

# Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



**April 1, 2024**

Via Zoom

A special meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Bob Martin, Chairman.

**Committee Members and guests present:**

Jess O'Brien – *Area V Supervisor*

Warren Solberg – *Area II Supervisor*

David Hill – *Area III Supervisor, Vice Chair*

Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor, Chair*

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee*

Jodi Delozier – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*

Carissa Kittelson – *ND State Soil Conservation Committee Administrative Assistant*

Rhonda Kelsch – *NDASCD*

**Committee Members absent:**

Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee*

Emily Montgomery – *Arial I Supervisor*

**Proposed Grant:**

- NDASCD grant needs a sponsor. The Association has been working on grant submissions with EPA/DEQ Climate Action projects.
  - The Association can apply for the grant, but they need to list that they have a coalition (partner) with this application.
  - The coalition (SSCC) will not need to have any financial or legal obligations. The Association will have oversight and take care of all data tracking.
  - The SSCC can act on behalf of the 54 districts per NDCC.
  - The MOA with SCDs will not be due until July.
  - Length of grant – 5 years (2025-2030); \$6.4 million/year tree planting; tree cooler is one year deal
  - SCDs are listed as a sub-award. Ex. 5,000 x \$3/ft = \$15,000; Typically, SCDs charge \$1/ft. Can take additional money earned to set aside for staff costs, equipment, etc. and \$20,000 upgrade for tree coolers.
  - Improvements need to be applied for prior to the work, nothing can be retroactive.
  - Grant would start October 2024; tree plantings could get started in spring 2025.
  
- Letter is showing the coalition (partnership).
  - A request was made to take out “committee” reference in the first paragraph and replace with “SCDs.”
  - A request was made to switch the first two paragraphs and lead with SSCC paragraph.

Kelly made a motion to follow through with the coalition letter in support of the grant with the changes as stated. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Rhonda emailed the letter to Bob and he signed it electronically.

The SSCC agreed that they would not accept compensation for this meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Warren made a motion to adjourn. David second. Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
3310 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504

Ref: North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee  
Morrill Hall, Room 307C  
NDSU Dept. 7390, PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

FON: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09 Coalition Support Letter

The ND State Soil Conservation Committee (NDSSCC) charge is to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of the state and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and to preserve the state's natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in navigability of rivers, preserve wildlife and protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.

The North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee has the duties and powers to secure the cooperation and assistance of state, federal, regional, interstate, and local, public, and provide agencies with districts and to facilitate arrangements under which district may assist or serve county governing bodies and other agencies in the administration of any activity concerned with the conservation of natural resources. The delivery and support of the NDSSCC represents the 54 Soil Conservation Districts in partnership with the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The North Dakota State Soil Conservation Commission has authority and powers to represent the 54 Soil Conservation Districts for the delivery of conservation implementation and the ability align with partners on behalf of the SCD's in North Dakota.

The NDSSCC along with the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts will work in concert together delivering the ND Tree and Shrub Initiative on behalf of the 54 soil conservation districts for the state of ND. The NDSSCC will represent the 54 soil conservation districts, provide program guidance, disseminate materials timely, assure SCD's are following all perimeters of the program, and work towards the common goals of preserving and addressing or natural resources.

This grant opportunity will allow both NDASCD and the NDSSCC the ability to operate within our operational duties of each entity. With this partnership it allows for a unified message and the importance of conservation implementation for the landowners within North Dakota.

The North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee holds the representation power within the 54 Soil Conservation Districts. If selected for grant consideration the NDSSCC and NDASCD will be able to provide individual Memorandum of Agreements for the 54 soil conservation districts by the date indicated of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Sincerely,

North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee