



NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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MINUTES of the STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Teleconference Meeting

August 20, 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

Aaron Field – NDSU Soil Conservation Program Leader

Sandra Schwede, NDSU Soil Conservation Administrative Assistant

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

Sarah Tunge – NDCDEA Director

MINUTES APPROVAL

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 12TH SSCC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Barton Schott welcomed Aaron Field to his first meeting as the new Program Coordinator for Soil and Water Leadership Development. Aaron started on August 3, 2020.

Sandy updated the committee on the operating budget; the extra \$7000 that was added in December of 2019 was missed for 2021 Fiscal year. Lynette Flage, NDSU Assistant Director has been in contact with Dave Ruhland, Director of NDSU Ag Budget Office and the monies are being added. Will update the committee when the monies are added.

Barton read the letter from Brian Johnston, NDASCD CEO regarding the November 2020 Convention which has been revamped due to COVID-19. The committee decided to meet on Sunday, November 22 at the Ramkota to have the standing board meeting before the Convention. Sandy will get a meeting room as well as hotel rooms for all board members. It was also discussed to have the option of a virtual meeting if necessary.

Barton referred to the email received from the ND Agricultural Commissioner and NASDA President, Doug Goehring. The Department of Agriculture is virtually hosting their annual meeting. The meeting "Energizing Agriculture for the Future" is taking place on August 28, 2020 and the link was provided in the email that Sandy sent to all board members. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER FREDERICK TO ATTEND THE AUGUST 28TH VIRTUAL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

It was decided for the NDSSCC to become members of the ND Ag Coalition. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG TO JOIN THE AG COALITION. MOTION CARRIED.** There are different levels of membership/dues. Sandy will find out the dues costs and will email board members.

Sarah Tunge updated the committee regarding the Windbreak Technology which will be held in Mercer County; it's on hold until next summer/fall. They are moving forward with the tree promotion in March 2021. Also, Liz Smith has rejoined the ND Forest Service. Sarah also spoke about the Leadership Conference Professional Development with monthly webinars hosting a variety of topics. She reported the Heritage Fund Grant had a great response with 500 applications and that committee will be meeting to allocate the funds.

Donna Grann discussed the district employee expectations/job role/dismissal procedures. She stated that Grand Forks County has a district policy that was updated January 1, 2020. Benson County-North Central SCD, will be reviewing that policy and updating their manuals specific to North Central needs. Both Donna Grann and Sarah Tunge asked Lynette Flage if NDSU could provide some HR assistance for policies/procedures. Lynette will check and report back to committee.

Donna also discussed the purchasing of a Nursery License for a local scd. Sarah Tunge stated that there was a past agreement between scd's and local nurseries. Donna will contact Brian Johnston to check if that agreement is still in effect.

OLD BUSINESS

It was decided that Sandy will mail the tablets to the board members.

OTHER

Lynette Flage updated the committee regarding the 3-year EPA 319 Grant that needs to have matching dollars; this grant is due October 1, 2020. Aaron and Lynette are discussing using those funds to hire area-based support staff SCDs. This grant requires matching funds and using the funded allotted to SCDs a match is being explored. This would not impact the amount of money going to the districts. Sarah suggested working with SCDs early in the process to improve buy-in; Donna, Kelly and Wes agreed. Aaron and Lynette are working on a plan to work with current SCD employees and supervisors to help guide the process.

The committee encourages Aaron to visit the individual SCDs when possible, but current NDSU COVID-19 guidelines make this challenging. Aaron agreed that he will visit when possible.

It was decided that all the board members need to have current pictures as well as a group picture. The group picture will take place once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Warren Solberg asked if there was a difference in the roles of the elected and appointed supervisor's; Sandy will send the link to the ND Century Code for Soil Conservation for explanation. She will send it to Warren and Amy Cole (Office Manager, Cass County SCD).

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING at 10:00am. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday, November 22, 2020 at Ramkota Convention Center.