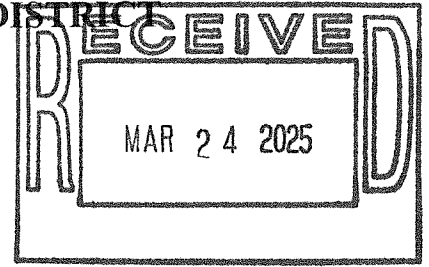


BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting
February 12, 2025
USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072



Board Members Present:
Charlene Stenson
Mardy Dahl – via Phone
Kurt Reidman
Shelly Nelson - via Phone
Carl Pederson – via Phone

Others:
Jessica Jones, Administrative Professional
Shelby Larson, District Conservationist
Jason Elston, District Tech

The February meeting was called to order by Stenson at 8:11am the USDA Building, Valley City, ND. Minutes from the January Regular meeting were reviewed, and Stenson accepted those minutes as presented.

Financials:

A list of receipts and bills paid in January 2025 were reviewed by the Board. Dahl made a motion to accept the January Financials as presented with questions about the line items for payroll taxes, a 0.30 Intuit charge, and supervisor pay from December. Carl seconded the motion. All in favor aye, motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. The Winter Newsletter featuring the 2024 Annual Report was mailed out.
2. Sponsorship letters were sent out to area businesses, and we have received a few sponsors for Eco Ed Camp and Ladies Ag Night.

Technician Report:

Jason handed out his report; see attached. Jason presented a proposal to the board to purchase a new pick-up for the SCD. Jason provided trade in values for the two pick-ups that the SCD owns, but the board requested quotes for purchasing the new pickup without trading in the old ones. The board asked Jason to gather loan interest rates from dealerships and local banks for comparison. Jason will investigate whether a bid process is required for the sale of the old pick-ups. A decision will be made at a future meeting after reviewing all gathered information.

Office Report:

Shelby handed out her report; see attached.

Outreach Coordinator Report:

Jessica handed out her report. See attached.

Old Business:

1. Annual budget was reviewed. Shelly made a motion to approve the budget for 2025, and Carl seconded the motion. All in favor, aye. Motion carried.
2. North Dakota Winter show is March 5th-9th. NRCS and SCD will share a booth.

New Business:

1. District Annual Meeting is March 11th-13th in Minot at the Clarion Hotel. Jessica and Jason will attend.
2. Jessica proposed adding a budget program to our QuickBooks subscription at \$50 a month to help streamline our finances. Charlene made a motion to approve the purchase, and Mardy seconded the motion. All in favor, aye. Motion carried.
3. A discussion was had regarding the yearly scholarship opportunity for area students pursuing a degree in an agricultural-related program or an environmental science program. Stenson made a motion to move forward with accepting applications for a \$500 scholarship. Pederson seconded the motion. All in favor, aye. Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 9:52am. The next regular meeting is to be held on March 6, 2025, at 8:00am at the USDA building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Jones, Administrative Professional/ Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Valley City Field Office
110 Winter Show RD SW
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-3114 Ext. 3

NRCS Activity Report
Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board
February 12th, 2025
Shelby Larson, District Conservationist (DC)

EQIP Batching deadline was September 20th, 16 applications. We still accept applications all year round. The applications will be ranked in January and find out if they are funded then

- Currently no applications were funded. IRA money has been put on hold. This is a large amount of our EQIP funding

WRE IRA money is also put on hold. We have been told to rerank our WRE applications for general funding. Cody has been busy working on these.

SE Area will be having monthly in person meetings in Jamestown. Our last meeting was January 15th, Cody, Alex, and I attended.

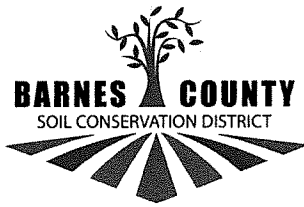
All government agencies are in a hiring freeze. Both applicants that were going to be stationed in the Valley City office have been rejected due to the freeze.

Sandy, our wetlands clerk has been released of her duties as of now. Sandy is a contacted employee through Clear Global. We should hear more about this by the end of March.

Deferred Resignation Program (Fork in the Road) has been offered to government employees. This resignation opportunity is currently still open for people to utilize.

EQIP MBRI deadline was February 7th. Ranking is due February 14th. 3 applications, currently trying to complete 2 that came in late on the 7th.

CSP Application Deadline: February 28th



February 2025 District Technician Report

❖ Trees:

- 17 tree plans currently finalized. Roughly 75,000ft. Up from 55,000ft last year.
- Will take machine plantings until Feb. 15-Nursery stock selling out limiting planning.
- Will continue to take hand plant orders as long as I can fill them.
- OHF Funding is still questionable for 2026
- I have roughly 17,000 trees ordered so far from 3 different nurseries.

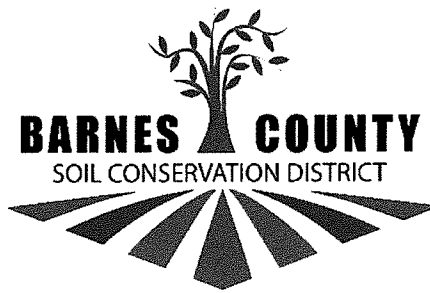
❖ Pickup discussion:

- Have Kelly Blue Book on both pickups.
- Got estimates from several dealerships-Chevrolet
- Direction?
- Last yearly tractor payment is March 25th -\$4,856.72

❖ Other:

- 10 foot chisel plow purchased from an estate sale will be ready for use this spring.
 - Replaced hydraulic cylinder, installed new ends and fittings
 - Made and installed a new hitch
 - Installed new shovels
 - Will need to install new tires
- March 5th-9th will man a booth with NRCS at Winter Show
- March 11th-13th District Annual Meeting (tree promotion)-Will be held at Clarion Hotel in Minot.

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Outreach Coordinator Report February 2025

Previously:

Library Collaboration

- January 16th: Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - I read "Over and Under the Snow". We looked at different animal figurines that were in the book, discussed where you can find them in winter, and then we dipped the animals' feet in white paint and made tracks on blue construction paper. We made fake snow with baking soda and cold water; the cold water helped it to feel like real snow.

Coming up:

Library Collaboration

- February 13th: Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - Book about birds followed by a bird feeder craft.
- March (TBD): Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - Book about farm animals followed by a farm animal craft to coordinate with the North Dakota Winter Show week.

Submitted by: Jessica Jones, BCSCD Outreach Coordinator