

NORTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

November 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Lori Frank at 7:15 am.

Betty Brown was appointed acting secretary.

Attendance see attached registration list.

Minutes of the last meeting were emailed out to everyone in advance. Lori asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes. Dawn Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as sent out and Yabo Gjellstad seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion.

The financial report was handed out. Darci informed everyone that we currently have 65 members and 14 regional members. Missy Lowman made a motion to approve the financial report and Rhonda Kelsch seconded it. Motion passed with a unanimous ballot.

In new business Lori asked if the Association wanted to continue with the Scholarship program. Dara Abernathey made a motion to continue with the scholarship for \$1000 and Deb Vollmuth seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous ballot.

Lori reminded everyone to turn in the winning posters from their district so that they could be judged later today for the NACD Poster contest.

There was only one nomination for the Appreciation Award. This year's winner was Jim Collins with the ND Dept of Health. Lori had invited Jim to our meeting so that we could present it to him. Lori and Dawn presented Jim with a Plaque for all the work that he does with the districts with Eco-Ed.

NDASCD Director Albert Wood attended our meeting. Albert asked if there were any concerns with last year deliveries and quality of stock. He encouraged everyone to contact either the nursery or himself with any concerns that they might have.

The Forest Service is asking for help with inspections of the Bridger Four Bears contracts. These were contracts that tree plantings were completed on. The Forest Service is offering \$200 flat rate to the districts to complete these inspections. Dawn Martin made a motion to have the districts do these and to help out in case one district isn't able to. Bonnie Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous ballot.

Election of directors was held.

Area I – Nathan Johnson isn't eligible to run again and Lori thanked him for his time on the board. Betty Brown nominated Kristine Lofgren, Grand Forks SCD. Trace Hanson moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Bob Klein seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Area II – Susan Muske isn't eligible to run again and Lori thanked her for her time on the board. Susan Muske nominated Jen Klostreich, Richland SCD. Deb Vollmuth moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Rhonda Kelsch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Area III – Betty Brown isn't eligible to run again and Lori thanked her for her time on the board. Betty Brown nominated Kelli Schumacher, Burke SCD. Dawn Martin moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Rhonda Kelsch seconded the motion. Motion passed

Area IV - JD Hanson isn't eligible to run again and Lori thanked him for his time on the board. JD Hanson nominated Chelsey Horner, McIntosh SCD. Dawn Martin moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Betty Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Area V – Lori informed everyone that Shelia Stedman, Golden Valley SCD is eligible for another term. Rhonda Kelsch nominated Shelia. Dawn Martin moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Rhonda Kelsch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

In other new business Lori reminded everyone to please make sure that they update their email contacts with the Towner and Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries. They have been getting emails back with the changing of staff in the offices.

Lori read a letter from the ND Greenhouse and Nursery Assn. that came out on Friday. Discussion was held. This could become a concern if the Greenhouse Assn. decided to go to the legislature. NDASCD Director Albert Wood, commented that he had received a copy of the letter and that as long as the districts obtained a nursery license if they want to continue selling fruit trees that they would be following the requirements of the agreement between the Greenhouse Assn. and the Lincoln-Oakes nursery. Some districts commented that they had talked with their nurseries within their districts and they didn't have a problem with them selling fruit trees. Lori informed everyone that Scott Hochhalter will talk about this later in the agenda.

OHF Tree Planting – Rhonda Kelsch and Terry Steinwand, with the ND Game & Fish will be hosting one of the mini sessions so she didn't want to go into great detail as much of it would be covered at the mini session. The last round there was \$966,000 paid out in cost share. Rhonda explained that she has no control over what SHPO says. Next grant request has been submitted to OHF and Dawn Martin will be presenting the application on Nov. 30th. Agreements for the last batch period will be coming out shortly. There were 525 applications and 125 were approved. The cut off was \$1700, unless flagged due to soils or other specs.

Betty Brown had nothing to report regarding the 501c3. Lori told everyone that if that had questions or anything about the 501c3 to contact Betty.

Lori passed around sheets asking for training ideas for the coming year.

Other Agency Reports.

Dept. of Health – Jim Collins told everyone that they will be able to do more presentations for Eco-Ed as they have more speakers available now. Jim informed everyone that he is speaking at one of the mini sessions this afternoon and hopes that someone from every district will attend. He thanked everyone for their part in the Keep ND Clean Poster Contest.

NDSSCC – Scott Hochhalter offered to come talk to districts that were having questions regarding the letter from the Greenhouse Assn. Scott informed districts that we don't want to infringe on our competition. Reminded districts that we get state funding and they don't, so we don't want to

jeopardize our funding that comes from the Legislature. Scott explained a scenario that happened back in the late 1990's.

NDCDEA – Rhonda Kelsch updated everyone on what has been happening on the National level. Our new President is Tim Riley. The Employees Association will be signing the Conservation Partnership Agreement.

NDFS – Liz Smith, with the Forest Service, informed everyone that the 2016 Tree Promotion meeting dates are March 16 & 17th. Also asked if we would like to move it from Bismarck. Towner Nursery is lifting and grading trees, they have more cooler space so will be able to lift more this fall. The Renovation Grant had 132 landowners submit applications and 32 grants have been awarded so far. The next Pre-Application deadline is March 16th.

State Tech Committee – Trace Hanson is our representative and has agreed to continue she handed out a written report for everyone.

Lori reminded all the current and newly elected directors that there will be a Directors meeting following this meeting so please stick around.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted

BETTY K. BROWN

Acting Secretary

NORTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

March 19th, 2015

8:00 am

The meeting was called to order by President Lori Frank.

A register was sent around to record attendance.

The minutes from the November meeting was sent out and Lori asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Here none Lori Approved the minutes as presented.

In the financial report Darci Gahner gave an update of our finances and membership. Betty Brown made a motion to approve the financial report as present and Deonn Larson seconded the motion. Unanimous ballot was cast.

In old business Lori handed out the plaques and checks for the NACD Poster Contest winner to the Districts to take back and give to the students.

Lori gave an overview of the Conservation at the Capitol Day. It was well received by the Legislatures. Something we might want to look into doing again.

The directors judged the scholarship applications. We had 13 applications. Madison Fischer was the winner. She will receive the \$1000 after completing one semester of college and submitting proof of registration for the next semester.

Betty gave an overview of what the 501c3 permit will allow us to do. Our permit is for the use of educational purposes only. Explained that we can have people use our permit but then we will be responsible for paying of the bills and filing the reports and such.

Rhonda Vetsch gave a report on the Outdoor Heritage Funding. We had 238 applications for the 2015 planting season for a total of \$1.1 million dollars. Forms for reimbursement will be due in August. Must have a signed CONS-4 with completed footage filled in. Lincoln-Oakes will issue the checks for the cost share once all paperwork has been submitted and approved as completed. There will be another signup towards the end of summer looking at August 1 through the 15th time frame for the 2016 planting season. There is about \$600,000 left to be spent.

In new business Lori informed the members that we will be doing the Appreciation Award again. Susan Muske will send out an email looking for nominations this fall.

Lori informed everyone that the Association will once again be holding the Auction at the convention along with the 50/50 raffle.

Lori asked if we still wanted to support the Envirothon. In past we have donated \$1500 to the winning team to get them to the National Competition. Betty Brown made a motion to donate \$1500 to the team and Trace Hanson seconded the motion. Unanimous ballot was cast.

Betty Brown informed everyone that she had talked with Ward County about hosting a Tree Planting/Cooler Maintenance workshop in April for new district employees. A date of April 23rd has

been set. Anyone interested in attending were welcome. Betty and Lorinda Haman will be the instructors for the workshop. So watch your emails for more information on the workshop.

Lori asked the members if there were any other training needs that need to be address for the coming year. Send Lori and email if anyone comes up with any suggestions.

In other reports Bill Elhart from Lincoln-Oakes nursery gave an update on the Greenhouse Association and the NDASCD agreement. Good supply of stock left and gave an update on excess stock species.

Jeff Smette from the Towner gave an update on the new cooler being built at the nursery and inventory that is available still.

Scott Hochhalter, gave an update on the Legislature regarding the District Assistance Program. Handed out copies of the ranking.

Rhonda Vetsch gave an update on the NACDEA.

Trace Hanson has been representing the Association at the State Technical Committee meeting. She gave an overview of the last meeting she attended.

There being no further business Lori adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

BETTY K. BROWN

NDCDEA Director

Acting Secretary