

MINUTES
NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK, ND
DECEMBER 10, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Richard Knopp, Jr., Keith Bartholomay, Monte Bloms, Kelly Froelich, Roger Christenson, Rocky Bateman, Kent Pedersen, Julius Wangler
Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

OTHERS ATTENDING: Brian Johnston, CEO
Jennifer Heglund, Acting NRCS State Conservationist
Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension Program Coordinator
Bill Elhard, Nursery Manager
Sarah Tunge, NDCDEA
Kathy Henriksen, NDASCD Secretary

Approval of the October 15, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Kelly Froelich moved to accept the October 15, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes as written and distributed. Julius Wangler seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.

Approval of the November 26, 2019 Reorganizational Minutes

Roger Christenson moved to accept the November 26, 2019 Reorganizational Meeting minutes as written and distributed. Richard Knopp, Jr. seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood
The motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS – Jennifer Heglund, Acting NRCS State Conservationist

Jennifer announced Mary Podoll is assigned to Washington DC for one more month. She updated the Board on the Restructure and on the positions that needed to be filled by March 2020. Also, reported Jill Howard is at a Farm Bill Training and will be training personnel in January. CRP sign up started December 9 until February 24.

NDSSCC Report – Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension/NDSSCC Program Coordinator
(Report available)

Bruce reviewed his written report and the allocations of funds. The Committee will be requesting 1.21 million to SBARE for 2021. Job Announcement for Bruce Schmidt's position is January. Timeline for hiring is February. Online training modules are available on the website.

NDCDEA Report

In the absence of President Ryan Thorson, Sarah Tunge reported they have applied for a Big Game Raffle again. She announced the Tree Promotion Meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck on March 10-12, 2020 for annual training and new Employee Orientation. Sarah reported she and Bruce Schmidt are presenting on DART at the NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Roger Christenson thanked Sarah and Rhonda Kelsch for putting together the NACD Summer Board Meeting agenda and lining up all the tours, etc. Looks like an excellent event.

NACD Report

Roger Christenson, NACD Director reported he and Keith Bartholmay will be attending the NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas on February 8-12, 2020. They will be promoting the Summer Board Meeting in Bismarck. The Northern Plains Regional Meeting is scheduled at the Summer Board Meeting. A December 13 teleconference will discuss the final details. The NACD Summer Board Meeting is July 18-21, 2020 and he encourages SCDs Boards to attend the meeting and tours. Usually there is 250-300 in attendance at these meetings.

President's Report

Keith Bartholomay reported he testified at a SBARE Meeting on November 15, 2019 in favor/support of the NDSSCC on behalf of the NDASCD.

Financial Report

Brian Johnston reviewed the financial reports. The Board discussed the safety of the underground gas tanks on the nursery land. They requested Bill Elhard investigate and gather more information for the March Board Meeting.

Roger Christenson moved to investigate the underground gas tanks on the nursery land and provide information at the Board Meeting in March. Richard Knopp, Jr. seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

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

9:43am: Break

10:18am: Meeting was reconvened.

Q and A with the Staff

The Board complimented Bill Elhard, Nursery manager on his Nursery powerpoint presented at the Annual Business Meeting. Bill requested Board approval to look for a new tractor. The Board requested more information and bids for the March Board Meeting.

Area Meeting Discussion

The Board reviewed the Area Meeting Minutes on the discussion of scheduling the Area Meetings for next year. The Areas still have the option of scheduling Area Sub Meetings before the Convention. The districts would be in charge of planning the meeting and providing the information to their districts. These meetings could be used for supervisor training/educational purpose, resolution development and district discussions, etc. The President will attend and some staff may attend if the Area Host District invites them. The Board decided the Area Business meetings will be held at the Convention in 2020 at the Ramkota in Bismarck, which will be for the election of NDASCD Board of Directors and NDSSCC Members and for discussion/other business. The agency reports would be scheduled at the Convention.

Kelly Froelich moved to hold the Area Business Meetings at the 2020 State Convention, however encourage the districts to hold Sub Area Meetings prior to Convention for district discussions, supervisor training/educational purposed and resolution development. Julius Wangler seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the convention evaluations. Cleanliness of rooms and facility was discussed. Brian to contact Sandy, Ramkota Manager about the issue. Also discussed the scheduling of the convention. It was decided to keep the Keynote speaker on Sunday evening and throughout the Convention, singing of the national anthem, liked the choices for banquet but to do buffets for rest of the meals.

Noon: Lunch

1:02pm: Reconvene the meeting

Increase of NDASCD Supervisor Salary (Per Diem)

The Board needed to gather information from the supervisors on the increase of supervisor per diem at the 2021 Legislature. It was decided to survey the SCDs about raising the per diem or changing the wording of the N.D.C.C. Roger Christenson submitted the following wording for the survey to be sent out the districts for their input:

“Shall NDASCD pursue change to the N.D.C.C. to increase or remove the \$62.50 per diem for SCD supervisors as listed in N.D.C.C.?”

Education Funds Request:

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

\$1500.00	Trees Program
\$1500.00	Envirothon
\$5000.00	EcoEd

Kent Pedersen moved to allocate \$8000.00 for funding the statewide projects the same as last year as stated above and take the funds from the Association budget. Kelly Froelich seconded the motion. All board members present voted aye.

Absent: Perry Bollum, Albert Wood

The motion carried.

Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Open House

Bill Elhard announced the plans for Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Open House in the summer of 2020 and work with PMC, District Employees and LON staff. The Board thought this would be a good idea.

Board of Directors Retreat

President Keith Bartholomay would like to schedule a Board retreat with a facilitator to develop goals, committee restructuring and strategic plans to assist districts. After discussion it was decided to tentatively schedule it on March 9 and 10, 2020. Bruce Schmidt will contact NDSU Extension about a facilitator and get back to Keith and Brian.

Other Business; Roger Christenson asked if it would be possible to put the NDASCD Board Handbook on the website, Brian Johnston will check into this and begin the process.

2:32pm – President Keith Bartholomay declared the meeting adjourned.

Perry Bollum, Secretary

Recorded by,
Kathy Henriksen,
NDASCD Secretary