

Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



July 8, 2024

HoDo, Fargo, ND

A meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 12:26 p.m. by Bob Martin, Chairman.

Committee Members and guests present:

Emily Montgomery – *Area I Supervisor (via Zoom)*

Warren Solberg – *Area II Supervisor*

David Hill – *Area III Supervisor, Vice Chair*

Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor, Chair*

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee*

Jess O'Brien – *Area V Supervisor*

Hannah Nordby – *Area V Program Coordinator*

Amber Fetch – *ND State Soil Conservation Committee
Administrative Assistant*

Carrie Johnson – *NDSU Extension Assistant Director*

Committee Members absent:

Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee*

Introductions

SSCC member introductions.

Approval of March and April Meeting Minutes

- Kelly made a motion to approve the 3.26.2 and 4.1.24 meeting minutes with the correction of David Hill as the Vice Chair, not Kelly Klosterman. David seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of Financials

- NASCA Annual Dues—Carrie will make sure the rest of the dues are paid.
- Note to pay dues with any leftover grant money next year (before June 30).

Recess for lunch around 12:50 p.m. Resumed meeting at 1:13 p.m.

SSCC Director's Report:

- Welcome Amber Fetch
 - Changes to the Admin Assistant job description to remove the Farm Ranch and Safety Coordinator from the list of positions they support to relieve some pressure on the Admin Assistant role.
- Funding Updates (Appropriated and Grants)
 - Received needed funding for the Program Director role.
 - Leadership Academy grant was renewed for another four-year grant period. Roughly \$300,000 starting October 1.
 - Expanding to include a Level 3 to increase educational opportunities.
 - EAP 319 grant—extended for one year, with additional funding for three years after the extension. Roughly \$500,000 over three years.
 - Federal EPA grant through the Association.
 - Rhonda to provide letter of support for Bob with the SSCC to sign. Already voted on (4.1.24 meeting); letter just needs to be signed when received.

- Open Positions
 - Program Coordinator:
 - Covering Area III or I preferred (but not required; open to any Area but Area V (Hannah)).
 - Timeline = ASAP after the Program Director and Extension Specialist role is filled.
 - Program Director and Extension Specialist:
 - Request to recruit for the position approved last week. Position will be posted ASAP.
 - Search committee includes Bob Martin, Hannah Nordby, Rhonda Kelsch, and one additional member.
- Partner Meetings
 - NRCS/Employees Association/SCD Association/NDSU Program Director had a meeting to share updates with each other.
- MOU between NDSU Extension and SSCC needs to be done every 2 years; last done in 2022.
 - Needs to be updated at the next meeting.
 - Kelly requested original and revised versions of previous MOU be provided to Committee members.
- DART
 - Ward County SCD is behind (recently submitted Q4; missing Q1 & Q2).
 - Agreement to pay for Q4, but not Q1 or Q2.
 - Question about counties that declined DART payments.
 - McKenzie County was specifically mentioned; Carrie will track this down and follow up.
 - Revisit at the Q1 meeting next year and consider adding a policy regarding inability to pay out funds if counties are not up to date on DART reports.

Program Coordinator Updates:

- **Hannah:**
 - Helping with DART report follow up.
 - Supervisor training ideas (Leadership Academy Short Takes):
 - Developing relationships with local state's attorneys.
 - Hannah is interested in more ideas for trainings (topic ideas, opportunities, etc.).
 - Some ideas: budgets, financials, supervising people, onboarding people, etc. are what Partners are asking for.

Old Business:

- NASCA Annual Dues
 - Discussed; decided to split payments at a prior meeting.
- DART
 - Ward County SCD—won't get payment for Q1 & Q2 until they complete DART reports.
 - Ramsey and West McLean Counties won't receive Q2 payments until they complete DART reports.
 - Tracking spreadsheets to be shared with Committee at meetings to better keep track of DART records across SCDs, see issues, identify potential problem SCDs.
- Supervisor Training
 - Kelly moved to table the current supervisor training policy and opportunities until the new Director is hired. Jess seconded. A discussion ensued. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Area Meetings
 - Director's Report
 - Hannah & Carrie working on the Director's report.
 - Area II, David can give report.

- Area III, Kelly/Hannah can give report.
- SSCC Term Updates for 2024 and 2025
 - Bob Martin (Area IV) can be re-elected.
 - Warren is termed out.
 - 2025—Governor appointed terms are up (Kelly and Anthony).

Next Committee Meeting:

The next SSCC board meeting will be the evening of November 24, 2024, in Bismarck, ND. Details about the specific time and location will be shared via email in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment:

David made a motion to adjourn. Jess seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.