

Minutes
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
NDASCD Office & *via Zoom*
June 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Rocky Bateman at 8:28 am.

ATTENDANCE: Rocky Bateman, Keith Bartholomay, Perry Bollum, Steve Gilje, Richard Knopp Jr., Sam Partlow, Kent Peterson, and Albert Wood.

Absent: Monte Bloms and Kelly Froelich.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Deb Buechler, Bill Elhard, Aubrey Evans, Aaron Field, Gina Fracassi, Cody Hoggarth, Brian Johnston, Rhonda Kelsch, Darrell Oswald, Andrea Peterson, Mary Podoll, and Kaylee Stein.

REPORTS

NRCS – Mary Podoll reported they are busy with CRP. Mary also discussed until the government releases the Feds from COVID restriction, Field Offices will be staffed at 25%. The NRCS has a new Chief of Staff, Terry Cosby. The Board proceeded to discuss information provided and Mary answered all questions. (report available)

NACD – Keith Bartholomay reported on this year's Summer Convention coming up July 24-27 in Chicago, Illinois. Keith introduced Aubrey Evans, Northern Plains Region's new Representative and informed the Board Coleman Garrison took another position and will resign. Keith proceeded to answer questions from the Board.

Aubrey Evans introduced herself and answered questions from the Board. She highlighted some of the upcoming events the NACD will be holding this summer.

NDCDEA – Kaylee Stein reported the tree planting season is almost over and they will start work on the Outdoor Heritage Fund payments, The NDCDEA is planning Wind Break Training in Oliver and Mercer Counties. Other than that Kaylee had nothing more to report.

NDSSCC – Aaron Field reported State Funding has been distributed and all the counties received about a 10% increase. The 319 Grant has been approved. Aaron also explained the state is trying to get the districts Human Resource Support Assistance. Aaron has been working with the States Attorney Association to get more information to the districts. The Board proceeded to discuss the information provided and Aaron answered all questions.

EDUCATION GRANT

Andrea Peterson introduced he self and explained to the Board what Envirothon does for education purposes. Andrea explained how the funds the NDASCD are used and answered questions from the Board. (report available)

NCPP REPORT

Rhonda Kelsch introduced herself as the National Conservation Planning Partnership, President. Rhonda addressed the teleconference that took place on June 8th, that addressed President Biden regarding the 30/30 Initiative. Rhonda passed around the letter that was written to the president and explained some major points and answered questions from the Board. (letter available)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brian Johnston reviewed last year's Profit and Loss and the upcoming 2021-2022 planned annual budget. Brian explained our partnership with PMC and Kristi answered questions on accounts receivable.

Steve Gilje motioned to accept the Profit and Loss and 2021-2022 Annual Budget. Richard Knopp Jr. seconded the motion All Board members present voted aye. Absent: Monte Bloms and Kelly Froelich. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rocky Bateman stated he had nothing new to report for the Association.

NURSURY MANAGER REPORT

Bill Elhard reviewed his report and answered questions from the Board. (report available)

CEO REPORT

Brian Johnston reviewed repairs and updates that have taken place at LON. Brian brought to the Board the purchase of a new inventory system, Fishbowl. Brian went over the purchase agreement in detail and answered questions from the Board.

Kent Pederson motioned to approve the purchase of Fishbowl Inventory. Richard Knopp Jr. seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye. Absent: Monte Bloms and Kelly Froelich. The motion passed unanimously.

FARM BILL SPECIALIST REPORT

Cody Hoggarth gave staffing updates on all current Farm Bill Specialist and discussed with the Board increasing employee benefits to match those of the NRCS employees, The Board agreed that Brian will draw up a proposal that they can approve at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Annual Convention Planning – Darrell Oswald with Burleigh County Soil Conservation sat in the Board meeting and made a few suggestions for bringing in Key Note Speakers. Rocky went over the Convention Agenda and assigned duties to the Board members. Brian informed the Board Gina Fracassi will keep them up to date with planning.

President Rocky Bateman adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm.