

MINUTES
NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK
March 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President LeAnn Harner at 9:07am.

ATTENDANCE: Edward Hauf, James Cart, Aaron Smestad, Curtiss Klein, Richard Faught, James Teigen, LeAnn Harner

ABSENT: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich

OTHERS ATTENDING: Greg Morgenson, Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries Manager
Paul Sweeney, State Resource Conservationist
Terry Grisvold, Assistant State Conservationist
Scott Hochhalter, NDSSCC
Tom Hanson, NDASCD Executive Director
Kathy Henriksen, Association Secretary

Tom Hanson stated Aaron Smestad and Curtiss Klein are on their way but are having difficulty driving in some areas.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

President LeAnn Harner declared the January 18, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting minutes approved as printed and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hanson reviewed the February monthly budget analysis and the profit and loss statements which were sent out to all Directors. He stated year to date tree sales and expenses are about the same as last year.

James Teigen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jim Cart seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.

Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich, Curtiss Klein, Aaron Smestad

The motion carried.

President LeAnn Harner asked if there were any questions on the written reports of the President and Executive Director which were mailed out with the board agenda. There were no questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tom Hanson (attached)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – LeAnn Harner (attached)

NURSERIES MANAGER'S REPORT – Greg Morgenson

Greg reported on the activities at the Nurseries. The staff is finishing up on cuttings and maintenance work is being caught up on before spring deliveries begin. There have been some tree shipments to Kansas. As soon as we get some warmer weather we will start shipping to the NRDs in Nebraska. Greg reported 1,384,000 seedlings have been sold. We need to sell at least a million additional seedlings to make budget. Greg reported his major concern is to sell trees and the programs are not there for the incentive for farmers/producers to purchase trees. The biggest question is where do we market our trees- who is our customer?

At this time, Paul Sweeney, State Conservationist, updated the board on the NRCS new living snow fence initiative with \$500,000. of funding available through EQIP and the Forestry initiative through CRP with \$250,000. available. NRCS conducted an extensive outreach campaign with billboards, brochures and posters to promote tree plantings for living snow fences. There were 71 requests for living snow fences which will generate tree sale income for 2012. The requests were approved for funding and now ready to go to contracts.

NDSSCC – Scott Hochhalter

Scott distributed a handout on the Technical Assistance funding – 54 applications were received for funding and were evaluated. He reported the committee is reviewing the scoring process for ranking the applications. Scott updated the board on the ND Forest Service funding grant.

9:52am - Aaron Smestad and Curt Klein arrived for the meeting.

9:54am - Break

10:02am - meeting was reconvened

Continue with the NDSSCC Report

Scott reported he is currently working with districts to zero out their funds or turn back for use in other districts. Scott distributed a draft copy of a form for Technical Assistance by SCDs (time Sheet) and a form to list conservation Technical assistance activity to be reimbursed. These forms will assist the committee in tracking activities of SCDs. Scott will present the draft forms to district employees at the Tree Promotional meeting for their input and discussion. He stated Rhonda Vetsch and Shelly Vetter have developed a District Employee Manual including information on the programs and activities of SCDs.

NRCS – Paul Sweeney

Paul handed out his activity report since his last meeting and reviewed the programs.

He reported the continuing resolution runs out 3/18/11. Paul reported on the technical assistance agreements to districts. The agreement with FWS has been signed and posted to the Field Office Technical Guide. Paul reported previous tree plans were approved.

NACD Report

Dick Faught reported he and James Teigen attended the NACD annual meeting in

Nashville, TN. James Teigen wrote a NACD article for the February issue of the NDASCD newsletter highlighting the meeting. Dick reported he attended the Western Coalition meeting, the District Operations meeting and the Northern Plains regional meeting. He reported approximately 20 people from ND attended the Convention. Dick reported the Missouri River Basin resolution passed supporting conservation. Dick stated the ND auction item sold for \$800. Also he brought back a NACD Supervisor Accreditation Plaque recognizing NDASCD for meeting their requirements and elements criteria in the accreditation program.

Committee Reports:

1. Education: Curt Klein, chair distributed copies of the Education Committee minutes from their meeting on March 4, 2011. He reported it was an excellent, informative meeting. Dawn Martin and Rhonda Vetsch from the District Employees were in attendance. The committee recommends the following distribution of budget funds from the Education line item:

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

**Aaron Smestad moved approval of allocating education funds as recommended by the Education Committee. Curtiss Klein seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich
The motion carried.**

Marketing Lincoln-Oakes Nursery – Brainstorming Session

- *1. Determine who your customer is. Customer base
ND districts, other districts, nurseries
 - a. Do research to who we can sell to-(in operating policy)
 - b. Handplants- can't afford the private nurseries so want to purchase from LON
 1. Sell online (at shows)
 2. Surplus computers ITS available through NRCS
2. Sell Oakes Nursery
- * 3. Photos of shelterbelts for website (NDSU)- links to other agencies on websites
- *4. Living Snow Fence
 - a. CREP
 - b. photos of effective belts (award winners)
- *5. Living Barns-testimonials
- *6. Renovations (shelterbelt) life expectancy
 7. Penalties for removal of trees without replanting
- *8. Education (improve ethnics for land –KNDC)
- *9. Screen oil sites and industrial parks - promoting with oil and gas companies-
Contact Ron Ness – ND Petroleum Council how to pursue this
Community plantings-screen development-quality of environment
10. Promotion of carbon credits (greenhouse gas)
- * 11. Interface with cities expanding urban and rural

- 12. Reservations
 - a. wildlife
 - b. screening
- *13. Having a presence at other organizations meetings- regional associations- Annual meetings/townships-getting on the agenda
- 14. County engineers consulting contacts with counties and townships
- *15. SCDs (visit farmers at cafes, bars, farm visits) talk to the women in ag-ladies

Ag Night

- *16. SCDs-offer full service for trees
- 17. Product-tubes, stakes, fabric
- *18. Regional concept-promotions
 - Northern Plains meeting
 - Districts/NRDs-tree planting (will investigate).

*** doable suggestions**

12:10pm - James Teigen left meeting

12:28pm - Break for lunch

1:45pm - Reconvened meeting

2011 Conservation Policy

The Board of Directors worked on updating the Conservation Policy. The following changes were made to the 2010 Conservation Policy:

Page 2 D. Funding Priorities and Spending

#1 Change to read: The NDASCD will promote and provide leadership to seek adequate Soil Conservation District Assistance Program funding during legislative sessions to ensure....(BOD 2011)

Page 5 C. USDA Farm Programs

Add # 6 and re-number to read: We recommend the Farm Service Agency (FSA) authorize lifting of the current haying and grazing limitations of CRP Practice CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover, in order to maximize reduction of salinity by encouraging maximum forage production through mowing or haying to a minimum forage height of six inches, beginning as early as June 20 annually. (BOD 2011)

IV Research Needs

Second line to read: Ongoing research needs to show potential financial benefits to agricultural producers and taxpayers. (BOD 2011)

Page 6 C. States Water Rights

Add another paragraph to read: The NDASCD opposes any effort by the Federal government to usurp control of all bodies of water in the United State, specifically by changing the words “navigable waters” to “waters of the United States” in reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. (BOD 2011)

Page 7 VI Other

A. District Visitations/Minutes

Delete and add first paragraph into Administrative policy under (Directors 3-1)

Aaron Semstad moved to adopt the changes to the Conservation Policy for 2011. Edward Hauf seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich, and James Teigen The motion carried.

Administrative Policy

Page 2-1 Committees

#2 Delete “and pastors” (March 2011)

#3 Add “and” between supervisors and auxiliary members and delete “and pastors” (March 2011)

Page 3-1 Directors

Add #2: **District Visitations** (from the Conservation Policy)

To read: The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation District directors are encouraged to meet once a year with the soil conservation district board of supervisors they represent on the NDASCD Board. To facilitate Directors’ visits, districts are encouraged to invite their Director(s) to the meeting, indicating date, time, place of meeting. All other arrangements are to be coordinated with the district and the NDASCD Director(s). (1997) BOD2005) (BOD 2006) (March 2011)

Page 5-1 Meetings

#3 Minutes

B. To read: Minutes shall be electronically mailed to the Soil Conservation Districts in a timely manner. (March 2011)

Page 6-1 NACD

#3 Delete: Board of, add (March 2011)

Page 8-1 Scholarship

C. To read: Being enrolled for study in the Department of Soil Science within the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources; majoring in a soil conservation course of study. (March 2011)

Page 9-1 Resolutions

Add new paragraph A and re-letter B-G:

A. Resolutions should be written in straight-forward, narrative format, eliminating the “Whereas:” and “Therefore Be It Resolved:” paragraph headings. The first paragraph shall contain the subject and desired outcome of the resolution. Succeeding paragraphs should address information/facts/evidence to support the purpose addressed in the first paragraph. The entire narrative should not exceed one single spaced, typewritten page in length. (December 2009)

B. Should read: All resolutions should be initiated by a district, area, standing committee or Board of Directors of the Association.(March 2011)

Page 10-1 Travel

#2 Meals

D. Add “and spouse are” after President, and delete “for himself and his spouse” (March 2011)

Page 10-2 Lodging

C. To read: the president is authorized reimbursement for double room occupancy when attending area meetings with spouse. (March 2011)

State Convention Reimbursement

A. To read: the State Association shall reimburse SCDs with Directors on the Board 50% of the NDASCD directors' expenses for attending...(March 2011)

Page 11-1 Awards/Recognitions

1). Length of Service Awards

B. delete the word Yearly (March 2011)

Page 11-2 #7 parenthesis around 1992 and delete the word recommendation (March 2011)

Page 11-3 Appreciation Certificates

E. #3 To read: All nominations should be submitted to the Association at least 30 days prior to any presentation, if possible. (March 2011)

#9 Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries Award of Excellence

to read: Plaques will be presented at the NDASCD Annual Meeting to the top three districts based on the volume of trees and shrubs purchased from Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries (March 2011)

#13 **District Newsletter Certificates** A. to read: Certificate presented at NDASCD Annual Meeting yearly for: developing a district newsletter during the first year, publishing a district newsletter for 5 years and every five years thereafter.

District newsletters must be issued at least 4 times a year. (March 2011)

#15 Delete President's Watch and re-number

#14 **Director's Plaque** should read: A. Each retiring NDASCD Director shall be offered the opportunity to receive a plaque. (March 2011)

Page 13-1 Insurance

1) Delete Carbon Credit Verifier Errors and Omissions

4) Should read: A\$10,000.00 term group insurance for permanent full time employees, with dependent coverage, is to be paid in full by the Association. (March 2011)

5) C. Should read: The employee will be paid by his/her department the difference between the base salary for a pay period and the benefits received under Workers Safety Insurance while on sick or annual leave. (March 2011)

Page 14-1 Leave

1) Annual Leave E. Should read: Should an employee die while employed, his/her beneficiaries will be entitled to cash payment of all earned annual leave. (March 2011)

Page 17-1 Rebates

1) Should read: Give North Dakota Districts a 1 cent (1¢) rebate per tree purchased through Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries payable only upon the Association showing a profit of at least double the expected rebate the previous fiscal year. This rebate will be paid by check at the State Convention to districts not showing an outstanding balance with Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries on Tuesday midnight prior to the Convention. (March 2011)

**Dick Faught moved to adopt the changes to the Administrative Policy for 2011. Edward Hauf seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich, and James Teigen
The motion carried.**

2011 Annual Meeting

Dawn Martin, President of District Employees Association joined the meeting for discussion on the annual meeting. The board decided they liked the new format from last year so will do it again this year. The board discussed the possibility bringing in a motivational speaker for the luncheon.

The board suggested the following topics for mini-sessions:

1. Biofuels
2. Districts' participation
3. Employees
4. Continuing CRP to Cropland
5. District programs-showcase
6. Tile Drainage – NRCS and RC&D documentary in September
7. Soil Salinity- if positions are in place and opportunity to introduce the persons and have them present a session
8. Shelterbelts renovation (Cooperstown)
9. Living Barn-energy conservation with trees
10. Working lands with wildlife

Dawn mentioned the district Employees may desire having a training event at the Convention. She will get back to the board on meetings, etc that their association will have at the convention.

The board members were asked to bring ideas for a theme to the June board meeting.

One theme suggested was: Leaving the Land better for Tomorrow!"

New Business

1) 2010-2011 Audit

The board discussed the cost of the audit. Tom Hanson suggested we audit every other year if the bylaws allow for it. The board consented to allowing an every other year audit if bylaws allow for it.

Tom Hanson updated the board on the HB1020 and ARS funding.

2) Achievement Program

Tom Hanson updated the Board on his discussions with Dave Tunge, Dakota Aerials about the Achievement Program and contract.

Jim Cart moved to award the Achievement Winner Program agreement to Dakota Aerials, Dave Tunge. Aaron Smestad seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich, and James Teigen The motion carried.

**3) NACD Meeting- Washington DC- July 16-19, 2011
Northern Plains Meeting- June 5-9, 2011**

Jim Cart moved to authorize the NACD Board Member to attend the NACD Summer Legislative and Board meeting in Washington, D.C. on July 16-19, 2011 and the NACD Board member and Alternate to attend the Northern Plains meeting on June 5-9, 2011. Edward Hauf seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich and James Teigen. The motion carried.

4) Reserve Adjustment

The board discussed the financial situation of the nursery/association.

Edward Hauf moved to set reserve at \$1.25 million. Aaron Smestad seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye. Absent: Dennis Haugen, Dennis Reich and James Teigen The motion carried.

President Harner reminded the board that the June meeting is our budget meeting and there will need to be serious discussion on money issues.

President LeAnn Harner declared the meeting adjourned at 4:19pm.

Curtiss Klein, Secretary

Recorded by:
Kathy Henriksen
NDASCD Secretary

Attachments:
President's Report
Executive Director's Report

President's Report – March, 2011

Since the last meeting.....no more lengthy emails to board members....or at least, not so many. I've been mostly occupied with prepping for area meetings and trying to dream up ideas for the nursery.

You'll see the notes from my meeting with Mary and Greg about the nursery, changes and past marketing ideas. A couple of things I didn't include related to management:

- Busiest time of year is April through May 7th. That's for lifting, grading and shipping.
- The actual cost of Labor Ready employees as of Feb. 28th is \$11.83/hour, which includes all taxes, workers comp, etc.
- The Oakes nursery has 2 full-time staff plus seasonals. They also basically duplicate all the equipment that we have in Bismarck, but Bismarck has the storage and shipping facilities.
- Lots of frustration between Greg and Mary getting calls from people who want trees, but have been told by their SCDs that trees aren't available – especially for hand plants. Anything we can do to smooth that over would be helpful.

It would be my suggestion that we hold our June meeting at Oakes so everyone can tour the fields and facility and understand that resource.

Thanks to Jim T. for bringing the classified ad about the tractor to our January meeting. It was close to Aaron, so he's checked out the tractor and thought it was a deal. However, the owner has decided not to sell, but put Aaron onto a different tractor. Aaron is working hard to try to get the deal completed so he can deliver a tractor when he comes to the meeting. Thanks, Aaron!

On the Area IV side....the USDA-ARS research lab in Mandan has been receiving \$543,000 in earmarked funds for several years. When Congress and the President agreed on "no earmarks," the lab was looking at a retroactive reduction of the \$543,000 for FY 2011 and losing that money for FY 2012. (RC&Ds are basically caught in the same dilemma.) So I made a quick trip to Washington, DC Feb. 23-25 with Rocky Bateman from Morton Co. SCD and Russ Staiger from Bismarck-Mandan Development Corporation to talk to our Congressional delegation, ARS, NACD, etc. The message was the same all over Capitol Hill – we don't know what will happen, it is a fluid situation, but – we believe that in the end there will be some type of earmarking – perhaps under a different name, but some system will need to be in place to allow Congress to direct spending. There will be cuts – many pretty severe – but a lengthy government shutdown is quite unlikely and most predicted another continuing resolution, just as we've seen passed today. This two-week extension gives us a bit of breathing room, but cuts are coming.

What does this mean for RC&Ds? It's anyone's guess. The same for 319 grants. One person says yes, they've been cut and the next person thinks they're still in the budget. Congressman Berg cast 140 votes in one day on one of the

continuing resolution bills, so things are extremely hard to track.

On the upside – our Congressional delegation is working together. Senator Conrad will be in a pivotal role on the Budget Committee. Senator Hoeven and Congressman Berg are getting staff members in place – though many of them haven't met their North Dakota counterparts yet. Better yet, Tom is meeting the local staff people and I've met their Washington people, so we're establishing a good relationship. Tom's already invited the staff to come out to the nursery for a tour. I suspect NACD is going to be very happy that Krysta Harden, former NACD CEO is now USDA Chief of Staff.

Going through our meeting agenda – I intend to push through reports and focus on action with our brainstorming session on the nursery, policy review (Jim Cart says he's ready!) and then we get to work on the convention. Bring your ideas – and you probably want to review the evaluations from the last convention.

Our last item of business will be to decide if we're willing to adjust the amount of money we're keeping in reserve – understanding that, if we don't, we could easily be out of business. Hmmm....it must be the same of feeling Congress gets when they vote on the national debt.

Let's put our thinking caps on and see if we can find some solutions.
LeAnn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 14, 2011

January

19	Burleigh Co. SCD Soil Health Workshop	Bismarck
25	Hearing on HB 1020—House Appropriations	Bismarck

February

1	Kathy's Birthday (BIG PARTY!!!)	LON
3	Hearing on SB 2342	Bismarck
4	Mandan NGPRL—ARS Focus Group	Mandan
10	Area V meeting (planning)	Williston
11	Check out tractor for nursery	Niagara
14	ARS meeting	Mandan
15	NGPRL Research Review	Mandan
16	Meet with Sen. Conrad's staff	Bismarck
22	Meet with Sen. Hoeven's staff	Bismarck
23	State RC&D Conference	Bismarck
23	NDSSCC meeting	LON
24	Area IV meeting (planning)	Garrison

March

1	Meet with Congressman Berg's staff	Bismarck
2	Area III meeting (planning)	Westhope
4	NDASCD Education Committee	LON
7	Area II meeting	Cooperstown
9	Cover Crop meeting (NDSU)	Bismarck
10	EPA Particulate Matter conference call	

Area Meetings

Areas III, IV, and V have had preliminary planning discussions and should have final plans in place shortly.

Area III	Westhope
Area IV	Garrison
Area V	Williston

ARS

The Mandan ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory has been cut \$543,000 with the elimination of earmarks in the budget process. Time has been spent assisting in an attempt to get these funds reinstated somewhere.

ND Legislature

Some time has been spent attending hearings and visiting with legislators regarding HB 1020 and the use of the mill levy.

Congressional Delegation

With conservation and Farm Bill budget cuts, ARS budget cuts, and a new Farm Bill considered possibly this fall, there has been much to discuss with the Congressional delegation's staff. Two of these staffs are new and I have begun the process of getting to know them and vice versa.