

**MINUTES
NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK, ND
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Bartholomay at 8:22am.

ATTENDANCE: Richard Knopp, Jr., Keith Bartholomay, Jeff Aalund, Kelly Froelich, Roger Christenson, Rocky Bateman, Kent Pedersen, Julius Wangler
Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
Brian Johnston, CEO

OTHERS ATTENDING: Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist
Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension Program Coordinator
Bill Elhard, Nursery Manager
Whitney Huesers, FB Specialist Supervisor
Ryan Thorson, NDCDEA President
Sarah Tunge, NDCDEA
Rhonda Kelsch, NDCDEA
Kelli Schumacher, NDCDEA Past President
Kathy Henriksen, NDASCD Secretary

Approval of the October 9, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes and November 20, 2018 Reorganizational Minutes

President Keith Bartholomay declared the October 9, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes approved as written and distributed.

Richard Knopp moved approval of the November 20, 2018 Reorganizational Meeting minutes. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion passed.**

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS – Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist

Mary Podoll updated the Board on the status of the new Farm Bill. It has not been approved yet. She reported the Restructure Plan is moving forward and announced that the 18 supervising positions will be available in the new plan to hire in February.

NDSSCC Report – Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension/NDSSCC Program Coordinator

Bruce Schmidt reported on the Governor's Budget status with the NDSU Extension which includes the funding for the Conservation District Assistance Program. He announced the dates for the upcoming Soil and Water Conservation Leadership Academy-Level One. Bruce

reported the NDSSCC new chair is Barton Schott and Vice Chair is Wes Frederick. The Governor has until July 1 to appoint a person to replace Dennis Renner. Supervisor Handbooks were distributed to the districts. Online training should be up by the first part of January.

Financial Report

Todd Klee, Accountant at Premier Tax and Bookkeeping handed out and reviewed the financial report. The Board requested copies of the Financial Reports be mailed out to them in advance of the meeting so they can review. There was discussion on audit possibilities/options. Todd talked about a full focused audit including a nursery inventory. It was suggested the audit be done prior to Brian's retirement.

Roger Christenson moved to approve the financial report. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

NDCDEA Report - Ryan Thorson, President

Past President, Kelli Schumacher of the NDCDEA introduced the new President, Ryan Thorson from Grand Forks County SCD. Ryan reported there are 70 members of the NDCDEA. He announced the Tree Promotion Meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck this year. A Defensive Driving Course is being offered on the first day. Ryan stated the Conservation Capitol Day has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 5-9pm at the Heritage Center. The NDCDEA is requesting financial support for the room rental at the Heritage Center and food expense for approximately \$2500.00.

Rocky Bateman moved to approve the request for financial support for approximately \$2500 for the Conservation Day at the Capitol on January 30, 2019. Kelly Froelich seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

Keith Bartholomay stated the Board needs to encourage supervisors in their areas to attend this event at the Capitol.

Rhonda Kelsch reported that the NDCDEA has received a grant for \$25,000 for Farm Bill program training for district employees. Also, reported on the NACD/NRCS Bootcamp for Conservation Planning in Nebraska. She encouraged attendance of this training event for district personnel.

Bill Elhard reported on information received on a Special Allocation Lottery Application received from the ND Game and Fish Department for big game hunting licenses to eligible organizations for fundraising purposes. The information was given to Rhonda Kelsch for the NDCDEA to review for fund raising.

NACD Report (report available)

Roger Christenson, NACD Director reviewed his written report. He reported Keith Bartholomay, NACD Alternate Board member is unable to attend the NACD Annual Meeting in February. Roger stated he has been in contact with the Northern Plains Representative for

approval of a proxy Alternate NACD Board member. The representative emailed Roger and Brian the process that needs to be completed for us to send a proxy member to the NACD Annual Meeting.

Roger Christenson moved to send Richard Knopp as our NACD Proxy Alternate Board Member to the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting. Julius Wangler seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

Brian will need to follow up with the Northern Plain representative to complete the process.

Roger reported Jeff Aalund is planning to attend as a Soil Health Champion from North Dakota. He announced the 2020 NACD Summer Board Meeting dates have not been released yet. He suggested a planning committee including Board members and agency members be formed to assist with the planning of this meeting. Also, it was reported North Dakota will be hosting the Northern Plains meeting the summer of 2020 so it was suggested to host the Area Meetings at that time also.

OLD BUSINESS

Sale of Lincoln Oakes Nursery Property

Rocky Bateman, Director from Area IV updated the Board on the status of the Area IV Farm land sale. It is being sold as quickly as possible to settle the estate.

Richard Knopp moved to sell the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Acres west of the Nursery. Jeff Aalund seconded the motion.

Following discussion,

Rocky Bateman moved to amend the motion to state we use a public auction firm to sell the property. Kelly Froelich seconded the motion.

**Vote on the amendment: Aye - 3
Nay - 4**

Amendment failed.

Vote the original motion:

To sell the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery west of Nursery. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

The Board discussed the offer made by the Bismarck Parks and Recreation. They are not interested in pursuing that offer.

Rocky Bateman moved to sell the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery property west of the Nursery for full cash amount. Kent Pederson seconded the motion.

Kelly Froelich moved to amend the motion to read: to sell the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery west of the Nursery and to list it with a real estate firm for cash sale. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The amendment passed.**

**Vote on the amended motion:
All Board Members voted aye
Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The amended motion passed.**

Jeff Aalund moved to not accept the counter offer on the sale of the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery property by the Bismarck Parks and Recreation. Richard Knopp seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

The Board requested Brian Johnston contact a real estate firm immediately.

Oakes Nursery Sale

The Board discussed the possibility of selling the Oakes Nursery land which is being leased at this time.

Kent Pedersen moved to list the Oakes Nursery land in two parcels (east and west). Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

Roger Christenson moved to authorize the proceeds of the Oakes Nursery property sale be used for the purpose of purchasing the Area IV Research Farm as the same objective for selling the LON Nursery property. Kent Pedersen seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Julius Wangler moved for a full complete audit. Kent Pedersen seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

**Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

Julius Wangler requested Todd Klee's advice on the planning for an audit.

NURSERY MANAGER'S REPORT – Bill Elhard (report available)

Bill Elhard reviewed his written report and requested the purchase of a skid steer sickle bar attachment. Information on this equipment was attached to his report.

**Kelly Froelich moved to authorize the purchase of a skid steer sickle bar attachment. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye. Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.**

12:30pm: recessed for lunch

1:03pm: meeting was reconvened

FARM BILL SPECIALIST REPORT – Whitney Huesers, Supervisor (report available)

Whitney Huesers reviewed her written report and announce they are looking for two Farm Bill Specialists.

CEO REPORT

Keith Bartholomay asked the Board to review Brian's written report and asked for any questions.

AREA MEETINGS

At this time the plan is to hold the 2019 Area Meetings on Sunday, November 24, 2019 in the afternoon at the Ramkota Hotel. A Business meeting in each Area needs to elect a NDASCD Board member and a NDSSCC member otherwise all the other reports will be given throughout the convention.

Discussion on ideas to increase the attendance at the Area Meetings:

Keynote speaker and break out sessions

Supervisor Training

Social to follow the Area Meeting

Change the Committee Meetings to Monday Morning

Keynote Speaker in afternoon along with Education options

The Board needs to contact Darrell Oswald about the keynote speaker for 2019.

President Keith Bartholomay appointed a committee to look at the options for the Area Meetings and the Convention, working via email and then possibly meeting on January 30th and some recommendations to the Board at the March 11th meeting.

Committee: Bruce Schmidt, Roger Christenson, Kent Pedersen and Kelli Schumacher

CONVENTION COMMENTS:

Committee Meetings and the Resolutions process were discussed.

Resolution #3 concerning the Addition of Trees and Shrubs to NRCS's list of approved species in North Dakota

Roger Christenson presented the Resolution in this format for interim policy in the Conservation Policy:

NDASCD requests NDSU and the North Dakota Forest Service to evaluate the suitability of all current unapproved species of trees and shrubs that are known to grow in North Dakota, specifically for use in shelterbelts, windbreaks, and urban forests, and requests the NRCS to add such species that are deemed to be suitable.

Roger Christenson moved that this resolution as written be added as interim policy in the NDASCD Conservation Policy. Richard Knoop seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

President Bartholomay appointed a committee to work on rewriting the approved resolutions for the Conservation Policy and present them at the March Board Meeting.

The committee consists of: Richard Knopp, Jeff Aalund and Kent Pedersen

DUES STATEMENT

Richard Knopp moved to send out the NDASCD dues statement as written. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion.

Keith Bartholomay set the motion on the table to review the bylaws.

Roger Christenson moved to amend the by-law to include: paid membership to be voting members at Area Meetings and Annual Meeting. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion.

Discussion on writing a resolution for the by-law change.

It was agreed to withdraw the motion.

Vote on the original motion that was tabled.

All Board members present voted aye.

One board member voted nay.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

EDUCATION FUNDS

Kent Pedersen, Vice Chair of the Education Committee reported on the meeting and requested \$8000. For the following Education programs

\$3400.00 Trees Program

\$3400.00 Envirothon

\$1200.00 EcoEd

It was discussed to use \$4000 from Association and \$4000 from Trust funds.

2:48pm – Keith Bartholomay recessed the Board meeting to hold a Trust Meeting.

2:49pm – the Board meeting was reconvened.

Education funding was discussed. District employees commented that EcoEd was in need of more funding.

The following recommendation was made for allocations to the Education programs:

\$1500.00	Trees Program
\$1500.00	Evirothon
\$5000.00	EcoEd

Kelly Froelich moved to approve the distribution of the funds as stated above.

Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

LOBBYISTS

The 2019 Lobbyists will be President Keith Bartholomay, Rocky Bateman, Whitney Huesers and Brian Johnston, CEO. Registrations need to be sent in immediately.

OTHER BUSINESS

MEMORIALS TO THE TRUST

Kelly Froelich moved to donate money from the Association for memorials for the two supervisors who served on the NDASCD Board of Directors to the Trust memorials. No second. Motion died for lack of second.

It was suggested that individual board members can give to the Trust Memorial in memory of the supervisors who have died.

3:20pm – recessed for a break.

3:37pm – reconvened the meeting

AG COALITION DUES

Jeff Aalund moved to the pay the \$300. dues to the Ag Coalition as done in the past.

Richard Knopp seconded the motion. All Board members seconded the motion.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

CHANGE MARCH MEETING DATE

The Board decided to change the March 26th Board Meeting to Monday, March 11th at 8am at the NDASCD/LON office,

Keith commented the Board needs to be evaluating and reviewing the Committee Structure and its relevancy at the March Meeting along with discussion on a Professional Staff person for the NDASCD.

4:00pm – President Keith Bartholomay declared the meeting adjourned.

