



North Platte Valley Conservation District  
March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes  
11:00am, USDA Service Center

ORIGINAL

Chairman Dave Cushman called the meeting to order at 11:03am. Supervisors present were Dave Cushman, Kaye McKee, Duane Keller, and Bum Baumgardner. Employees in attendance were NRCS District Conservationist Ryan Clayton, Programs Coordinator Bill Simmons, and District Manager Jamie Phipps. Dave asked for an amendment to the agenda to add the topic of Savings Account to New Business, Duane moved to accept the amended agenda, Bum seconded. Motion carried. After a brief review of the February minutes, Duane moved to accept the minutes as read, Kaye seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Seeing no walk-in guests, Kaye began her Treasurer's Report. She stated that the month's financials were in order and moved to accept, Duane seconded. Motioned carried. Next on the agenda, the supervisors reviewed the tree account year to date profit and loss and cash balance.

Ryan presented the board with a draft Workgroup Survey letter; he commented that last year's method of combining mailings and making the survey available on the website and at the office proved to be an effective way to get constituent involvement in how EQIP funds are allocated. Jamie and Ryan asked the board how they would prefer to reach their constituents in the most efficient way. After some discussion, the board agreed by consensus to do a mailing for current and past program constituents, and also make a survey available on the website and at the front office. The Supervisors also discussed the idea of putting constituents who completed the survey into a raffle for a NPV promo item prize.

Jamie began her report, informing the board that this year's Goshen County Fair theme is to be "Barn in the USA". She is excited and feels it will be a great fair week. She has been in contact with Lori Schafer and questioned whether the district would want to contribute money to the open class awards, as participation in this category has been steadily decreasing. Kaye moved to contribute \$50.00, Bum seconded. Motion carried. Next, Jamie provided the board with information she had gathered concerning the soil testing program. Upon speaking with Ward Laboratory's Consulting Agronomist Terry Ditner, it came to Jamie's attention that while she thought she ordered the Haney test in 2023 she actually had ordered Ward's Soil Health Assessment due to miscommunication between her and the lab. Terry informed her that while you can still purchase the Haney test, he is recommending people to use the SHA instead. Jamie pursued research and found that Midwest Labs offers Haney tests at a Basic Package of \$55.00 or a Complete at \$65.00. Jamie also shared her results from a website survey she facilitated. After some discussion, Duane moved to provide soil tests year-round, choice of Haney test through Midwest Labs at one free test per applicant per year. Bum seconded the motion, motion passed. She then asked the board to start thinking about programs as she is going to provide them with a Proposed Budget in May and a Final in June.

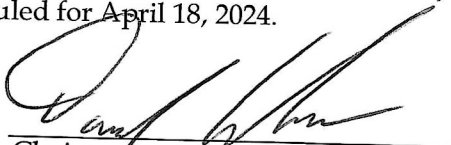
Bill stated that he is excited for this upcoming tree season, he has completed all 2024 site surveys. He is expecting 26 total plantings and \$4,500.00 so far in Pre-sale invoices. The tractor is finished, and Jamie is completing the necessary paperwork to create a charge account at Titan. The seasonal crew has started and are busy sorting and bundling trees in preparation for

plantings and delivery to Pre-sale participants. Depending on the weather, it is projected to be a successful season.

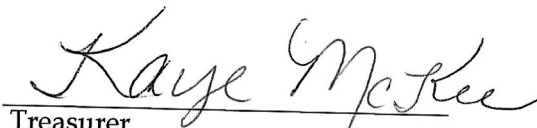
The meeting then moved to Old Business. This included the topic of purchasing promotion travel tumblers. Supervisors discussed whether to purchase from Gro Business Solutions or purchase the tumblers and have them engraved. By consensus the board chose two options from GBS and Jamie will purchase an order that fits within the budget.

New Business began with a few correspondence items, a post card from Great Plains Equipment and the insurance policy renewal. The board then moved into a lengthy review of subdivision proposals. After much discussion, it was decided that due to lack of proposed land use and other pertinent information, the board could not properly write a recommendation. They asked Jamie to respond with a letter making their statement. Dave then asked the board to review the saving account, this began a conversation concerning CD's and interests rates. The board then asked Jamie to research six-month CD's for the April Meeting.

Seeing no other business, Dave adjourned the meeting at 1:54pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024.

  
Chairman

4-18-24  
Date

  
Treasurer