

BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting
March 19, 2025
USDA Building
Valley City, ND 58072

Board Members Present:

Mardy Dahl
Kurt Reidman
Carl Pederson
Shelly Nelson - via Phone

Others:

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

The March meeting was called to order by Pederson at 8:07 am the USDA Building, Valley City, ND. Minutes from the February Regular meeting were reviewed, and Pederson accepted those minutes as presented. Minutes from the special meeting were reviewed and Pederson accepted those minutes as presented.

Financials:

A list of receipts and bills paid in February 2025 were reviewed by the Board. Dahl made a motion to accept the February Financials as presented. Reidman seconded the motion. All in favor aye, motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. None

Office Report:

Shelby handed out her report; see attached

Technician Report:

Jason handed out his report; see attached.

Outreach Coordinator Report:

Jessica handed out her report. See attached.

Old Business:

1. Jason, Cody, and Shelby attended Winter Show 2025.
2. Jason attended the District Annual Meeting in Minot.

New Business:

1. Eco Ed Camp will be held at Wesley Acres in September.
2. Insurance Stipend - Jessica will do some research regarding the employee insurance stipend, and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37am. The next regular meeting is to be held on April 9, 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
March 19th, 2025
Shelby Larson, District Conservationist (DC)

EQIP MBRI deadline was February 7th. Ranking was due February 14th. 3 applications, 1 was preapproved. I have completed the paperwork and waiting to get signatures and submit for review and approval of the contract.

Attended the Barnes County North School Career Fair, had a booth set up with educational information along with recruiting packets. We had 2 sets of soil aggregate stability tubes set up. This shows how chunks of tilled vs no-till soil samples hold up after being submersed in water

Cody and I attended the Valley City State University Career Fair on February 25th. We also had the aggregate stability tubes set up to display soil samples and the differences between no-till and tilled soils. We also spoke about different career opportunities with NRCS, Farm Bill Specialist, and the SCD. Had Jason's help wanted sign up for seasonal help. Handed out a few applications to college students.

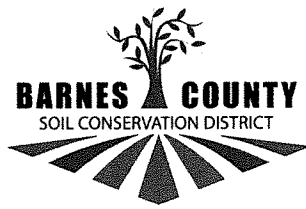
Cody and I attended the SE Zone meeting on February 26th in Jamestown

CSP Application Deadline was February 28th. I received 5 applications, most of these came in at the last minute. So I have been very busy planning these trying to get them ready for the ranking deadline on March 21st.

Cody, Jason, and I covered the SCD/NRCS booth at the North Dakota Winter Show from March 5-9th.

Cass County's Ladies Ag night is March 20th. Would be another good opportunity to attend and see how other counties host their events. I haven't signed up, but may still attend if I can make it work.

Lucas (Lisbon) and Jerikka (Forman) will be in and out of the Valley City office helping me with workload. They are part of our new Conservation Team.



March 2025 District Technician Report

❖ Trees:

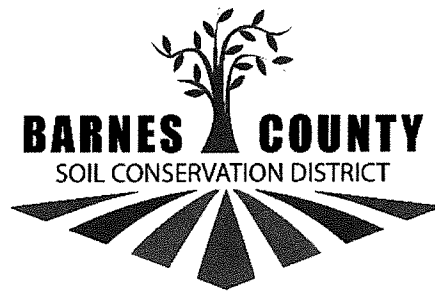
- 19 tree plans currently finalized. Roughly 78,510ft. Up from 55,000ft last year.
- Sending out Down Payment requests and Planting Agreements this week. Down payments totaling roughly \$30,000 (25%)
- OHF Funding is still questionable for 2026
- Listed for seasonal help on our Facebook, Website, Newsletter and with Janna Kohler, Director for Career Services at VCSU. 2 applications so far.

❖ Pickup discussion:

- Have both pickups up for bids on SCD website.
- Feb 24th ordered new pickup from Puklich per board discussion.
- Had yet to be built may be 8 weeks or more.
- Ordered new topper from Berts. Painted to match pickup 3-4 weeks.

❖ Other:

- March 5th-9th attended Winter Show. Cody Hoggarth spent 2 days in the booth with me Shelby spent the other 3 days.
- March 11th-13th Attended the District Annual Meeting (tree promotion) in Minot.
 - Sarah Tunge is optimistic about OHF funding yet. It is still up in the air. If we do receive funding looking at a late summer/early fall batch period.
 - Noah Schaeffer with ND Forest Service took a different position so moving forward Matt Olson will be taking over all contracts for Barnes County for Windbreak Renovations.
 - Kelli Schumacher talked about having an Urban Conservation & Outreach Workshop in Valley City. That is the first I have heard about it but will have more information as we move forward.
 - A lot of EAB discussion since finding it in Edgeley. Joe Zeleznik (NDSU)



Outreach Coordinator Report February 2025

Previously:

Library Collaboration

- February 13th: Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - I read "Mama Built a Little Nest". We learned about different birds, the nests that they make, and how important trees are for their nests. We then made bird feeders out of pipe cleaners, cheerios, and twine.
- March 6th: Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - I read "A Farmer's Life for Me" and Old MacDonald Had a Farm. We learned about different farm animals, talked about the North Dakota Winter Show, and then we made 2D farm animals with clothespin legs.

Coming up:

Library Collaboration

- April 10th: Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club
 - Book about butterflies, create a butterfly garden to display at the library, and make pollinator seed bombs with recycled paper for Earth Day.
- May (TBD): Valley City Barnes County Public Library: Nature Explorer's Club

School Outreach

- May 2nd: North Dakota Arbor Day – 3rd Grade Tree Program
 - Visit all county 3rd graders with a presentation about trees, Arbor Day, and hand out a tree to each 3rd grader.

Submitted by: Jessica Jones, BCSCD Outreach Coordinator