

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**LINCOLN-OAKES NURSERY, BISMARCK, ND**  
**JUNE 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Knopp, Jr. at 8:10am.

**ATTENDANCE:** Cordell Bettenhausen, Albert Wood, Perry Bollum, Rocky Bateman, Jeff Aalund, Julius Wangler, Keith Bartholomay, Roger Christenson, Richard Knopp, Jr.

**ABSENT:** Kent Pedersen

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Brian Johnston, CEO  
Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist  
Bruce Schmidt, NDSU Extension Specialist – NDSSCC  
Jill Howard, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – Partnership  
Coordinator  
Whitney Huesers, Farm Bill Specialist Supervisor  
Sarah Tunge, NDCDEA/Mercer County SCD Manager  
Jim Collins, ND Health Department  
Bill Elhard, Nursery Manager  
Kathy Henriksen, Association Secretary

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

**Cordell Bettenhausen moved to approve the March 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as written and distributed. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS**

Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist reported on the Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET) and an update on the NRCS Restructuring Plan. She will keep us informed on the process and time line of the restructuring. Mary reported they should have more information to share by convention time.

**NDSSCC** (report available)

Bruce Schmidt highlighted his written report and announced the new interim NDSU Extension Director is Dr. Gregory Lardy.

**NDCDEA REPORT**

In the absence of Kelli Schumacher, Sarah Tunge reported on the District Employee's activities. She reported the District Employees Association received a grant to assist with

training and leadership of district staff. Currently looking at cross training with other states in the region.

**ND HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Jim Collins reported the Department has lost 8-13 staff because of budget cuts. Also commented on the excellent planning and training tool the Watershed Leadership Academy program is for supervisors and staff. (SCD Binder is online for training)

**NACD REPORT** (report available)

Roger Christenson reviewed his report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Todd Klee, Premier Tax and Bookkeeping reviewed the financials with the board and highlighted the yearly comparisons. The Board requested that Todd insert the maturity date and interest in the Trust Balance sheet.

9:55 am – Break

10:19am – The meeting was reconvened.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The board once again was updated by Rocky Bateman and Mary Podoll on the status of the sale of the 35 acres on south 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Discussion followed.

**Keith Bartholomay moved to authorize Brian Johnston, Rocky Bateman and Dick Knopp to move forward in selling the 35 acres of land and pursue the purchase of the Area IV Research Farm. Roger Christenson seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

**Approval of the Financial Report**

**Rocky Bateman moved to approve the Financial Report as distributed and reviewed. Perry Bollum seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

**Bremer Proposal**

Staff from Bremer reviewed their proposal again and answered questions.

**Perry Bollum moved that the Board make the necessary changes to the Administrative Policy and/or the Bylaws and proceed with investing the NDASCD funds at Bremer Bank as presented. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

### **Administrative Policy**

Changes to the policy:

Page 4: Finance

#2 E: to read: Dedicated cash reserves may be invested in mutual funds and bonds.

#4: 2<sup>nd</sup> line to read: Two signatures are required to transfer mutual funds and bonds.

**Perry Bollum moved to make the changes to the Administrative Policy. Rocky Bateman seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

### **Convention Planning**

Keynote Speaker: Darrell Oswald updated the board on this year's speaker, Joel Salatin from Virginia.

Darrell announced some of the events sponsored this summer in this area: Farm Garden Tour at Menoken Farms on June 28 with Dave Montgomery and wife Ann Bikle and the Northern Plains Grasslands Symposium, August 1 and 2.

12:00 pm - Lunch

12:45pm – Meeting reconvened

### **Continued discussion on the Convention planning:**

The draft agenda was reviewed. The board suggested to keep the format the same as last year with the Committee meetings. It was discussed having the speakers at the Committee meeting present first then followed by the resolutions. Roberts's Rules and Parliamentary procedures for the Business meeting were discussed. It was suggested to make a cheat sheet. Also discussed the formatting of the resolutions submitted. A resolution form will be developed and sent out with the Resolution notice in August. District employees will have two mini-sessions. The Board decided to continue with the nursery tour and to provide the bus. The Board will work on the final details for Convention at the October meeting. We need to keep in mind the purpose of the Annual Meeting:

1. Association Business
2. Celebrate Conservation Award winners
3. Exciting education, training and information

### **Conservation Policy**

Roger Christensen distributed a copy of the 2017 Resolutions written in a format to be inserted into the policy manual.

**Keith Bartholomay moved to approve the changes and additions to the 2018 Conservation Manual. Perry Bollum seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

## **FARM BILL SPECIALIST REPORT**

Whitney Huesers, new supervisor for the Farm Bill Specialists distributed a copy of the 2017 and 2018 report on conservation acres on the ground by SCDs. She reported on the new contract with NRCS effective October 1, 2018. Whitney has been working on hiring a new Farm Bill Specialist for Mandan/Center.

## **CEO REPORT**

Brian Johnston reported on the Mitigation Pipeline resolution. He encouraged districts to invite their lawmakers to board meetings. Brian requested a 3% cost of living increase for the fulltime staff.

**Rocky Bateman moved to approve a 3% cost living salary increase for the fulltime staff. Jeff Aalund seconded the motion. All Board members present voted aye.**

**Absent: Kent Pedersen**

**The motion carried.**

Jim Collins reported he would be willing to assist the committee chairs in recruiting speakers for their committee meetings.

## **NURSERY MANAGER REPORT**

Bill Elhard, reported on the activities at the nursery. He reported tree sales were up from 2017 by approximately 15, 000 trees. Bill reported the new irrigation system with NRCS should be completed by October, 2018.

### **Area Meeting Reports:**

**Area II** - was held in Finley- hosted by Steele County SCD. 17 supervisors attended, good meeting and no resolutions. Keith Bartholomay was re-elected the Board and Warren Solberg, Cass County SCD supervisor was elected to the NDSSCC.

**Area V**- was held in Beach hosted by Golden Valley SCD. 17 supervisors attended and 2 resolutions were submitted. Kent Pedersen was unable to attend but was re-elected to the Board.

4:08pm – Break

4:30pm – Meeting reconvened

Discussion on the payment of NDASCD dues.

President Richard Knopp announced the Board of Directors would enter into Executive Session for the purpose of holding the CEO evaluation.

President Knopp adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.

Perry Bollum, Secretary

Recorded by,  
Kathy Henriksen,  
NDASCD Secretary