

# BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org](http://www.barnes.nd.nacdnet.org)

Special Minutes of Meeting

April 24, 2024

VCSU Building

Valley City, ND 58072

## Board Members Present:

Charlene Stenson

Mardy Dahl

Carl Pederson

Bob Bruns

Shelly Nelson

## Others:

Jason Elston, Tech

Jill Olson, Manager/Clerk

Shelby Larson, DC

The BCSCD Board called a special meeting at 8:00am in the USDA board room.

The meeting was opened by Chair Charlene Stenson.

Discussion of the staffing of the SCD.

In December of 2020 Jill Olson asked the permission of the board to go part time and still fulfill all her required duties. The board granted this request. 2021 was to be the transition year, also to be reviewed annually.

As of 2024, is the part time position working for the SCD was discussed. The concern is not that Jill isn't doing her job, it is a concern that there isn't SCD staff in the office to answer the phones and address producers full time, especially during the busy season of tree planting when Jason is out planting trees and Jill is out with spring field work at home. There was much discussion of how to remedy this including forwarding calls or hiring a full-time employee to sit in the office to answer calls and address producers. Mardy Dahl asked Jill if she was willing to go back to a full-time status. Jill declined. After no resolution. Jill will resign her position pending the hire of a new full-time clerk/manager. Jill will stay on long enough to train the new employee.

Mardy Dahl made a motion to start looking for a full-time employee to fill the clerk/manager position. Carl Pederson second the motion, all in favor aye.

The board will meet for a regular scheduled meeting May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7am in the USDA board room. At this time they will revisit the job descriptions and revise them for the new hire.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Olson, Clerk/Manager

ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ARE OFFERED ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS, WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP. ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.

# March/April 2024 Tech Report

## ❖ Trees

- 16,000 Trees on order from 4 Nurseries (LO -2 species, Big Sioux, Towner and Schumachers)
  - Planning on picking up trees last week of April
- 65,000ft planned on 21 Sites
- Have been unable to schedule more plantings for 2024 due to lack of trees available at the nurseries-Primarily no conifers available. Those producers will plant in 2025.
- OHF applications for 2025 tree plantings are currently being accepted from March 4 through July 31. Currently have around 30 producers interested in cost share. All interested producers need to be called, tree plans developed, and applications submitted.
  - Sent initial applications in (8 applications 45,000ft)
  - Another 10 or so in the works.
- 3.19.24- Completed and mailed out all planting agreements and down payment requests to our 2024 landowners. Requested they be returned by April 15.

## ❖ Winter Show

- Set up and attended Winter Show. Set up-March 5<sup>th</sup>. Attended all days from Wed March 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- NRCS cost shared the cost of booth and attended every day also. (Shelby, T. Carter, Alex, and Cody all spent time in the booth) Partnership went really well.

## ❖ District Annual Meeting

- Attended DAM from Mon. March 11<sup>th</sup> through Wed. March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Rhonda Kelsch updated us on LO Nursery status- Ben the new manager that was hired has been let go already. Jesse is no longer in a management position. He will be working in the fields. Currently, another LO employee Tyler is taking over the "operations" part of the Nursery.
- NDASCD is hiring an outreach coordinator. It sounds like they have someone already and that position will be announced very soon. The new hire is from within the SCD family. One aspect of their job is to help co-ordinate Area meetings. This new hire could potentially assist in our Area 2 meeting this year.
- Convention dates are going to be moved to the week after Thanksgiving this year. The event will be changed to only 2 days. Rhonda is currently looking into other locations in Bismarck for the convention due to poor responses on surveys.
- Matt Olson (Forest Service) gave a presentation on the Windbreak Renovation Initiative. We have had a lot of producers contacting me that I have sent to FS. So far, we have several of those producers in the application process. That grant is 75% reimbursement on removal and reestablishment of shelterbelts.

## ❖ Other

- 3.18.24- Attended NDSU Extension Advisory Committee on behalf of SCD. My term is finished after this meeting. (Since 2018)
- Need signature from SCD President for Riparian Park improvements through Sheyenne River Water Trail. This year we are installing bike racks and new kiosk for trail.
- Made repaired to JD 1590 (2009). Will have over \$2,000 in parts.
- NDASCD may have grant money available in the near future for cost sharing a new drill-Will keep board updated if that goes through.
- New tires installed on 2010 Chevy (Bitz), repairs performed.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Valley City Field Office  
110 Winter Show RD SW  
Valley City, ND 58072  
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## **NRCS Activity Report Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board**

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Shelby Larson, District Conservationist (DC)

We have been busy working on EQIP Applications (11) and CSP Applications (2)  
Out of these so far only 1 has been preapproved (selected for funding)

Cody has been busy with CRPs and WRE's (wetland reserve easement). We had no WRE's selected for funding this year

We are currently waiting on a Waterbank signup

Travis, Cody, and I attended the NRCS East Zone meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown, there were resource specialist updates along with programs, business tools, and others

ND Winter Show was March 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Jason, along with Anna from the NRCS state office, Travis, Cody and I had the booth covered everyday

Our Beginning Farmer meeting was scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>, due to a snowstorm we hosted it April 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 in attendance. Shelby and Bobbie with NRCS, Cody, Farm Bill Specialist, Jason with the SCD, Brandi with FSA, Josh with FSA farm loan, and Alicia with NDSU extension all attended and presented as well. Thank you to the SCD for the donuts

Our next CDU meeting is April 30<sup>th</sup> in Hillsboro

Our summer intern (pathways trainee) is supposed to be here June 3<sup>rd</sup>

The next East Zone employee meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown

Travis has a bunch of trainings coming up throughout the summer