

NDCDEA Employees Meeting  
Quality Inn-Bismarck, North Dakota  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Kelli Schumacher. A quorum was present. See attachment for present members.

**Minutes:**

The minutes were presented from the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. ***Betty Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Kaylee Stein seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Financial Report:**

The financial report was handed out and discussed (see attachment). Out of 112 District Employees, 85 are members and there are also 15 regional members. ***Beth McCleary motioned to approve the financial report. Nathan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Old Business:**

2018 Scholarship-Claire Endres, who is a Junior at NDSU took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the NDCDEA Directors meeting. Claire will be presented with a \$1,000.00 check on behalf of the NDCDEA. There were 16 applicants for this year and districts were asked to please forward these emails onto their local schools for this scholarship opportunity.

2018 Above and Beyond Award-Burleigh County SCD is this year's Above and Beyond award winners and each employee at the Burleigh County SCD will receive a \$100.00 Visa Gift Card.

NACD Poster Winners-There were five poster winners for the NACD poster contest. Two were from Oliver County and three were from Sheridan County.

Tree Promotion-March 5-7, 2019 at the Downtown Radisson. If anyone has any topics/suggestions on what they would like to see at the meeting, please let Kelli Schumacher or any of the other Directors know. Next year's Tree Promotional meeting will not be held in conjunction with the Watershed/319 coordinators, because of conflict with membership fees versus non-membership fees.

**New Business:**

Envirothon Donation-***Jeff Miller motioned to donate \$500.00 to the Envirothon on behalf of the NDCDEA. Sarah Tunge seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

National Convention Representative Sponsorship-Rhonda Kelsch and Sarah Tunge both NACD representatives, were given \$525.00 to help cover registration fees at the NACD convention. This amount was voted on at a prior NDCDEA Directors meeting.

50/50 Raffle- The 50/50 Raffle at the Convention in November, brought in \$575.00 of proceeds to the NDCDEA.

2018 Convention Auction-Kelli asked the districts to start thinking of ideas for the convention auction.

Tree Planting/Cooler Maintenance Workshop-Betty Brown said she is planning on holding another workshop this Spring if there are enough people interested. The workshop will be held at Ward County SCD's shop and Betty will email the districts with a date/time.

2019 Conservation at the Capital-The idea of hosting a "Social Mixer" at a venue such as a hotel banquet room, instead of at the Capital like past years, was discussed. Invitations would be sent to Legislators, Districts, NDASCD, SSCC, etc. Districts would still be able to have displays set up and Rhonda Kelsch suggested that the NDCDEA have a nicer banner made up, since there is extra money in the budget. The banner could be similar to the achievement winner banner, and showcase different pictures of projects/services that Districts offer. Carie Moore also suggested maybe the Districts could do a five-minute presentation/slideshow instead of the display boards. Kelli said that the NDASCD and the Farm Bill Biologists did donate at last year's event and the food cost was approximately around \$4,300.00. The NDCDEA will ask the NDASCD for another donation for 2019.

#### **Other Business:**

Grant Funding/Training Opportunity-The NDASCD has the opportunity to provide possible grant funding proposals or training opportunities to the districts. Kelli asked everyone to let the NDCDEA know of any training/ideas that they may have to utilize some of these funds.

Tree Planning Meeting-JD Hanson said he has been working on having a "Tree Planning" workshop/meeting sometime in July. Planning is still in the works and to contact JD Hanson if you have any questions.

#### **Other Reports:**

Northern Plains Regional Representative-NACD-Sarah Tunge was elected to the Northern Plains Regional Representatives (NACD). Sarah said the NACD is working on "Communication" and currently reorganizing the NACD website for employees to use a little more easily. Sarah also

said they are working on getting some networking going by having some education, joint meetings and some cross-state trainings/teleconferences.

NDSU-Bruce Schmidt-Bruce asked the districts to keep on sending funding requests to him since Victoria has taken another job and because of this, there may be a short time lapse for receiving district funds. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the SSCC meets again with legislators. Bruce also suggested inviting your legislators to a board meeting or putting them on your mailing list, just to give them some more ideas on what Soil Conservation Districts do. Bruce also talked about the importance of supervisors and staff attending the 'Watershed Leadership Academy'. There is a course coming up in Minot on March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> and other upcoming ones to be announced at a later date. The Leadership Academy is a good way for supervisors to get together and talk amongst themselves about district operations/issues. Lastly, Bruce mentioned to the employees that the District Assistance Program money is not NDSU money, but it is State funding money. Some people assumed that since the checks are written out of NDSU, that is where the money was coming from but that is incorrect.

SSCC Awareness/SCD Discussion-Carrie Moore and Cami Janikowski-Carrie and Cami stressed the importance of the SSCC through a flowchart handout and asked if anyone had questions, to be ask them or they would help point anyone in the right direction. They also encouraged employees to attend a watershed meeting or one of their training courses if they have not attended one before. It is very important that employees and their supervisors please bring any issues they are having, up to the NDASCD and do not keep these issues/problems just at your local board meeting to keep on building up. If the SSCC goes away, the SCD's also goes away.

With no further business, ***Kristina Halverson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Betty Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Beckman, Secretary

NDCDEA Employees Meeting  
Ramkota Inn-Bismarck, North Dakota  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Kelli Schumacher. A quorum was present. See attachment for present members.

**Minutes:**

The minutes were presented from the March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. ***Betty Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Dara Abernathy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Financial Report:**

The financial report was handed out and discussed (see attachment). The checking account has a balance of \$15,598.01 as of 11/17/17. ***Jen Klostreich motioned to approve the financial report. Beth McCleary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Old Business:**

2018 Scholarship-Kelli will be sending an email with instructions/information to all the districts.

Convention Auction-Kelli asked that if any district has not turned their auction items into Beth McCleary at the Courtyard, to please do so after the meeting.

NCDEA Report-See attachment letter from Rhonda Kelsch. The Outdoor Heritage Fund has closed out the first grant allocation they received and have expended all the funds available. From 2015-2017 we have reached 723 land stewards totaling 3,810,431 feet, equivalent to 723 miles. The last allocation for funds we have started to draw down dollars with the 2017 tree season. They will evaluate upcoming grant rounds for us to reapply as we move through the next year.

**New Business:**

NACD Poster Winners-Any district with posters are supposed to turn them into Kaylee Stein.

2018 Tree Promotion-March 13-15<sup>th</sup>, Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND. Please contact Kelli Schumacher with any topics or ideas that you would like to see at this year's meeting before December 7<sup>th</sup>, as she is meeting with Tom Claeys and the planning committee. There are also tentative plans to change the venue location for the 2019 Tree Promotion Meeting to the Downtown Radisson in Bismarck.

50/50 Raffle-raffle tickets will be ready sometime around lunch.

## **Directors Election:**

AREA I- Ryan Thorson was nominated by Darci Gahner. Darci Gahner made a motion to elect Ryan Thorson with Jeff Miller seconding the motion. All in favor **AYE** and **MOTION APPROVED**.

AREA II- Nathan Johnson was nominated by JD Hanson. JD Hanson made a motion to elect Nathan Johnson with Darci Gahner seconding the motion. All in favor **AYE** and **MOTION APPROVED**.

AREA III- Kelli Schumacher was nominated by Jen Klostreich. Jen Klostreich made a motion to elect Kelli Schumacher with Kaylee Stein seconding the motion. All in favor **AYE** and **MOTION APPROVED**.

AREA IV- JD Hanson was nominated by Beth McCleary. Beth McCleary made a motion to elect JD Hanson with Ryan Thorson seconding the motion. All in favor **AYE** and **MOTION APPROVED**.

AREA V- Debbie Vollmuth nominated Sarah Tunge. Kalsey Kronberg nominated Jacquelyn Cargo. With two nominations for Area V submitted, a written ballot election took place with the results: **30 votes for Sarah Tunge, to 9 votes for Jacquelyn Cargo**.

## **Other Business:**

### **Other Reports:**

#### **State Soil Conservation Committee/NDSU Extension-**

Bruce Schmidt-Watershed and Soil Conservation Program Director has filled the position that Scott Hochhalter resigned from. Bruce said that the Extension has been hit really hard this year. Bruce also helps with 319 projects, so he stated that he will not have as much time as Scott did and that the role that he plays for the districts will have to change a bit. Bruce asked the employees to write down what Scott has done for them in the past for an upcoming Legislative Review, during which, could be a lot of changes coming for the State Soil Conservation Committee.

\*Following is the section of the S.B. 2020 referring to the study. S.B. 2020 SECTION 14:  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY – STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

During the 2017-18 interim, the legislative management shall study the State Soil Conservation committee. The study must include a review of the duties, responsibilities, and related costs and efficiencies of the committee and related North Dakota State University extension service staff, the needs of the soil conservation districts, and the necessity to continue the State Soil Conservation Committee. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-sixth legislative assembly.

Bruce encouraged districts to send letters of support for the State Soil Conservation Committee and the role it is providing. And/or support for the District Assistance Program grant money your District has been receiving, and /or what the impact of this grant money in your District has been and what it has been used for (i.e. Wages).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Beckman, Secretary

## NDCDEA Employees Meeting

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

## NORTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

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 Abernathy 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. 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 & 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 were 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