

NDCDEA Director's Meeting

November 13, 2023

The November 13, 2023, Director's Meeting was held at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center. Meeting called to order by President Krueger at 2:30 pm. Directors present were Dustin Krueger, Shannon Anderson, Tokina McHarry, Matt Olson, Kari Beckman, Stetson Myers, Molly Jugovic, Ty Nordby, Chad Thorson, Easton Brown, and Darci Gahner. Others present Kelli Schumacher and Sarah Tunge.

The minutes from the October 12 meeting were approved on 11/6/23, with Anderson making motion, Olson second. Passed unanimously.

Financials: Gahner reported NDCDEA membership is standing at about 50 paid members, with 9 being regional. This is down from past years. Reimbursements from regional meeting in Deadwood have not all been received – will be processed as soon as all are in. The NDCDEA basically broke even on the Windbreak Tech course. After the Dakota Prairie RC&D dissolution, \$3,004.45 was donated to the NDCDEA. Discussion was held on clarification of membership tenures. Memberships run from the end of the State Convention through the State Convention of the following year.

Financial statement was reviewed as presented. Olson motioned to approve financials; Beckman seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Urban Conservation and Outreach Workshop (OCOW) – Committee consists of Schumacher, the Grand Forks Field office, and Jaden Deckert. Dates are tentatively September 5-6 in Grand Forks. Will run 1 pm Thursday to noon on Friday, there will be an evening tour and it will be held at the Grand Forks County tree shed.

State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) – Hannah Nordby reached out to Krueger in regard to some needs identified by district employees through a focus group session they held. Perhaps work jointly to create some online modules. Krueger will send email to all directors after Convention.

Outdoor Heritage Fund grant (OHF) – Tunge reported. Check is supposed to be in the mail. There has been staff turn-around at the Industrial Commission and this may be the new time frame we need to deal with. Discussed having an open enrollment type process for next round of apps, with batching dates throughout to help speed the process up.

2023 totals -

337 landowners participated in 2023 for 1,997,712 feet of trees installed.

\$1,452,270.96 was requested in reimbursement.

\$819,196.54 is the carry-over into the 2024 planting season.

Round 1 applications:

176 applications - 127 contracts issued – several dependent on Cultural Walks being conducted.

Round 2 had 328 applications received.

So just as a recap, the OHF grant from 2021-2024 was for 2.550M, 819K is left. The leftover money will be used first with the next contract payments. The new OHF grant is for 2023-2026 for 2.550M.

District Annual Meeting (DAM) – Will be held Monday-Wednesday. Topic ideas – managing funds while waiting for reimbursement. OHF grant process in general.

Convention – Terry Lund will be auctioneer. All money raised will go towards scholarships.

Scholarships – Motion by Brown to change scholarship application to read that only undergraduates are eligible. Jugovic seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Northern Plains Region CDEA meeting – Schumacher gave an update. Most feedback was positive from the event. Next regional meeting will be in August in Bozeman.

National Employees Association – Tunge reminded board that registration for the national NACD meeting is open.

Beckman motioned to approve registration costs for Tunge and Schumacher to attend the National NACD meeting. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business:

May want to clarify wording of the by-laws for directors' terms. Board will discuss at next meeting. Link to employee's handbook will also be resent to members for review.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tokina McHarry, Secretary