

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK, ND**  
**JUNE 24, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Bartholomay at 8:04am.

**ATTENDANCE:** Kelly Froelich, Albert Wood, Perry Bollum, Rocky Bateman, Jeff Aalund, Julius Wangler, Kent Pedersen, Richard Knopp, Jr., Keith Bartholomay

**ABSENT:** Roger Christenson

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Brian Johnston, CEO  
Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension Specialist – NDSSCC  
Jill Howard, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – Partnership  
Coordinator  
Todd Schwagler, NRCS State Resource Conservationist  
Whitney Huesers, Farm Bill Specialist Supervisor  
Ryan Thorsen, NDCDEA President  
Sarah Tunge, NDCDEA/Mercer County SCD Manager  
Darrell Oswald, Burleigh County SCD Technician  
Bill Elhard, Nursery Manager  
Kathy Henriksen, Association Secretary

**CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Kelly Froelich moved to approve the March 11, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes as written and distributed. Perry Bollum seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The motion carried.**

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS**

Jill Howard reported Mary Podoll, State Conservationist is on detail with NRCS in Washington, DC. She updated the Board on the status of the restructuring hiring process. Jill reported 14 of the 18 positions are filled. The Association agreement for the Farm Bill Specialist program expires September 30, 2019 but an extension of this agreement was received. The new agreement is at headquarters and that 3 year agreement begins September 30, 2019.

**Chesak Seed Discussion:** the owner of Chesak Seed contacted Bruce Schmidt along with NRCS concerning policies and procedures of SCDs selling seed to producers/farmers and also requested to be put on SCD vendor list. Discussion followed. Jill Howard and Todd Schwagler, NRCS distributed a copy of the 1619 Provision of the Farm Bill that agencies need to follow. NRCS and

Bruce Schmidt, NDSSCC will follow up with their agencies and SCDs to make sure we are in compliance with the law in selling seed and to check the vendor lists of the SCDs.

**NDSSCC** (report available)

Bruce Schmidt highlighted his written report. He updated the Board on the Legislative session on the funding for SCDs. Bruce reported that SBARE is key for requesting funding for districts at the Legislature.

**NDCDEA REPORT**

President Ryan Thorson reported on the ND Game and Fish Antelope Tag Raffle. The District Employees are selling tickets for \$20.00. It is required that 20% of the proceeds go to Conservation Education. He announced an Urban Conservation and Outreach Workshop will be held in Fargo on August 21-22. Cass County SCD is assisting with the workshop. March 10-12, 2020 is the Tree Promotion Meeting at the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck. Sarah Tunge reported there is a 2019 Regional Leadership Conference in Sioux Falls on August 13-14. She updated the Board on the status of the Outdoor Heritage Fund process. NDCDEA has applied for the grant through their Association rather than NDASCD this year. Julius Wangler thanked the district employees for all their hard work on the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Sarah commented on the NACD Grant for Technical Assistance for Farm Bill programs that they received.

**NACD REPORT**

In the absence of Roger Christenson, Keith Bartholomay reported on NACD activities. Roger Christenson, Keith Bartholomay and Sarah Tunge attended the Northern Plains Regional Meeting in Nebraska. NACD hosted Listening Sessions where districts could ask questions and give input. Keith reported he will be attending the NACD Summer Board Meeting in August in New Mexico. The NACD Annual Meeting will be held February 8-12, 2020 in Las Vegas. A reminder that the 2020 NACD Summer Board Meeting is in Bismarck, ND. President Bartholomay asked Rocky Bateman to be on the NACD Summer Board Meeting Planning Committee to represent the Area IV Research Center and ARS. Rocky agreed to serve. Keith distributed NACD Auxiliary Quilt Raffle tickets for anyone who would like to purchase them.

9:59am – Break

10:20am – Reconvened meeting

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Todd Klee, Premier Tax and Bookkeeping was unable to attend meeting. Brian Johnston reviewed the financials as distributed to the Board members prior to the Board Meeting. President Bartholomay requested the Board receive year to year comparison financials before the Board meetings. The NDASCD/LON audit will be done by Haga Kommer for \$12,000.00 starting in July.

**Convention Planning**

The draft Convention agenda was reviewed and updated. Area Meeting are scheduled on Sunday, which will include Elections of Directors and NDSSCC members. The reports will be

given at the Business Meeting on Monday. Any other business and discussion on resolutions will be discussed at this meeting.

Keynote Speaker: Darrell Oswald updated the board on this year's speaker. He has contacted Jimmy Emmons and is waiting to hear back from him. Keynote will be on Sunday evening and maybe the possibility of a mini-session.

Mini-session format will be coordinated by the District employees and Bruce Schmidt.

Farm Bill Specialists will assist with Committee Meeting Minutes, take tickets and other areas that will need assistance.

### **NURSERY MANAGER REPORT** (report available)

Bill Elhard, reported on the activities at the nursery. He suggested a Top 10 LON Trees Planted Award or recognition be given at the Convention. Bill would like names written in the Convention program and he will incorporate the names in his Nursery PowerPoint report for the Convention.

Discussed the possibility of a tour to the Menoken Farm during convention or bringing the demonstrations to the convention as a mini-session.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

The Resolutions Committee consisting of Kent Pedersen, Chr. and Keith Bartholomay met and presented the resolution policy change.

**Rocky moved to approve the change to the Resolution Policy. Kent Pedersen seconded the motion.**

**Richard Knopp moved to amend the motion to delete the wording of "so distribution can be made to the Supervisors." Jeff Aalund seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The Amendment passed.**

**Vote on the Amended motion. All board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The amended motion passed.**

The change to the Resolution Policy on page 8 would read under Resolutions B: All resolutions shall be initiated by a district, area, standing committee or Board of Directors of the Association. Any resolution to be considered at an Annual Meeting must be received in the Association office at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

President Bartholomay also added to the memo sent to the supervisors the following statement: **With the Area Meetings at Convention, resolutions introduced at the Area Meetings cannot be introduced to the Convention until the following year.**

### **FARM BILL SPECIALIST REPORT** (report available)

Whitney Huesers, supervisor for the Farm Bill Specialists reviewed her written report. All ten Farm Bill Specialist positions have been filled.

12:04 pm - Lunch

12:59pm – Meeting reconvened

### **BY-LAW CHANGE**

**Richard Knopp moved to put the By-Law change from the March 11, 2019 meeting back on the floor. Perry Bollum seconded the motion.**

**All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The motion carried.**

Rocky Bateman, By-Law Committee Chair presented the By-Law change which will be brought to the Convention as a resolution from the NDASCD Board.

The By-Law change: This is a resolution for an amendment to the By-Laws of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts to add a section to Article II- Membership

Add the following and numbering:

4. Membership dues to the Association must be paid by the first day of January each year to be considered a member in good standing. The loss of good standing status causes the district to forfeit their voting rights along with any other rights and privileges afforded to them.

### **PRESIDENT RPEORT**

President Bartholomay reported he and Juluis Wangler attended an Agricultural Nutrients BMP Workshop at the University of MN-Crookston. Also, he reported he visited with NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr in Aberdeen, SD.

### **CEO REPORT**

Brian Johnston requested a 3% cost of living increase for the fulltime staff.

**Kelly Froelich moved to approve a 3% cost living salary increase for the fulltime staff. Richard Knopp seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The motion carried.**

### **Change in the Employee Manual – Cap Limit of 240 Hours of Vacation Time**

**Albert Wood moved to allow nursery employees the option to buy down 100 hours at normal salary rate when reach over 200 vacation time hours. Jeff Aalund seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The motion carried.**

### **Other Business:**

Rocky Bateman updated the Board on the Area IV Research Farm situation. At this time the land has been divided among the family members. They have the land leased through this year.

Convention Board Assignments were made.

## **FARGO CVB PRESENTATION**

Sheila from the Fargo Holiday Inn presented their bid for the 2021 NDASCD Convention on November 21-23, 2021.

3:00 – Break

3:15 pm – Meeting reconvened

3:20pm:

President Keith Bartholomay announced the Board of Directors would enter into Executive Session for the purpose of holding the CEO evaluation. All board members present except Roger Christenson. Other attending: Brian Johnston, Bill Elhard and Whitney Huesers.

Keith reported the following motion from the Executive Session:

**Kelly Froelich moved a 3% raise for CEO Brian Johnston. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion.**

**The motion was withdrawn.**

**Richard Knopp moved a 5% raise for CEO Brian Johnston. Jeff Aalund seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent Roger Christenson**

**The motion passed.**

President Bartholomay adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the regular Board Meeting at 4:00pm.

## **BISMARCK/MANDAN CVB PRESENTATION**

Lindsay from the Bismarck/Mandan CVB presented their NDASCD Convention bid for 2021 NDASCD Convention. It was reported the Ramkota Hotel is doing a complete renovation at this time.

**Kelly Froelich moved to accept the Fargo CVB bid for the 2021 NDASCD Convention. Julius Wangler seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Roger Christenson**

**The motion carried.**

It was decided to award Bismarck-Mandan CVB the convention dates for 2022 and 2023.

The next NDASCD Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 at 8:00am. Keith would like the Board members to consider a time for a Board retreat.

President Bartholomay adjourned the meeting at 4:31pm.

Perry Bollum, Secretary

Recorded by,  
Kathy Henriksen,  
NDASCD Secretary