

**Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District
Board Meeting – August 8th, 2024 – 9:02AM
Held at USDA Building 417 Park St W, Park River ND**

Attendance

Joel Hylden, President
Jay Gudajtes, Vice President
Brent Risky, Supervisor
Allen Zidon, Supervisor
Brandon Mathiason, Business & Operations Manager
David Bounds, Watershed Coordinator
Bob Lundquist, NRCS
Dennis Skorheim, County Commissioner
Brad Brummond, Advisor

President Hylden called meeting to order with roll call and asked for modifications to the agenda. Gudajtes showed up at 9:26AM

Minutes

The minutes for July 11th, 2024, were reviewed, Risky moved to approve and Zidon seconded; motion carried.

Reports

Mathiason gave the business & operations report. Gudajtes questioned Mathiason about the T & K Olson planting last year and would like to know why we do not refund them on the labor part of the planting as the Hackberry trees were bad stock and we did not replant them this year however only gave them new stock this year that they had to plant themselves, Mathiason reiterated the board meeting from last year where the board decided that because it was confirmed we got bad hackberry stock from the state nursery and they were going to reimburse us, that we would replace individuals with that new tree stock this year however we will not provide the service for free to replant them. Gudajtes also questioned the management presence at the tree plantings sites for this year stating that one of the sites he went and seen looked like trash and if this is how we are going to operate then he did not want to be on the board any longer. Mathiason asked what site this was and Gudajtes stated it was Gary G. Mathiason questioned Gudajtes as to why he felt it looked like trash when the customer himself never complained about anything but the tree tubes that needed to be fixed. Hylden asked Gudajtes what he thinks we should do to fix the issue. Gudajtes stated that the entire planting should be ripped out and redone. Mathiason expressed his disapproval of that option as it would set a precedence and the planting was not done wrong as he was the manager who drove the tractor on 90% of the sites this one included. Mathiason also questioned Gudajtes about his motives as to why he continues to try and bankrupt the soil conservation district. Risky stated to have both Mathiason and Gudajtes go at the same time to visit Gary G. about his planting, Gudajtes stated he did not have time to do that. Hylden stated he would accompany Mathiason and visit with Gary G following the meeting. Bounds gave the watershed report with an update on 319 projects as well as not having permission to use the pontoon for water sampling. Mathiason stated that he will be inviting Emilee Novak up to join in the lake

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sampling in the current boat and show first-hand how dangerous the boat is and the safety concerns about it is on the lake. Lundquist gave the NRCS report.

Financial Report

Hylden asked for approval to pay the bills. Zidon question as to why we have three different subscriptions to adobe acrobat, Mathiason explained that two out of the three are used for the documentary and podcast. Gudajtes questioned if the grants were paying for them, Mathiason answered at this time no they are not being funded by any grant. Gudajtes asked how many people actually listened to the podcast so far? Mathiason replied averaging out the listeners to around 100 listeners per episode with there being 4 episodes as of now, and that we have around 50 followers. Gudajtes asked if anyone in the room even listened to the podcast as he did for about a couple minutes and turned it off because it did not relate to Walsh County and he felt since we are the Walsh County Three Rivers SCD that we should have things more localized on the podcast and talk to people in our own county. Mathiason & Bounds spoke up stating they listen to it but feel they are bias as they work with it. Gudajtes asked what the status of the documentary is as well as we are spending money on both and not seeing results. Brummond stated that he felt that this line of questioning should be tabled to the next meeting until Josh Anderson gets back to answer as he is directly the individual that deals with both the podcast and the documentary. Hylden stated to add the podcast and documentary question and answer with Anderson on next months agenda. Risky moved to pay the bills and Zidon seconded; motion carried.

New Business

Brummond asked to talk about the soil health tour and how he enjoyed it and learned a lot. There was discussion on the gravel pit portion of the tour and Zidon stated that they need to get started on something real soon as there has been tires burnt in the gravel pits along with all the junk that is just left or abandoned. Skorheim stated that he even noticed chemical boxes being burnt in them as well. Zidon stated the possibility to include the gravel pit reclamation in the next 319 grant that is coming up for renewal.

Old Business

Mathiason gave a update on the 319 Watershed audit stating that as of today we have not received any funds this year from them and it was calculated out to about \$36,300 that would be owed to us, however because of the audit we have yet to see anything this year.

Other Business

Mathiason gave an update on the health insurance plans and that they would be increasing around 4% higher. Mathiason gave the board all the policy options to choose from. Gudajtes moved that the plan stay the same however starting this renewal the employee will need to pay for 50% of each years increase going forward, Risky Seconded; motion carried.

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Lundquist stated that the public local work group meeting will be on August 16th at 9am at 417 Park St W, Park River ND

Next Meeting

Regular board meeting September 9th at 9am to be held at 417 Park St. W Park River, ND 58270 with 2025 Budget meeting to follow

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM