



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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### MINUTES of the STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Conference Meeting  
September 28, 2021 – 8:00a – 10:30a

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 8:02a by Wes Frederick, Vice 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  
Kelly Klosterman – Governor Appointee  
Aaron Field – NDSU Extension Program Coordinator  
Sandra Schwede – ND State Soil Conservation Committee Administrative Assistant  
Lynnette Flage, PhD – NDSU Extension Associate Director  
Carrie Johnson, PhD – NDSU Extension Interim Assistant Director  
Mary Podoll, USDA-NRCS North Dakota State Conservationist  
Aaron Carranza – ND Department of Water Resources  
Kevin Kading – ND Department of Game & Fish  
Doug Goehring, Agriculture Commissioner – ND Department of Agriculture  
Jay Bialke – ND Department of Agriculture  
Kaylee Stein, President – NDCDEA

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Barton Schott – Governor Appointee, Chairman

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> SSCC MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mary Podoll, USDA-NRCS reported to the committee that soil health and water quality a priority. NRCS is focusing on partnerships and maintaining or increasing staffing, including through their internship program.

Aaron Carranza, ND Dept of Water Resources reported to the committee that the name change will not change their mission which is to manage water resources for ND State. This department is being led by a director, Andrea Travnicek, PhD, who was appointed on August 1, 2021 by Governor Burgum. Carranza spoke on the four main issues currently being worked on; ① Duality review, ② Different appeal procedures, ③ Relationship between the State Water Commission and Water Boards and ④ Methods of how drains are created concentrating on how they are treated and how they are allocated.

Kevin Kading, ND Dept of Game & Fish mentioned the new director, Jeb Williams who replaces Terry Steinwand (*retired*). He gave 2021 updates that include chronic wasting disease, aquatic nuisance species and R3 (*recruitment, retention, reactivation*). Also, spoke about the new Meadowlark Initiative which is a statewide native grassland restoration effort. Kading also presented ideas for greater collaboration between SCDs and Game & Fish and emphasized the need for communication.

Kaylee Stein, current NDCDEA President discussed that Dunn County is currently tree planning for next spring, holding a Ladies Ag Night this fall and continuing with soil testing. She is working on their watershed program with water developing and fencing.

Carrie Johnson, NDSU Interim Assistant Director spoke about the two new positions for the Livestock Initiative (one on campus and one integrated at the NDSU Minot REC). There is one hire for the Farm/Ranch Safety Initiative and for a Funding Data Specialist who will put together all the information coming from the field. She also shared the results of recent SBARE (State Board of Agricultural Research and Education) elections.

Johnson also spoke about the upcoming input sessions for SBARE There are two sessions planned (November 2 & 3 in Fargo and December 7 in Dickinson); the speaker has 10 minutes to give verbal testimony – written testimony is also an option through email and an online SBARE form; handouts can be submitted before the session. The testimony needs to be specific and address your needs. SBARE considers all requests and provides a ranked list of priorities ahead of the legislative session.

Doug Goehring, ND Ag Commissioner discussed the essential drought programs are being utilized. There is \$1.3 million still available (*these dollars help with water lines and wells*). He also discussed the Emergency Feed Transportation Program that helps with expenses of purchasing and transporting feed. The Hay Hotline is in operation with trucking transport services being the main inquiry. He also discussed new programs from the 2021 Legislation, ① The Soil Health Program – has \$1.2 million for cover crops and alkali/sodic soils and ② 1.2 million acres of federal lands for forestry, water lines, cross fencing – contact your local scd for more information. Also, received \$5 million for bio-science and innovation grants. He also mentioned WOTUS (Waters of the United States) – new rules coming – will present when information has been received.

#### **OTHER**

Aaron Field provided a report on recent activities including district activity reporting, supervisor training, human resources support, and partnerships. No action was taken. Field also provided information regarding current SCD funding and the committee discussed their testimony for the upcoming SBARE listening sessions. **IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPAH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLBERG TO REQUEST THAT SBARE PRIORITIZE A 25% INCREASE TO DISTRICT ASSISTANCE FUNDS. MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee recommended that Chairman Schott and/or Vice Chairman Frederick provide verbal testimony at one or both of the upcoming sessions.

Donna Grann asked that committee members receive newsletters from all SCDs in their areas so as to stay in touch with them.

The committee discussed potential changes to the Soil Conservation Century Code to better compensate SCD supervisors and simplify procurement. No action was taken, pending more information. Klosterman will bring information on Garrison Diversion Board compensation to the next meeting.

NDASCD Annual Convention was scheduled for November 21 – 23, 2021 has been moved to a virtual meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT – IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GRANN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:30a. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING – TBD**