



NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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MINUTES of the
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Lincoln-Oakes Board Room at Lincoln-Oakes Nursery
3310 University Drive, Bismarck ND 58504
June 08, 2021 – 10:00a – 2:06p

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was held at the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Board Room, Bismarck ND. The meeting was called to order at 10:00a by Barton Schott, Chairman.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Donna Grann – Area I Supervisor
Warren Solberg – Area II Supervisor
David Hill – Area III Supervisor
Jack Spah – Area IV Supervisor
Wes Frederick – Area V Supervisor, Vice Chair
Barton Schott – Governor Appointee, Chair
Kelly Klosterman – Governor Appointee
Aaron Field – NDSU Extension/ND State Soil Conservation Committee Program Leader
Sandra Schwede – ND State Soil Conservation Committee Administrative Assistant
Deb Buechler – NDASCD Program Manager

MINUTES APPROVAL

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9TH SSCC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Deb Buechler, new NDASCD Program Manager – she has replaced Morgan Hochsprung. Deb introduced herself and is learning her new office duties.

Aaron met with Jim Collins, NDDEQ to discuss the new website (soils.nd.gov) that Jim is working on. He wants to provide a space to share information from all groups working on soil health (SCDs, NDASCD, Employee's Association, NDSSCC, NDSU Extension).

Aaron also discussed EPA 319 grant funds will pay for two people (program coordinators) for two years to work within the SCD areas. These coordinators will go where they are needed most. Aaron is working on the materials that will be sent to districts.

Aaron discussed he's been attending the NDASCD Meetings virtually via Zoom. He mentioned the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2021 at 8:00a at Lincoln-Oakes Board Room.

Aaron discussed NDSU is updating all the website pages for NDSU to make it more user friendly. The release date is scheduled for July 1, 2021. Also, Aaron discussed Andrea Bowman, NDSU Leadership & Civic Engagement, has been brought on for more hours through grant funding to assist with the Leadership Academy.

Aaron has been traveling statewide to the SCDs, attending meetings when possible. Hettinger-Slope's district manager passed away in March – they have made an offer. Aaron and Andrea attended the Adams County SCD Meeting on June 1, 2021.

Aaron will be doing interviews for employee retention; the committee discussed the option of contracting an HR person who can help with SCD policies – want Aaron to check what the retainer costs would be. The committee discussed if NDASCD had any information on health insurance, retirement benefits, etc. Aaron will work with Deb, NDASCD to try to find a workable solution.

Aaron stated that NDSSCC Advisory Members have reached out to him; Dean Moos, ND Public Service Commission will send out materials when there is a SCD component and Liz Smith, ND Forestry Dept, has USFS grants available for SCDs.

The committee reviewed and proceeded with the 2021-2023 Biennium Fund Disbursement. Each district received approximately 10% increase from the last biennium. Sandy will be compiling and distributing award letters by June 30, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HILL APPROVE THE OPERATING BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

The committee discussed the ownership of the DART Program. ND State Soil paid \$10,000 for the creation of the program, but it was learned that Brian Kerns, DART creator is the owner of the program. The committee wants Aaron to contact Brian and find out the cost of purchasing the program from Brian. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH TO APPROVE THE RESEARCH THE COSTS OF PURCHASING OF THE DART PROGRAM FROM BRIAN KERNS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Aaron will also discuss with Brian Kerns the adding of the Reorganization Form and the Supervisor Training Form.

Barton discussed the 67th Legislative Session. He expressed that we need to be added to NDSU's budget request; as of now, the ND State Soil Conservation Committee line shows \$0 for budget request. He stated that the committee needs to start money allocation conversations with NDSU early. Also, have to be with NDSU at the beginning of the legislative planning. Barton asked Aaron to setup a meeting between himself, Kelly Klosterman and Wes Frederick with Dr. Greg Lardy to get the process started. There was also discussion to get in touch with SBARE regarding funding of the SCDs – Aaron is going to work with SBARE and report back to the committee.

Aaron is going to rent a booth at the ND Association of Counties October 6, 2021 Exhibition. The booth fee cost is \$650.

NDASCD Annual Convention is scheduled for November 21 – 23, 2021 in Fargo at the Holiday Inn.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – The meeting ended at 2:06p.

NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING – November 21, 2021 at NDASCD State Conference being held in Fargo, ND.