

MINUTES
NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK, ND
DECEMBER 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President James Teigen at 9:22am.

ATTENDANCE: Dennis Reich, Edward Hauf, James Cart, LeAnn Harner, Dennis Haugen, Marc Schriefer, Aaron Smestad, Curtiss Klein, Richard Faught, James Teigen

OTHERS ATTENDING: John Glover, Acting NRCS State Conservationist
Scott Hochhalter, NDSU Extension, NDSSCC
Greg Morgenson, Nurseries Manager
Tom Hanson, NDASCD Executive Director
Kathy Henriksen, Association Secretary

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

September 22, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes:

Corrections to September 22, 2009:

1. Page 4 under CONVENTION REVIEW – paragraph 4, the last sentence.
Change website to booth. The sentence to read: It was suggested to contact Dan Folske to assist with the booth.

Marc Schriefer moved approval of the September 22, 2009 Board meeting minutes as corrected. Curtiss Klein seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. The motion passed.

November 24, 2009 Reorganizational Meeting Minutes:

President James Teigen declared the minutes approved as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hanson presented the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the monthly financial statements sent to the Directors. He reported income is down a little from last year at this time.

NURSERIES MANAGER REPORT

Greg Morgenson reported October was the worst month for harvesting, however November was very good. The nursery workers are still grading, hope to complete it by next week. 975,000 tree sales at this time, with 125,000 conifers from Towner included in this total. He reported nationwide the nursery economy is tanking. The nursery crew is working on willow and poplar cuttings. In week or so the nursery staff will be layed off. The board discussed with Greg the availability of acres for other crops, etc. At this time we are using less people and growing less stock. Greg reported availability of stock at the nursery is excellent for promoting

living snow fences. It was suggested a living snow fence article be submitted to the Stockman's Association newsletter/magazine.

NACD REPORT

Richard Faught, NACD Board of Director reported on purchasing an auction item for the NACD annual meeting. He asked the board to participate in a short web based survey for NACD. NACD is requesting feedback from associations and SCDs to assist in prioritizing and defining the issues and concerns for the 2010 Legislative session. The NACD report will continue under new business.

10:10am - Break

10:27am- The meeting was reconvened

NRCS REPORT

John Glover, Acting State Conservationist reported it is his last week in North Dakota. NRCS should be announcing the appointment of the State Conservationist by the end of the week. Jack Russell will be acting state conservationist until the new person arrives in Bismarck. Jennifer Heglund will assume acting state conservationist duties in Minnesota. Mike Collins, Assistant State Conservationist in Jamestown is moving to Colorado and Codie Lacina will be the acting assistant state conservationist in Jamestown. The PMC agreement with NDASCD has been signed. He reported CSP had received 400 applications with over 1 million acres. NRCS is currently working on the assessment process. John stated he appreciated the working partnership with NDASCD and enjoyed his time in North Dakota.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Scott Hochhalter reported the SCDs are working on year end reports, audit requirements, re-organizations and election materials for the next two months. He distributed copies of the SCD Assistance Program 2009-2011 Biennium. Forty-seven SCDs will be receiving funds. The NDFS funds are also being used and will allow all SCDs in the state to receive funding (first time ever).

The board discussed the accreditation process. Tom and Scott will be visiting districts in 2010 to assist with this process. Dan Folske had several supervisors interested in the accreditation information at his booth during the convention. It is for the supervisors not the district employees to get accredited. The board discussed the need to recognize those supervisors who have completed the accreditation process in the newsletter and decide how to recognize them at the national level also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolutions and Policy Committee

Jim Cart, chairman reported on the two resolutions approved at the annual business meeting. The Living Snow Fence resolution will be sent to NACD for consideration. After

lengthy discussion it was decided the CRP Resolution be rewritten in narrative form, provide additional data and send to the local FSA board or to the state FSA board and make a friendly call to Aaron Krauter.

Dennis Haugen moved to forward the CRP resolution to NACD. Curtiss Klein seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. The motion passed.

Jim Cart moved to forward the Living Snow Fence resolution to NACD. Dennis Reich seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. The motion passed.

The board asked Curtiss Klein to work with Foster and Stutsman SCDs to gather further data/information to support the CRP resolution and send with to NACD.

Jim Cart will request a policy change for writing resolutions in the narrative form at the January meeting.

District Operations Committee

No issues needed attention at this time. To keep expenses down, it was decided not to meet this winter.

Natural Resources Committee

Edward Hauf will contact Brain Kalk for the meeting minutes. The committee continues to keep MRRIC and the Salinity position on the discussion topics. Jack Majeres attended the meeting also. No meeting date scheduled at this time.

NOON – Lunch

1:08pm – the meeting reconvened

Education Committee

The committee reviewed the applications for education funds process. The general consensus was to fund statewide projects. The following projects were recommended to the board.

Enivrothon	\$2,000.00
Trees Program	\$2,000.00
EcoEd	\$1,000.00

Curtiss Klein moved we fund the committee’s recommended statewide projects for 2010. Jim Cart seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Aaron Smestad

The motion passed.

The board discussed the planting of windbreaks for calf protection out in the western part of the state. Marc Schriefer stated Area V will look at this suggestion/concern at the Area V meeting with the possibility of a resolution for next year’s annual meeting.

Legislative Committee

LeAnn Harner, chair distributed copies of the minutes along with notes from the joint committee meeting. At this time no meeting is scheduled.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Hanson distributed copies of his report and highlighted the activities since the last board meeting (see pages 7-8)

He updated the Board on his work concerning the SBARE proposal. For his input session with SBARE, NRCS provided Tom with large ND maps which indicated the areas in ND of salinity and sodic areas. LeAnn Harner asked if NRCS would have smaller maps for us to put on the website. Tom reported on the letter sent to NDSU nominating Jim Teigen to serve on the search committee for the new NDSU president. A webinar meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2009 on Ag and Carbon Sequestration.

Area V Meeting

Dennis Reich reported low attendance at the area meeting on September 23. The tour was excellent and Dennis was re-elected as a director.

OLD BUSINESS

71ST Annual Meeting Review

The Board reviewed the Evaluation summary. They highlighted some of the comments made:

- Inspirational Service was excellent- great speaker Father Shea
- The PA system needs improvement
- Are all the greetings necessary at the sessions
- Need to improve the breakfast situation in the restaurant on Monday morning
- 2 mini-sessions and longer break to network
- Work on screens for Achievement banquet and to move the head table so they can see

Tom will share these comments with the Ramkota Hotel and incorporate them into next year's convention planning. The convention costs were reviewed.

Website

Tom Hanson updated the Board on the Association and Nursery website. We have a new provider and Mary Heintz has been trained by him on updating and revamping the website.

The board took a working break.

Achievement Award Winner Program

Fowler Photography is closing its doors as of December 31, 2009. The photographers are retiring. A new aerial photographer is needed. Some contacts were suggested, one from South Dakota and one from the Cass County area. Tom will research possible photographers from these suggestions and he will try to bring bids to the January meeting. The information for the Achievement program usually is sent out the end of January.

NACD ANNUAL MEETING

Marc Schriefer moved to grant permission for Richard Faught and James Teigen to purchase an auction item for the NACD Annual meeting not to exceed \$250.00. James Cart seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. The motion passed.

The Board completed the prioritization process for the NACD Legislative survey. The following issues were high to low for NDASCD:

High: 1. Technical Assistance, Cap and Trade and Clean Water Act Reauthorization
Medium: 2. Salinity, Forestry and Water Resources Development Act
Low: 3. Estate Tax issues

The Board asked Tom to go on the NACD website and input this information from Association by 12/18/09.

Mandan ARS Director

Jon Hanson is retiring at ARS the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory at Mandan and the board discussed the possibility of being a part of the hiring process for the new director and to be included on the search committee. A letter should be sent stating our support of ARS, the need to continue the focus group model, our support of the Area IV research farm and our interest in being a part of the search/hiring process. It was suggested to also send a letter to the congressional delegation stating our support of ARS at Mandan.

Jim Cart moved the Association send a letter stating our interest in the ARS director selection process. Marc Schriefer seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion passed.

Committee Assignments

Committee assignments were made. The chairs of the committees were asked to contact the members of their respective committee to see if they are willing to continue to serve on the committee and if needed to set a meeting date for 2010.

Retirement Plan

The Board discussed the current retirement /pension plan for full time employees. Consensus of the board was to have Tom Hanson contact John Power, third party advisor for retirement/pension plans to attend our next meeting with options for the Board. The board asked Tom Hanson to gather necessary information needed for John to report back to the board in January.

NDASCD Newsletter

The board discussed the cost of printing and mailing the NDASCD newsletter. **Richard Faught moved beginning in January 2010 the newsletter will be emailed to the SCDs for them to share with the supervisors and the newsletter will be put on the website. Dennis Haugen seconded the motion. All Board members voted aye. The motion passed.**

It was suggested to cut costs of mailings that all agendas, minutes, letters, etc be emailed to the directors.

OTHER:

Living Snow Fence

The board discussed the possibility of hosting a meeting for partners to continue talking and promoting the living snow fence idea and to discuss the issue of ranchers' protection shelterbelt for calves. It was decided to plan for this meeting in March along with the Board meeting. Tom will gather information and contact groups about this event.

Delinquent tree bills

The board discussed and agreed for Tom to call the districts if bills are not paid by January and to send a letter if necessary.

The board decided to have Tom's Performance Evaluation in 2010.

Tom reported on correspondence he received from the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts executive director about a jobs bill/stimulus bill. He will follow up on this because he doesn't want North Dakota to miss out on any monies available.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, January 19 because of the holiday on Monday, January 18.

President James Teigen declared the meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

Curtiss Klein,
Secretary

Recorded by
Kathy Henriksen
Association Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 14, 2009

September

23	Area V Meeting	Regent
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October

13	Grain Growers	Bismarck
20-21	SARE Planning meeting	Brookings, Pierre
23	SBARE Presentation	Fargo

November

16	Area IV Farm Supervisors Meeting	Mandan
22-24	NDASCD Annual Meeting	Bismarck

December

3	Retirement Plan meeting	LON
9	PMC Annual Review	PMC
10	ND Water Convention	Bismarck

NDASCD Annual Meeting

Significant time was spent on preparation for the Annual Meeting. This involved details with the speakers, mini-sessions, and facility.

SARE Project

A two day trip to South Dakota was taken in October to confirm locations, times, and content of material to be presented in the Soil Health/Soil Biology Training. The trainings will take place in Bismarck, Carrington, Pierre, and Mitchell in June. The dates should appear on Extension and NRCS calendars at this time.

SBARE

I presented our salinity proposal and microbiologist proposal to the ND State Board of Agricultural Research and Education in October. The proposal was well received. I have since sent an initiative to NDSU Agriculture Administration for refinement and ultimate inclusion in the package given to SBARE for prioritization.

NDWUA

I attended the ND Water Convention in November to listen to sessions regarding the Missouri River and Clean Water Act Reauthorization. These were very good sessions and significant information was gleaned from the speakers presentations.