

2018 PROCEEDINGS

**Eightieth Annual Business Session
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Ramkota Hotel
Bismarck, North Dakota
November 19 and 20, 2018**

DISTRIBUTION:

ND Soil Conservation Districts
NDASCD Board of Directors

PROCEEDINGS
Eightieth Annual Meeting
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Ramkota Hotel
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November 19 and 20, 2018

The first part of the 2018 Split Session of the Official Business Meeting was called to order by Vice - President Keith Bartholomay at 10:41am on Monday, November 19, 2018.

President's Report – Richard Knopp, Jr. reported on the profitable year at the nursery and also on the \$1000.00 rebate to the districts in December, 2017.

NACD REPORT – Roger Christenson, NACD Board Member

Roger Christenson, NACD Board Member gave a brief report on NACD and encouraged attendance at the NACD Annual Meeting in February. He announced the NACD Summer Board Meeting in 2020 will be held in Bismarck, ND. Roger introduced NACD President - Elect, Tim Palmer from Iowa. Tim highlighted the NACD activities this past year which included the Farm Bill and the Technical Assistance Grants. He announced Stewardship Week is April 28-May 5, 2019 with the theme of "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." Tim again reminded the attendees that NACD is the national voice for all conservation districts. He announced the NACD Annual Meeting will be held February 2-6 in San Antonio, TX. Tim thanked NDASCD for the opportunity to be a part of the convention.

Agency Reports:

Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist, Dennis Renner, NDSSCC Chair, and Kelli Schumacher, NDCDEA President highlighted their past year's activities and updated current programs.

Nursery Manager's Report – Bill Elhard (report available)

CEO Report – Brian Johnston, CEO (report available)

Vice President Keith Bartholomay recessed the meeting at 11:50am until Tuesday morning, November 20, at 9:00am.

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 – Second Part of the 2018 Official Business Meeting was called to order at 9:17am by President Richard Knopp, Jr.

ATTENDANCE (76 Supervisors) attendance at the Tuesday Morning Session:
Paul J. Schmitz, Warren Solberg, Dean Baar, Patrick Zeltinger, Terry C. Jacobson, Bernie Wanzek, Justin Zadracka, Don Bauman, James Teigen, Rocky Bateman, Jay Skorheim, Aaron Steckler, Tyler Neubauer, Donna Hase, Stuart D. Nielsen, Dennis Windjue, Sandy Meidinger, Albert Wood, Kelly Klosterman, Bruce Knudson, Meilon Hildebrandt, Keith Witte, David Lutt, Jodie Gaugler, Kevin Bender, Keith Bartholomay, Kelly Froelich, Wesley Frederick, David Hill, James Cart, Daniel Frith, Rick Hannesson, Andy Moquist, Gary Dathe, Jeff Ellwein, Julius Wangler, Gloria S. Jones, Linda Stoveland, Greg Simonson, Alex Lazorenko, Brad Sand, Kirk Larson, Diane Olson, Roger Christenson, Duayne Baldwin, Mick Thompson, Steve Gilje, David Fleming, Chad

Skretteberg, Joe Breker, Jay Adams, Richard White Bear, Ted Becker, Beth Leier, Linda Osowski, Virgil Hall, Cordell Bettenhausen, Audrey Schieffer, Ronald Decker, Larry Knudsvig, Shelly Nelson, Bruce Teubner, David L. Porsborg, Perry C. Bollum, Jeff Aalund, Jack Spah, Edward Hauf, Gerald Bauman, Robert Hess, Kent Pedersen, John Pietsch, Jeff Dick, Charlene Stenson, Brian L. Johnson, Donald O. Anderson, Richard Knopp, Jr.

APPROVAL OF 2017 PROCEEDINGS

Kent Pedersen moved approval of the 2017 Proceedings with the correction of deleting the No vote of Paul Overby in the 2017 Approval of the Financial Report. Kelly Froelich seconded the motion. All supervisors present voted aye. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Todd Klee, Accountant, Premier Tax and Bookkeeping

Todd Klee reviewed the financial reports of the Trust and the Association which were included in each supervisor packet and also placed on the tables. He answered questions and presented information on the footnotes on the reports.

Keith Witte moved approval of the ND Natural Resources Conservation Trust (NDRCT) Financial report. Ted Becker seconded the motion. All supervisors present voted aye.

The motion carried.

Edward Hauf moved to approve the NDASCD Financial report. James Cart seconded the motion. All supervisors present voted aye.

The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee chairs reported on their speakers, business meeting and any resolutions presented at the meeting.

RESOLUTION AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Richard Knopp, Chair of the Resolutions and Policy Committee reminded the supervisors that, according to our bylaws the only resolutions considered today will be those presented 30 days before this meeting. Any resolution introduced today will not be acted upon, but will be presented to the Board of Directors for possible action at their December meeting. President Knopp reminded the supervisors on the new NDASCD Policy on Resolutions. The Resolutions were assigned to an Association Standing Committee for discussion, consideration, amendments, and a do-pass or do-not pass consideration. All amendments shall be considered only at the Standing Committee Meetings. No amendments shall be considered at the NDASCD Business Meeting. Supervisors are welcome to participate in the discussion. All resolutions which are passed unanimously at committee will be placed on the Consent Calendar for the Annual Business Meeting. The Consent Calendar will be approved as a whole with a voice vote during the Annual Business Meeting. A resolution can be removed from the Consent Calendar by a motion passed by the majority of supervisors present at the NDASCD Business Session. No amendments will be considered on resolutions at the Annual Business Meeting.

Richard Knopp reported Resolutions 1 and 5 did not come out of committee with a continuing vote.

Consideration of Resolutions

Jeff Aalund, Vice Chair of the Resolutions and Policy Committee presented the resolutions as a consent calendar. Rhonda Kelsch, NDCDEA read the resolutions.

2018 Resolutions:

2. Concerning NRCS Soils in Conservation Tree and Shrub Group (CTSG) 2kk

NDASCD asks NRCS to expeditiously re-evaluate the trees and shrubs that can grow in and are approved for planting in CTSG 2kk soils. In order to receive funding, NRCS programs require producers to only plant trees that are approved for the CTSG of the soils on which they are planted.

Only four species of deciduous trees (green ash, quaking aspen, boxelder, and Siberian elm), two species of conifer (juniper and red cedar), and six species of shrubs (buffaloberry, golden currant, tatarian honeysuckle, lilac, sea-buckthorn, and silverberry) are approved by NRCS for planting in CTSG 2kk.

Over 450,000 acres in Pembina and Walsh Counties have soils assigned by NRCS to a category labelled 2kk with significant but smaller acres in Cavalier and Grand Forks Counties.

Numerous other species of trees and shrubs such as cottonwood and dogwood are known to be growing and thriving on 2kk soils across the aforementioned counties. Some of these soils are some of the most productive and most highly valued land in the State of North Dakota.

Farmsteads on 2kk soils need wind protection by windbreaks for them to be suitable for farm residents and other farm related purposes. Soil erosion by wind has caused and continues to cause an enormous loss of topsoil in North Dakota. Shelterbelts are known to be one of the best means of protecting tilled land from being eroded by wind.

3. Concerning the Addition of Trees and Shrubs to NRCS's list of approved species in North Dakota

NDASCD instructs NDSU to evaluate the suitability of all currently unapproved species of trees and shrubs that are known to be growing in North Dakota, specifically for use in shelterbelts, windbreaks, and urban forests, and instructs NRCS to add such species as are thus determined to be suitable.

Diversity is known to be important to the health and durability of trees and shrub plantings in field shelterbelts, farmstead windbreaks, and the urban forests in cities and small towns.

Many of the shelterbelts, windbreaks and urban forests in North Dakota need to be renovated due to age or damage inflicted by recent storms.

Green ash is presently a major component in shelterbelts, windbreaks and urban forests in North Dakota. The presence of emerald ash borer has recently been confirmed in Winnipeg, Manitoba. If the emerald ash borer reaches our area, it is likely to kill all the ash trees within a matter of years.

Numerous species of trees and shrubs are known to be growing and thriving in North Dakota which are not approved for planting by NRCS, even in locations in which they are actually growing. Many species of trees and shrubs can be grown in North Dakota that are not or may not be approved for other parts of North Dakota.

4. Concerning the Study of Shelterbelts and Windbreaks in North Dakota

NDASCD will work to have NDSU or other appropriate governmental agencies conduct a study to assess health and effectiveness of Shelterbelt and windbreak plantings in North Dakota.

There has been no study that has been done that assesses the health and effectiveness of shelterbelt and windbreak plantings and an organization such as NDSU has the knowledge and expertise to conduct a study of this type. There is a great deal of variation on the health and effectiveness of shelterbelts and windbreaks in North Dakota. Among the considerations that would be helpful in designing future plantings are:

- Orientation (e.g. N/S, NE/SW, E/W)
- Overall width
- Overall density
- Spreading outward from plantings
- Composition of Species
- Arrangement of species
- Average height of each species
- Estimated age of planting
- Apparent rate of growth of each species
- Spacing in the rows
- Density of each row
- Encroachment within the planting
- Competition between species
- Leaning
- Stunting
- Regeneration
- Succession of species
- Need for maintenance
- Overall potential for being self-sustaining
- Ground Cover
- Probable effectiveness at controlling wind erosion
- Probable desirability for snow distribution
- Probable effectiveness for the general purposes of conservation
- Estimated remaining functional lifespan

6. Soil Compaction Issues for all Open Trenched Utility Rights of Way

NDASCD will engage with North Dakota Leadership and their appropriate units of government to address soil compaction issues for all open trenched utility Rights of Way. Compaction Standards and specifications will be developed and required of all gathering and distribution utility companies in North Dakota. The fill material will be replaced in the open trench in lifts and compacted back to 95% of its original site with compaction testing completed per industry quality control protocol to verify and document that the final compaction is compliant.

7. Proposal for NRCS Reorganization

The desired outcomes of the resolution presented by NDASCD includes a field office presence in the districts as they currently are, we would prefer an East or West

separation of the state rather than North and South and NDASCD would request a voice in the matter.

We feel it is vital to our method of delivery that there is a presence in our district system as it is known currently. The closer we are to our clients, the better to understand their issuers. Some of our districts in the western part of the state already sacrifice time significantly because of travel distance. The NDASCD fears we will have to spend even more time on the road if offices are combined. WE could be using the time more effectively to offer technical assistance. We are asking that in looking at the bottom line of best delivery of quality technical services, that our field offices and area offices are fully staffed and supported. The best delivery of technical assistance is done by employees, whether NRCS or District, that have their boots on the ground.

8. Use of Cover Crop in Developing Areas

The NDASCD supports legislation or regulation that requires development permits to have a Conservation Plan that outlines mitigation measures to limit erosion and weed potential.

In Cass County, as well as other areas of the state, urban development is occurring every year. Oftentimes, the earth work will begin much earlier than the construction, and the areas rapidly become infested with weeds. The Cass County SCD has always advocated for low-cost rapidly growing cover crops to provide a ground cover for these disturbed areas. The course of action is to provide SCD's a seat at the table on the local decision making process when it comes to development planning.

Oftentimes, weed control does not occur, thereby leaving the weeds to mature and seed, adding to the weed bank for the surrounding areas.

According to the North Dakota Century Code Section 63-01.1-01:

“Control and eradication of noxious weeds within cities. The governing body of any city having a population of three thousand or more may act as a control authority and may establish and administer a program for the control or eradication of noxious weeds within the jurisdictional limits of the city. If a program is not established, the county weed board shall administer a program for the city”

9. Restoring Tree Protection in EQIP Cost-Share FY2019

Tree seedling protective shelters have been removed from eligibility for cost-share in NRCS's 2018 and 2019 Practice Eligibility & Payment Schedule (PEPS) Guide. By this resolution, the Wells County SCD would like NRCS to revise the PEPS Guide to include cost-share for tree shelters for practice number 380: Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and for practice number 612: Tree/Shrub Establishment. Tree shelters were a cost-shared component of windbreak establishment until FY 2018.

In FY 2018 and 2019, tree protection was not approved for cost-share in North Dakota.

Annually, the task force uses “Practice Scenarios” to determine which practice components are included in the PEPS guide. Under practice 380 – Windbreak Shelterbelt Establishment, scenarios #5 and #14 state:

“Herbivores (deer, rabbits, etc.) are NOT expected to browse tree seedlings, tree protection is not needed.”

The Wells County SCD believes this is an oversight on the part of the task force. Tree protection is necessary to protect deciduous tree seedlings from herbivore browse and to allow the seedlings to mature in height and shape to provide desired windbreak protection.

Tree shelters have proven to provide protection to tree seedlings in plantings across North Dakota. In the neighboring states of Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota, tree protection/tree shelters are cost-shared through EQIP. Herbivores (deer, rabbits, etc.) **DO** browse tree seedlings. Tree protection **IS** needed.

The 2019FY PEPS Guide can be reviewed at this link:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1414864&ext=pdf

NRCS Practice Scenarios can be reviewed at this link:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1414867&ext=pdf

Keith Bartholomay moved to remove resolution #3 off the Consent Calendar. Ted Becker seconded the motion. All supervisors present voted aye. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #3:

3. Concerning the Addition of Trees and Shrubs to NRCS's list of approved species in North Dakota

NDASCD instructs NDSU to evaluate the suitability of all currently unapproved species of trees and shrubs that are known to be growing in North Dakota, specifically for use in shelterbelts, windbreaks, and urban forests, and instructs NRCS to add such species as are thus determined to be suitable.

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Discussion on the resolution followed. It was reported the Forest Service is working on this, no need for duplication. It was suggested to change the wording to "requests" instead of "instructs".

Terry Jacobson moved to change the wording and for further clarification. James Teigen seconded the motion.

Discussion: The NDASCD resolution policy is no amendments or changes can be made at the Business Meeting.

Terry Jacobson and James Teigen agreed to withdraw the motion.

Roger Christenson moved to approve #3 Resolution as written. Keith Bartholomay seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: aye: 8

Nay – the remaining of the Supervisors voted

The motion failed.

Clarification and word changes will be made by the Board for their interim policy in the Conservation Plan.

Jeff Aalund moved a unanimous vote for all the remaining resolutions on the Consent Calendar. All supervisors present voted aye.

The motion carried.

The resolutions are adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

The winner of 32" Smart TV was Gary Dathe from James River SCD.

Jim Cart moved to adjourn the meeting. Perry Bollum seconded the motion. All supervisors present voted aye.

Motion carried.

President Richard Knopp, Jr. declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Perry Bollum
NDASCD Secretary

Recorded by Kathy Henriksen

Senator John Hoeven spoke on the Farm Bill status and his involvement with programs that enhance and support North Dakota.

Approved on November 26, 2019 at the NDASCD Business Meeting