

NDCDEA Employees Meeting

March 16th, 2017 - 8:00 am

Call to Order: NDCDEA president Kelli Schumacher called the meeting to order at 8:02 am

Roll Call:

Minutes from November 21st 2016: Debby Vollmuth made a motion, Betty Brown made a correction to the minutes.

Dara Abernathy made a motion, seconded by Betty Brown, to approve the minutes as corrected.
Motion Carried

Financial Report: Darci Gahner – there is some carry over from this year to next year of conservation at the capital. There was 39 districts that donated to the conservation at the capital.

Membership goal is 90 members. Out of 121 employees we have 90 members.

Beth McCleary made a motion, seconded by Shelia Steadman, to approve the financial report as presented by Darci Gahner.

Motion Carried

Old Business:

2017 Scholarship: Kaitlyn Dix received the 2017 Scholarship.

Envirothon Scholarship – Every year we give a scholarship for national competition.

Dara Abernathy made a motion, seconded by Linda Took (turtle mountain), to approve \$1,000 scholarship for the state winners to go to nationals.

Motion Carried

Convention Auction – reminder to look for items to donate for the Convention auction held in November.

Conservation at the Capital – Feb 1st. 18 districts attended. 250 people were served lunch. The directors discussed at yesterday's meeting that it might be better to make it smaller to relieve some financial stress from districts. This will not happen again till 2019.

Carrie Moore suggested having a roll up banner for each topic, that way it's easier to carry as well as if things change they are easy to add new topics.

Rhonda Kelsch suggested that still allow other districts to come if they wish and not have it only be the employees association.

New Business:

Tree planting/cooler maintenance workshop – Betty Brown – the last 3 years divide county and ward county had gotten together to put on this workshop. Looking at the 3rd week in April 10am-2pm is the tentative time. Linda Hamman, Mike Kangas, and Betty Brown will be the speakers. There will be an email coming out to allow staff from all districts to come. Betty suggested having another district put on a training if they are available to help the newer staff.

2017 Appreciation Award – Jim Collins received the award in 2015. The Employees Association puts on this award. Betty Brown suggested sending out an email to see if there are any nominations. If there are no nominations we can continue into next year. Usually sent out in August responses are due in October. The paid NDCDEA members vote on the nominations and the winner is awarded at the annual convention in November.

2018 Scholarships: Kaitlyn Dix won the 2017 Scholarship.

James River Tokina McHarry Made a motion, seconded by Darci Gahner, to continue the scholarship for 2018.

MC

Other Business:

2017 Above and Beyond Award – this year's recipient is Lori Frank is from Barnes County SCD.

Jill Olson stated that she will be taking up the ECO Ed for Lori Frank.

Other Reports

NACDEA – Rhonda Kelsch -

National Employees Association – Was in Denver in November. Rhonda Kelsch is the Vice President.

Norther Plains Regional Representative is now Betty Brown. One of the criteria is that is either an area director or a state representative.

Scholarship for the NACDEA was sent out.

They do an employee award as well as a supervisor award.

ND will be hosting the National mid-year Employee Association Board Meeting. 4 day event. Tour Districts for 1 day. The other 3 days will be business meetings. Held in June.

Shelly and Rhonda will start working on updating the state handbook. Those changes will be provided to each district.

NDASCD Meeting – Area Meeting discussion at the NDASCD Meeting. They have decided to combine all the area meetings in one location and try that next year. Looking into getting educational training for a 1-2 day training including the area meetings. NDASCD proposed that the agency heads will meet and discuss a leadership training or educational meeting as well as incorporate the local work group.

The Counties that would host 2018 Area Meetings would help plan this meeting. Everything will stay the same as far as business meeting. The 5 areas will still have their own separate business meetings.

They thought the first year they would hold in Bismarck and then rotate throughout the years.

The NDCDEA has a Facebook page, please give that information to Ryan Thorson in GF County.

Derek Lowstuter – NDFS received a grant from the OHF for 1.8 million to provide cost share for windbreak renovations. There is still funding available. The cost share is 50/50. The removal of the trees has been the biggest expense for the landowners. There has to be an existing windbreak that is being maintained. April 30th is the deadline for the pre-application which is available on the NDFS website. That is used for landowner information so that the NDFS can contact them and discuss options.

NDFS – Tom Claeys/Derek

NDSSCC – Scott Hochhalter – Scott discussed the Soil Conservation District Assistance Program. Handout is attached to the minutes. 2015-2017 Biennium there are 49 districts that can receive funding. Scott asked if there are districts that are over \$1,000 to contact him to discuss getting that funding to that district. They are holding some funds for each district to provide a safety net in case there is another reduction in the legislative session.

Also attached is the 2017-2019 Biennium ranking for the 51 Districts that applied for the Soil Conservation District Assistance Program. Early May the Districts will receive an email that states how much funding the districts may receive.

Scott discussed HB 1162 relating to the competition between government businesses and private businesses. Scott stated it is in a study right now.

Scott stated that there has been a lot of change over in the extension office. Scott stated that his phone number changed and is 701-328-9715.

Scott encouraged districts to send in reorganization for the SCD and supervisor Oath of Office to him as soon as possible.

Jim Collins ND Dept. of Health – Sargent County SCD short foot creek waterway showing improvement. Congratulations to that district. And 319 coordinator.

Submitting for 319 Watershed Grants and educational grants submit application by Oct 1, 2017.

Implementation for Water Quality Basin Meeting red river valley. There was no SCD supervisors that showed up at this meeting.

319 Project – Work on Watershed Leadership Academy through NDSU – Target SCD supervisors water resource directors. Hopefully that will begin in August once the funding is approved by the EPA.

Algae Bloom – Increase in harmful Algae Bloom directly correlated in nutrients getting into the water ways. There is a web page set up on the ND DOH that can be reported as well as currant advisories. 2 pet deaths.

Lake Ashtabula – Guy was walking his dog, went into the bay, 20 min later the dog was dead.

There was no cattle reports of death.

Human Health effects closely related to allergies.

Keep ND Clean Posters were due yesterday. Jim asked if all districts would honor the winners of the poster contest to receive a free tree.

Bill in ND legislation to change the name of the Water Quality Division.

Greg Sandness and Jim discussed that the #1 Water Quality Concern – Lack of Landowner involvement. Followed up closely with SCD board involvement. As an SCD employee, we can replace the water shed coordinators to replace staff that has left, get landowners more involved with local workshops. Jim suggested posting more conservation articles in our district newsletters.

Towner Nursery – Jeff Smette – Jeff thanked the local SCD's for supporting them. Jeff stated that they have a lot of snow at the nursery and that may play a role in the pickup dates. Towner is out of Scotch Pin, however there is a waitlist available. Early April – Mid April start planning for pick up with Rhonda at Towner Nursery.

Attached is Jeff's Report.

LON – Bill Elhard – Payroll Savings of \$67,000 from where they were last year. Tree Sales as 972,000 trees 72,000 trees lower than last year. The nursery staff is working on a grading trees. Delivery scheduled April 17th tentative. Please contact Bill for pick up scheduling. Bill gave a report on new tree stock that will become available.

Adjourn

Shelia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17