

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK**  
**JUNE 27, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President LeAnn Harner at 9:26am

**ATTENDANCE:** Edward Hauf, Dennis Reich, LeAnn Harner, James Cart, Richard Faught, Curtiss Klein, Aaron Smestad, James Teigen, Donald O. Anderson

Absent: Dennis Haugen

**OTHERS ATTENDING:**

Jennifer Heglund, Assistant NRCS State Conservationist  
Greg Morgenson, Nurseries Manager  
Tom Hanson, NDASCD Executive Director  
Mary Heintz, Director of Business Operations  
Rhonda Vetsch, Member of NDCDEA  
Kathy Henriksen, Association Secretary

President LeAnn Harner welcomed and introduced Donald O. Anderson, new director from Williams County SCD. Board introductions were made.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

One correction to the draft minutes: page 2 under NDSSCC report: Add “Shelly Vetter’s” name to have worked on the Employees’ Handbook with Rhonda Vetsch.

**Jim Cart moved to approve the March 14, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting minutes as corrected. Ed Hauf seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Dennis Haugen**

**Motion passed.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Tom Hanson reviewed the May monthly budget analysis and the profit and loss statements which were sent out to all Directors. Tom reported employee benefits have increased this year, one reason the hiring of a new fulltime employee. He reported on the following capital purchases:

1. New Holland (used) tractor
2. 2005 Dodge Red Pickup

The board discussed the budget and financial status of the Lincoln/Oakes Nurseries and Association. Would it be possible for the Association and the Nursery to operate on their own budgets? This will be discussed in more detail during the time of the 2012 proposed budget presentation.

**Ed Hauf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jim Cart seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Dennis Haugen**

**The motion passed.**

**NURSERY MANAGER'S REPORT** – Greg Morgenson

Greg Morgenson reported on the current activities at the Nursery. He reported on the effects of the Missouri River flooding on the Nursery and non-functioning of the irrigation system. The plan is to utilize the Cottonwood Park city irrigation system this summer. We have only had to use the system once so far this summer. Because of the wet conditions the nursery crew is still working on cuttings however should finish up this week. Oakes Nursery will be the major transfer for new plantings. There was an increase of potted stock sales this year. The nursery will continue to provide them. Tree sales are at 1.856 million – 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the history of the Nursery.

**The Board recessed for a break at 10:25am**

**Reconvened the meeting at 10:30am**

Tom Hanson presented a Missouri River flooding power point on the effects on the LON pumphouse. Tom reported all that has been done to save our irrigation system. No idea how much it will cost to get it back in working conditions after this summer.

President LeAnn Harner commented on the President and the Executive Director reports which were emailed out prior to the meeting and are attached to the minutes. She asked for any clarification.

**Budget Presentation**

Tom Hanson and Greg Morgenson presented the 2012 proposed budget. Greg Morgenson distributed copies of capital purchase requests and stated the priorities. The board reviewed the income, expenses and the capital expenses. The board discussed various ways to increase our income as an Association and as LON/Association. Income possibilities would be to increase convention registration, tree prices and district dues. **Ed Hauf suggested raising convention registration to \$10. This was a consensus of the board.** James Teigen reported a dues increase is not a bylaw change but needs to be proposed for approval at the Annual business meeting. The board will continue discussion on the budget later in the afternoon.

**12:29pm– recessed for Lunch**

**1:05pm – the Board meeting reconvened**

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **NRCS Report- Jennifer Heglund**

Jennifer Heglund, Assistant State Conservationist reported no state conservationist hired yet. She went through programs and gave current status. She reviewed new program opportunities. NRCS has received money to secure partnerships for conservation TA into the future. They will need contribution agreements with SCDs to do this. Rhonda Vetsch expressed a need for TA training to accomplish these goals. Jennifer responded to ways they may be able to accomplish this. EQIP, WGP, CSP contracts would have to be signed by mid September. The details will be rolled out shortly. She reported on an Initiative 2 for wildlife habitat management for next year. This needs to be obligated by August 15. It focuses on wildlife management and the producer (in giving up land for habitat) can be reimbursed. It is a working lands initiative.

### **NDSSCC**

In the absence of Scott Hochhalter, Tom Hanson distributed copies of the 2011-13 SCD Technical Assistance Program Allocation information. The applications have been ranked and awarded. Fifty-four districts will receive monies from SSCC. All districts will receive NDFS funds.

### **NACD**

Richard Faught reviewed the priorities of the 2012 Farm Bill. It was suggested the board submit a proposal /resolution for the annual meeting. Ed Hauf suggested Jim Cart, James Teigen and Dick Faught draft a proposal by the September Board meeting for review.

Dick will be attending the Washington, DC meeting in July 15-19<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Hanson commented on the “urgent requests” by NACD.

### **Clean Water Act Letter**

Tom Hanson reviewed the letter he drafted on the April 2011 Clean Water Protection Guidance recently published by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jim Cart complimented Tom on the excellent, clear and well researched letter. The consensus of the board was to send the letter with President Harner’s signature.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Area Meetings-** LeAnn Harner reported on the Area meetings in her President’s report. The 3 proposed resolutions were distributed and reviewed and given to Jim Cart, Chair of the Resolutions and Policy committee. (see attachment )
2. **Annual Meeting**
  1. Inspirational Service- Chair, Curtiss Klein
  2. Luncheon speaker suggestions:
    - a. Geologist
    - b. Climatologist
    - c. Salinity documentary

### 3. Mini-sessions

- a. Rhonda Vetsch, NDDCEA board member requested 2 mini- sessions for the supervisors and employees
- b. The following sessions were decided on:
  - Biofuels
  - Mob Grazing
  - Soil Salinity (2) Documentary/new positions
  - Tile Drainage
  - Shelterbelt Restoration
  - Employees /Supervisors Mini sessions (2)
  - Trees
- c. Theme – Board Consensus: **“Leaving the Land Better for Tomorrow”**

**3:30pm- Break**

**3:40pm reconvened**

#### **New Business:**

1. NDASCD Legislative Supporters

After reviewing support from legislators, it was discussed if the association should give recognition to certain individuals who have been strong advocates for conservation. The Board decided to honor Senator Holmberg, Senator Bowman and Rod Howe by inviting them to the banquet at the Convention and give recognition at that time along with a gift.

Other suggestions for the convention banquet:

- Entertainment at the meal- dinner music not so much performance
- No head tables- reserved tables in front and also podium and chairs and stage

Professional and Layperson Awards applications were reviewed for clarification.

LeAnn distributed the legislative adjustments for travel and per diem. The board reviewed and will make changes. The adjustments go into effect August 1.

2. NDSU Soil Health Positions

They are working on job description and a search committee is being formed. James Teigen and Tom Hanson have been asked to serve on the committee.

3. Congressional Tour- July 21, 2011

Tom Hanson distributed the itinerary for this event.

4. Miscellaneous

CREP Proposal Tom discussed the pending grant proposal. He was notified that the in-kind match does not qualify. After discussion, the board consensus was for Tom to proceed with the CREP grant as is.

**Budget discussion continued:**

James Teigen commented the last seven years, losses have reduced our reserves by \$900,000. After lengthy discussion on the budget concerns and status of the Association/LON, the board agreed to bring to the Annual Business meeting in November 2011 the proposal to increase district dues to \$250.00/SCD.

The board discussed increasing the price of trees by 15%. It was decided to consider changing Board meetings to 4 times a year instead of 5 and to hold committee meetings at the convention and if needed a conference call.

It was suggested to allocate Tom's time as 60% to Association work and 40% to Nursery work.

**Dennis Reich moved to increase the price of trees by 15% and approved the revised 2012 proposed budget. Jim Cart seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Curtiss Klein and Dennis Haugen**

**The motion passed.**

President LeAnn Harner adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm.

Tom reported on the freezing of staff salaries this year. Also, he reported on continuing the health and retirement benefits for eligible staff.

Curtiss Klein, Secretary

Recorded by  
Kathy Henriksen  
NDASCD Secretary

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT  
6-21-10**

**Activities**

March

9	Living Snow Fence Task Force	Bismarck
10	Area II	Lisbon
11	Ag Coalition	Mandan
18	Tree Promotion Meeting	Bismarck
19	LSF with DOT	Bismarck
22	SARE Advisory Council	Medina

April

6	NACD State Execs Conference Call	
13	Soil Work Planning (NRCS)	Bismarck
28	MRARPS (Corps of Engineers)	Bismarck

May

17	Larson Road Construction	Bismarck
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June

2	Basin Electric (LS)	Bismarck
3	Area V Annual Meeting	Beulah
9	Construction meeting Tavis Road	Bismarck
15-18	Soil Health/Soil Biology Training	Pierre, Mitchell

**Living Snow Fence**

Several meetings with various agencies and companies have taken place to promote living snow fence in several capacities including carbon offsets, CREP, other federal programs.

**Farm Bill Summit**

A session to determine what the conservation community in North Dakota would look like in the new Farm Bill will be held on July 28 at the Mandan ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory. This meeting will include representatives from NDASCD, NDSSCC, and NRCS. This will be the first step in a strategy to have our ideas and needs included in the drafting of the new Farm Bill.

**Soil Health/Soil Biology**

I continue to give a majority of my time to seeing this project to completion.

## President's Report - June 16, 2011

Lots of things (many very positive) have been happening since our last meeting. Area meetings have been completed. Two new board members. Sandra Meidinger from McIntosh County SCD was elected to finish the second year of Ed Hauf's term. Ed will continue through the convention. Donald O. Anderson from Williams SCD was elected to finish Marc Schriefer's term in Area V and will start immediately. Julie Hoff from Dennis' district will serve on the State Committee from Area V.

We have 3 resolutions. In Area IV - one resolution would add support for research on soils and crops. The second resolution requests if there are Dutch elm resistant cultivars available, that SCDs be allowed to sell them as hand plants. The resolution from Area V suggested we go from 2 directors in each area to one. These ought to provide some discussion at the convention!

In other action - Ed asked Area IV if they'd support having the interest from the Trust that normally goes to SCDs instead go to the Association and got overwhelming support. When I talked about our financial woes at Area V, Gordon Kadrmas suggested raising dues. When I said it had been discussed, but not implemented, he suggested that "raising dues makes us feel like partners."

District assistance grants - between the State Legislature and the Forest Service, the Committee was nearly able to fund all requests. That's great, but it also sets the bar very high for the future.

We did not send anyone to the NACD Regional Meeting in SD. After looking at the cost versus the program, we just thought our time and money could be better spent elsewhere.

NRCS has sent more information about the contribution agreements to all DCs. They're also going to get some training about what will work and what won't. Much of the confusion of the initial contribution agreements was the fact that they're new to NRCS here and some of the things NRCS thought it could do wouldn't work according to contract law. Now they think they have the kinks worked out.

NRCS also extended the time for cost-share tree planting to June 15<sup>th</sup> ....and is willing to go beyond that a bit with permission from the DC and area office staff, who can inspect the trees, cooler situation and the planting site to see if the trees have a good chance of survival. Waivers are being granted to do our best to accommodate SCDs and producers.

NACD is hosting a conference call for their Legislative Contacts in each state next week. The House Ag Appropriations completed work on the conservation portion of their bill yesterday – haven't heard results yet – but expect our conference call to be very interesting.

LeAnn

**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**2011 RESOLUTIONS**

... to be considered at the November 22, 2011 Annual Meeting

**1. Ag Research Resolution**  
(Introduced by Oliver SCD)

We support agricultural research in soil and crop science; based on science and emphasizing practical applications. This includes such areas as soil health, microbiology, salinity and sodic soils, crop sequencing with both annual and perennial crops, cover crops and integrated cropping systems.

Furthermore, we support and strongly encourage efforts to promote and disseminate the results of such research. We especially encourage SCDs to sponsor demonstration plots to showcase the research.

**Reason for proposing:**

During an annual review of NDASCD Conservation Policy, under Research Needs, there is support for research on trees, range management and breeding of forages, but somehow, soil and crop science were not included.

Considering the Area IV Research Farm and our association with ARS in Mandan, and Districts' strong use of NDSU researchers, it seemed prudent to specifically state our support of agricultural research for both soil and crop science.

**2. Reintroduce American Elms to North Dakota**  
(Introduced by Morton County SCD)

Whereas, as a plains state, we have very limited treed areas with only a few species. The American Elm has been greatly reduced by Dutch Elm disease. The Green Ash is now threatened.

Lately disease resistant American Elms and hybrid elms have been released, but are not readily available commercially.

Resolved, if a source for elms that are likely to have a good chance of being disease resistant can be obtained, the SCD's should be able to reintroduce them and to make them available to the public as hand plants.

**3. NDASCD Board Representatives**  
(Introduced by Dunn County SCD)

Currently the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts has two representatives from each of the five areas serving on the NDASCD Board. It is getting increasingly difficult to fill two positions from each area. We would like to recommend one representative from each area serve on the board instead of two. When the representative's term is up, that position would be allowed to expire, leaving the one representative. If that representative is not able to attend a meeting there could be a proxy.