.

The committee discussed the revised Soil Conservation Fact sheet; Sandy Schwede is working with Dave Haasser, NDSU Ag Communications with the branding piece. The committee wants it to be ready for Convention in November 2020.

The committee discussed the 2019 Surface Mining Report. Sandy Schwede compiled the information; these reports are printed through NDSU Printing Services. The committee directed Sandy Schwede to contact Scott Hochhalter, the previous Program Leader for information about the specifics of the who receives the form, who it gets mailed to, etc.

Jodi Bruns and Andrea Bowman, NDSU Leadership and Civic Engagement gave a report on the Soil and Water Leadership Academy Training statistics. To date, there have been 16 sessions held with a total of 295 participants from 2018-2020. The evaluations are positive; there have been suggestions made to offer the sessions remotely since travel can be an issue; this is being discussed. It has been decided to compile and offer a Level 3 academy training that will be piloted in a couple of soil conservation districts. With all that has been going on with the COVID-19 Pandemic, committee members offered suggestions to include training on Zoom meetings and mental health issues. The next Level 1 Soil and Water Leadership Academy Training has been scheduled for December 8 & 9, 2020 in Bismarck at the Environmental Training Center.

Lynette Flage informed the NDSSCC that NDSU Extension had applied for and received a new Conservation Collaboration three-year grant from USDA-NRCS for \$269,542. These grant funds will be used to continue the ND Soil and Water Leadership Academy and other trainings for SCD supervisors, employees, students, and partners. Also, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, USDA-NRCS will extend, for one more year, the leftover monies from the previous three-year grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Wes Frederick discussed the conservation he had with the manager of Chesak Seed House who had some concerns with partiality to seed companies. The NDSSCC, in conjunction with NRCS, has written a letter to the manager of Chesak Seed House clarifying the rules and regulations to bids and purchasing. Also, the committee discussed sending an invitation to seed companies to attend the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts Annual Convention in November 2020.

OTHER

Lynette Flage discussed the EPA 319 Grant funds available for the area coordinators positions. This grant is due October 1, 2020. These coordinators will be hired to help with local district plans. There will be two coordinators (North Dakota has five areas), that will pilot this program; areas to be determined.

Lynette Flage updated the committee that Nicole Wardner has resigned her agent position for NDSU Extension for a position with the ND Beef Commission. Nicole held a .20 point position for the compilation of the videos, training modules and handouts for the ND soil conservation districts. There needs to be discussion on the replacing this position; Lynette will discuss this with Aaron after he starts; will report to the committee at the next meeting.

Sandy Schwede contacted Sarah Tunge regarding the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts meeting slated for July 18-22, 2020. Per an email from Sarah on May 26, 2020, the meeting has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee decided to order tablets for all board members including Sandy Schwede. Sandy Schwede worked this Brad Sonmor, NDSU Bookstore and was able to purchase the Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1 with keyboard and covers. Barton and Kelly stated they didn't need a tablet as they already have one. Sandy will distribute the tablets to the rest of the board members at the next face-to-face meeting.

Warren Solberg asked about the agreement between the MOA and Golden Valley SCD. Barton Schott read and signed the agreement.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT - IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SCHOTT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING at 10:00am. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING – August 20, 2020, at 8:00a via Zoom teleconference.