

Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



Monday, May 22, 2023

Capital Electric, Bismarck, ND 58503

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 10:10 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 (via Teams)*
Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor*
Wes Frederick – *Area V Supervisor, Chair*
Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee (called in)*

Jodi Delozier – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*
Carissa Kittelson – *ND State Soil Conservation Committee Administrative Assistant*
Hannah Nordby – *Program Coordinator, Area V*
Lindsay Maddock – *Program Coordinator, Area I*

Committee Members absent:

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee, Vice Chair*

SSCC Director's Report:

- *Introduction:* Hannah Nordby
- *2023-2025 State Allocation of Funds via DART:* Report is set up quantitatively similar to how it was done in the past prior to DART. What can districts do to “improve” their funding/ranking? Some board members expressed a desire to have a qualitative piece. DART funds are to be used for staffing only. Previously the board set a max dispersal amount per SCD at 40,000, need to vote to increase, if needed. Top 27 districts will receive 32,435.56 middle 17 will receive 22,435.56 and bottom 10 districts will receive 10,435.56. Warren made the motion to approve, Donna 2 seconded. Motion carried. Will need to create a policy regarding turn backs in the future.
- *SWPPP request for approval:* Bowman Slope SCD issue
- *Mill levy issue:* Barnes County requested a mill levy increase and thought they got it but they did not and were not officially notified. Jodi will send an email to all districts regarding the process to request mill levy increase and to make sure you get a written reply back. Staple Century Code to the mill increase request. The commissioner CAN deny it, but there is a formula to follow and they need to have a reason why.
- *Supervisor training requirements:* Area meetings will not be on the Sunday before Convention. Host counties for the area meetings have mixed feelings about Jodi providing a short training, but Jodi will at least go to each of these meetings to provide an update. Should area meetings be considered supervisor training? Bob motioned to accept area meeting as a stand-alone supervisor training; Warren second. Motion carried.
- *Leadership Academy:* received a no cost extension; new deadline of 8/31/24. Next Academy session the second or third week of August via Zoom.
- *Local work groups:* SCDs do not need to have a local work group nor do they need to lead it; SCD CAN lead it, but NRCS can also. Partner with many community members – commissioner, ducks unlimited, forest service, etc.
- *Micro-lessons:* 10-15 minute PowerPoint. This would be sent to SCDs at the beginning of the month to watch at their monthly board meeting. These would be provided in the fall, winter, and spring (not summer). District staff

will need to keep track of who was at the meeting. Lindsay showed a sample. Motion by Donna to approve 4 microlessons viewed per year to count as supervisor training; 2nd by Warren; motion carried.

Program Coordinator Updates:

- **Lindsay:** Back beginning of April from Maternity leave. Created an onboarding checklist tool for districts. Education outreach and partners. Sugar beet and cover crop grant – Lindsay Malone, Pembina and Walsh counties will be involved, if accepted. Toolkit coming together. Eddy County is starting a water quality assessment. Foster county started “If I die binder” and will continue to work on it this summer. Cavalier county working on specific plan of work. Area I wants training.
- **Hannah:** Started May 16th. Trying to touch base with districts in the area.

Old Business:

The board opted to not use the tablets.

Health insurance issue remains unresolved.

New Business:

Legislative updates

Invite your senator/representative to your meetings – Lindsay and Jodi developed a template

Association having their meeting June 14 at Lincoln Oakes. Jodi and Wes are planning to attend.

Next Committee Meeting:

Early August in Jamestown, ND. Doodle Poll will be sent with dates.

Adjournment:

Bob motion to adjourn; Warren 2nd. Adjourned 2:03pm.