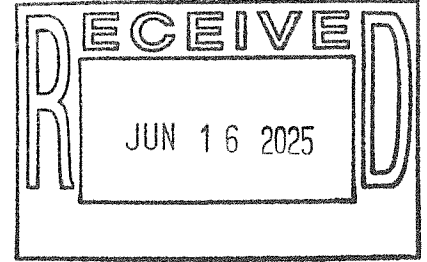


# BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting  
April 9, 2025  
USDA Building  
Valley City, ND 58072



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

Others:

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

The April meeting was called to order by Stenson at 8:04 am the USDA Building, Valley City, ND. Minutes from the March Regular meeting were reviewed, and Stenson accepted those minutes as presented.

## **Financials:**

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

## **Correspondence:**

1. UCOW Valley City, July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at Chautauqua Pavillion and Nome Schoolhouse
2. Thank you card, NACD – Gold Membership
3. North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund – Annual Meeting invitation
4. Becky Sundstrom – Career Tech Ag Education – Outreach opportunity

## **Office Report:**

Shelby handed out her report; see attached. FAC (Food and Ag) meeting on March 25, 2025, with FSA, NRCS, SCD, RD, and NDSU Extension office. Each organization shared programs that they offer. These meetings will bring an opportunity for a partnership between organizations. The meeting will be held quarterly.

## **Technician Report:**

Jason handed out his report; see attached. Chisel plow rental will be available for \$100/ day.

## **Outreach Coordinator Report:**

Jessica handed out her report. See attached.

## **Old Business:**

1. Eco Ed Camp Confirmed with Wesley Acres for September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business:**

1. Insurance Stipend – The individual policy rates have increased to \$650. Pederson made a motion to increase the employee insurance stipend from \$600 per month to \$700 per month to account for taxes that will be deducted, bringing the stipend to around \$650 per month. Nelson seconded the motion. All in favor aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23am. The next regular meeting is to be held on May 14, 2025, at 7:00am 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

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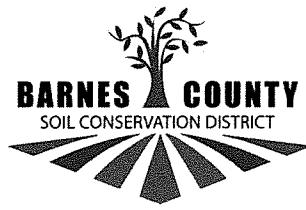
**NRCS Activity Report**  
**Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board**  
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Shelby Larson, District Conservationist (DC)

All 4 of the CSP applications that I submitted were preapproved for funding. Cody and I have been working on mapping and contracting these for obligation.

Cody and I attended SE Zone meeting in Jamestown on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We focused on sensitive topics, programs, and available outreach materials (like the soil tunnels and rainfall simulator).

The Clear Global contractor has been released of duties, Sandy was contracted through them.

No telework or using government computers for things other than work.



## **April 2025 District Technician Report**

### ❖ Trees:

- 19 tree plans currently finalized. Roughly 78,510ft. Up from 55,000ft last year.
- 12 Down Payments/Agreements returned. Mailed March 17, due April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- OHF Funding is still questionable for 2026
- Have gotten several applications for seasonal employment. I will keep accepting applications until April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Weed Barrier delivered on April 7<sup>th</sup>-120 rolls at \$78/roll. Down again from last year.
- Nurseries still not scheduling dates for pick up. Will have Schumacher Nursery order shipped (660 trees). Will pick up Towner Nursery and Big Sioux (Watertown, SD).

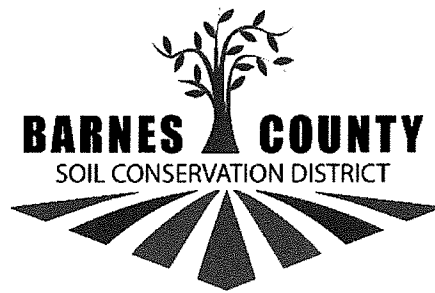
### ❖ Pickup discussion:

- Have both pickups up for bids on SCD website/newsletter.
- I have received multiple inquiries about pickups. 1 bid.
- New vehicle delivery date late May/early June.

### ❖ Other:

- Cooler still not repaired-Coming back Thursday 4/10 to repair
- Chisel plow is operational. Rate for rental? Plan to paint it later this summer/fall.
- Need to find a substitute for shingle tow. Lincoln Oaks will not have it available anymore.
- All other equipment close to being ready for planting.
- Park-River is very low. Would need a substantial increase in dam release to even consider putting dock in.

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender”**



## **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