

# Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



**November 13, 2023**

Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center, Governor's Room, Bismarck, ND

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 9:03 am by Wes Frederick, Chairman.

**Committee Members and guests present:**

Donna Grann – *Area I Supervisor*

Warren Solberg – *Area II Supervisor*

David Hill – *Area III Supervisor*

Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor*

Wes Frederick – *Area V Supervisor, Chair*

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee, Vice Chair*

Jodi Delozier – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*

Carissa Kittelson – *ND State Soil Conservation  
Committee Administrative Assistant*

Kevin Kading – *ND Game & Fish, Private Lands  
Coordinator*

Dustin Krueger - *NDCDEA*

Andrea Travnicek- *Director of Dept of Water Resources*

Matt Lindsay- *Dept of Water Resources*

Richard Webb- *NRCS*

Emilee Novak- *DEQ*

Kent Peterson- *NDASCD*

**Committee Members absent:**

Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee*

Kelly made a motion to approve the 7.31.23 meeting minutes with the addition of the word “provide” under Lindsay’s update as requested by Warren. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of financials

**Partner Reports:**

NDFS – Tom Claeys, submitted a written report which Jodi read orally

NDGF- Kevin Kading, provided a written report and infographic, as well as a verbal overview

NDASCD – Kent Peterson, provided an oral report on trees and new inventory system

Dept of Water Resources – Andrea Travnicek, provided a high-level overview of legislative session

Dept of Water Resources – Matt Lindsay, update on governor’s red tape reduction, deregulation of dikes

NRCS – Richard Webb, provided an oral report regarding funding for producer projects, several staff openings, workgroups, full report will be at convention

DEQ – Emilee Novak, provided an oral report on current projects

NDCDEA-Dustin Krueger, provided an oral report planning annual meeting for Fargo this year, tree cooler workshop, windbreak technology, scholarships

**SSCC Director’s Report:**

- Thank you from Bart Schott
- Lindsay Maddock’s last day was Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> to pursue a business opportunity with her family.
  - Area Program Coordinator replacement will be advertised in March as that is when we will be notified if we receive the Program Coordinator grant again for 2024-2027.
- Leadership Academy
  - The August 2023 virtual Leadership Academy was well attended, though it’s difficult to engage participants and there is minimal networking.

- In-person Leadership Academy will be held January 30-31, 2024 at the Heritage Center in Bismarck.
- Another in-person academy will be held in June. Details TBD.
- Evaluations: Jodi held a Focus Group October 18, 2023 and will continue to conduct phone interviews in November 2023.
- Area annual meetings: Jodi attended all except area IV; however, Lindsay attended that one. All went well.
- NDASCD State Convention Speaker Panel: ND State Auditor Joshua Gallion; HR Collaborative Executive Director Quinton Brennan; and Extension Leadership & Civic Engagement Program Coordinator Andrea Bowman.
  - We wanted to bring in people with expertise.
  - Andrea will be discussing leadership and board succession.
- Jodi attended the National Association of Soil Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Conference, Salt Lake City
  - She found it was an excellent conference and really connected with “people who do what I do.”
  - She enjoyed getting an overview of what other states do to get ideas to implement in ND.
  - Jodi will be talking to Mike from NASCA. We have not paid dues to NASCA which is approximately \$4,000. Donna made a motion to spend up to \$3000 for a 2024 annual membership to NASCA. Kelly seconded. Motion carried.
- Jodi is in the process of updating the Supervisor Handbook.
- We will be re-instating a bi-annual SSCC Newsletter in 2024.
- Surface Mining report - There was some discussion on whether we should try to move the surface mining report to another department or agency. This would involve support from a state legislator. No action taken.

#### Program Coordinator Updates:

- **Lindsay:** Lindsay and Hannah have developed a report outlining program coordinator accomplishments. Jodi will email it to the board.
- **Hannah:** Attended monthly meetings in 5 counties and completed one-on-one office visits to 4 counties
  - Assisted 2 counties with Eco Ed day, helped plan Area V meeting; connected a county with Williston State College to promote SCD temp and permanent jobs
  - Created several resources, including job descriptions, mission statement worksheet, FB templates, and new employee onboarding materials
  - Attended Northern Plains Regional Workshop, DREC Soil Health Workshop, Stockmen’s Association meeting, FUSION conference, and Stark and Billings Awards Night.
  - Will be launching Conservation Conversations Podcast in the coming months

#### Old Business:

- Returned State Assistance Funds
  - McKenzie County SCD - \$10,999.76
    - Kept \$1000.00
  - No decision at this time.

#### New Business:

- Wes Frederick, SSCC Chair, will provide SBARE testimony on December 12<sup>th</sup> in Fargo
  - Ask for the full funding we didn’t receive from the last biennium (\$150,000) to use for district salaries.
  - He will get his report to Lynnette Flage before November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Election of new SSCC Committee Members who will start in January 2024.
  - Area V – Jessica O’Brien, Stark-Billings (elected at Area V meeting)
  - Area I – Emily Montgomery, Grand Forks (will be voted on at the Association Business meeting on Wednesday)
  - Area III-David Hill (will be voted on at the Association Business meeting on Wednesday)
- Letter received by Warren requesting comments on a 3500-acre solar farm in Richland County.

- Jodi will scan and send letter to the board
- Table the issue until January.
- Bob has received some comments regarding Stutsman County having programs that relate more to Area I than Area IV and would like to get feedback on the boundaries.
  - Discussed that Stutsman County can attend Area I meetings to collaborate and get ideas but can't vote.
- Wes called a recess at 12:16 pm until reconvened.
- The board reconvened on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:37 am.
- Board discussed holding elections for Committee positions (Chair and Vice Chair) during this time. It was brought up by Donna Grann that historically this was done prior to the new year; the board agreed to move forward on this process.
  - Chairperson Frederick called for nominations for the 2024 SSCC Chair position. Warren Stolberg nominated Bob Martin. Chair asked for a second; Kelly Klosterman seconded the nomination. The Chair asked for further nominations. Seeing as there were no other nominations, David Hill called for a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Kelly Klosterman seconded it. A vote was taken; unanimous vote in favor of selecting Bob Martin as the new Chair.
  - Chairperson Frederick called for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Kelly Klosterman nominated David Hill. Donna Grann seconded the nomination. Chair Frederick called for a vote. David was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

**Next Committee Meeting:**

The next SSCC board meeting will be in January, however, the board agreed to wait in deciding the exact date and location. Jodi will contact all the 2024 SSCC board members in December to get feedback on the best date/time/location.

**Adjournment:**

Adjourned at 7:45 am on Wednesday, November 15