

Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



March 26, 2024

Via Zoom

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Bob Martin, Chairman.

Committee Members and guests present:

Emily Montgomery – *Area I Supervisor*

Warren Solberg – *Area II Supervisor*

David Hill – *Area III Supervisor, Vice Chair*

Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor, Chair*

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee*

Jodi Delozier – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*

Hannah Nordby – *Area V Program Coordinator*

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

Carrie Johnson – *NDSU Extension Assistant Director*

Committee Members absent:

Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee*

Jess O'Brien – *Area V Supervisor* (tried to connect, but was unable)

Introductions

David made a motion to approve the 1.19.24 meeting minutes. Warren seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of financials

SSCC Director's Report:

- Leadership Academy Training was held in Bismarck at the Heritage Center on January 30th (Level I) and January 31st (Level II). Talked about doing the next Academy in June. Still TBD.
- Program Coordinator Grant – Jodi presented to the committee in February, feedback submitted in March. Likely will not hear back until May to see if it will be funded. Hannah will remain in Area V, new person hired will be in Area I, III, or IV.
- SCD Advisory Board Members – Jodi sent a letter to Morton SCD regarding the role of advisory board members. Very few districts have advisory board members. Advisory board members are different than partners. Jodi is going to work with Bob on clarifying the verbiage on advisory member roles and then will send the definition out to the SCDs.
- Revised Supervisor Training – subcommittee made up of David and Jess helped come up with the new credit system. The document will be sent out to the committee by Jodi. Committee will provide comments to Jodi. Then, Jodi will talk to Bob to finalize credit system before sending out to districts and supervisors.
- Submission of Required SSCC Documents – Carissa emailed the board spreadsheets of the documentation that was submitted in 2023 and so far in 2024. Carrie Johnson said we could set up a State Soil Conservation Committee email address so all documentation could be submitted to that email. There are some districts that are not submitting documentation.
- Policy Concerning Unmet Requirements – discussed withholding SCDAP funds for districts who are not getting their documentation in.
- Supervisor oversight of SCD staff – There have been a few instances where supervisors are not holding their staff accountable to the duties that are required of the position.

- Policy guidelines for expenditure of SCD funds for promotion, education, and recognition activities. General supervisor handbook states that cash gifts are not allowed.

Program Coordinator Updates:

- **Hannah:**
 - Attended DAM meeting and presented on myths associated with grant writing
 - Attended monthly meetings in Bowman-Slope and Stark-Billings
 - Attended three SCD Events
 - One on one consultations with Bowman-Slope, Adams, Golden Valley and Slope-Hettinger
 - Hosted two webinars and will host a state wide grant writing workshop
 - Working on New Supervisor packet; requested feedback from SSCC regarding what to include

Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension - SBARE concluded their prioritization process last month. One of the initiatives did include additional operating dollars (\$150,000) for SCDs.

Old Business:

- Flickertail Solar Project – permitted through the township and is moving ahead. Individuals can comment if wanting to but SSCC will not comment on it. Richland SCD wrote a letter, not for or against, but asked for things to be taken care of soil, weeds, etc. Board recommendation is to leave it up to local SCDs.
- NASCA Annual Dues – paid half of dues already. Will wait until June or July to pay the rest based on where our budget is at that time.

New Business:

- Joint SCD Board Meeting – Mouse River and Turtle Mountain: David was unable to attend due to personal circumstances.
- SSCC Member Attendance Policy: Kelly made a motion to require board members to attend 50% of SSCC meetings annually. Seconded by Warren. Motion carried.

Next Committee Meeting:

The next SSCC board meeting will be in July. A doodle poll will be sent to finalize date.

Adjournment:

Warren made a motion to adjourn. David second. Adjourned at 2:59 p.m.