Minutes

Roll Call.................................................................................................................................................. Orval Gigstad, Region Chair

*What will your district be doing for 2020 Stewardship week?*

**Kansas:** Allen Roth, Bevin Law, Jerry Clasen (send out updates to clergy, schools, have done breakfasts, ad in paper). Amanda Scott.

**Montana:** Steve Hedstrom (districts are planning individual programs)

**Nebraska:** Orval Gigstad (still discussing, showcasing education programs on NETV), Kent Zimmerman

**North Dakota:** Roger Christensen (Facebook page to showcase achievement winner), Keith Bartholomay (award for community member)

**South Dakota:** Karl Jensen (outreach), Angela Ehlers (having the pollinator guide printed for all the districts), Bill Smith, Tami Moore (lots of districts in Eastern SD doing outreach, circulating info on Facebook)

Approval of Minutes ........................................................................................................................................ Board Members

**KS:** moved, SD: Approved

Executive Board Report ........................................................................................................................................ Bevin Law

Wrapping up after annual meeting. Making plans for Bismarck Summer Meeting. His district recently talked about careers workshop attendees and the growth of the program. S and E committee: Smaller response for the pack a book for the annual meeting and they’d like to see this increase next year. Info on the work day in Las Vegas: Zion United Methodist Church (Urban Conservation Grantee). The church has had some difficulty with vandalism, theft and arson. The garden is quite large, and the church members were with the group during the work day. The work involved laying pavers. The church members also came and were featured at the NACD annual meeting.

There’s been a lot of discussion on the proposed youth involvement effort that will involve getting students (high school or college) to attend the Annual meeting. Discussions are ongoing to develop a pilot that will test the concept while still accounting for concerns of youth and travel. Requirements for chaperones are a factor. Bevin welcomes input and opinions at the Bismarck meeting.

NACD Report .................................................................................................................................................. Sunni Heikes-Knapton

- [New Northern Plains Region Webpage](#)
- **Spring Fly In and NGLI:** Cancelled due to COVID19. Members are encouraged to do a virtual fly in. See latest eResource for more info.
• **Conservation Hub Launch** - Pollinator Field Day Guide is now available. Partners may be interested in providing support for printing in your states.
• **Stewardship week: Where would we BEE without pollinators?** April 26- May 3
• **Conservation Planning Bootcamp** - Dates have been announced and support for district employees to attend is once again available.
• **Staffing updates** - Development director position advertised, Policy Advisor has been hired (Mary Scott).
• **Technical Assistance grants** - Priority requests have been submitted to state partnerships for review. An RFP will be circulated within a month for remaining funds. No EQIP is expected, but CSP and quite a bit of COTA are expected to be available. State partnerships should be assessing districts where workload need and capacity is high and reaching out to them to encourage application.
• **Urban Webinar**: March 19, 12 PM Eastern. Topic: Land Management Certification Programs. [Register here](#).

**2020 Region Meeting:**
To be held in North Dakota at NACD Summer Meeting July 19, 1:30- 3:30 PM
Discussion on 2021 Region Meeting: What is most efficient? What would make it worthwhile? It is still very important to rotate between the states, there is value in keeping the region meeting as a stand alone gathering. For 2020, it makes sense to include it with the summer meeting since it is in the region. Propose discussing a bit in North Dakota to come up with some ideas about ways to make it worthwhile in 2021.

**Missouri River Team Update: Jack Majeres**
Update and discussion on MRRIC participation and expenses. Discussions have taken place with Dick Iverson regarding funding. His travel expenses will be higher than Jack’s due to the fact he is based in Montana. Dick feels he should be able to find additional funding, states would be able to maintain their current $500-$600 support level. Current support will cover Jack’s expenses through June. Jack recently attended Bird Group, Dick attended the human considerations work group. Jack’s last meeting is in Sioux Falls in June.
Review of Dick’s experience. ACOE will be doing a study of flows coming out of MT to look at pallid sturgeon population impacts.

**Other Region News:**
• North Dakota Fundraiser: Whitetail Deer Tag raffle. Tickets can be bought at [www.lincolnoakesnursery.com](http://www.lincolnoakesnursery.com). Drawing will be held August 3rd 2020.
• **Aldo Leopold Award nominations**
• **Soil Health Innovations Symposium, March 30-31, Bozeman, MT** - Postponed
• **Grazing Lands Coalition Bus Tour: June 14-16, Nebraska** - They are accepting registrations but not payments in case event needs to be cancelled.
• **Conference**: Enhancing your livestock operation: Surviving in a world of change. Baker, MT June 23-24.
Updates: States, Committee, RPGs, NASCA, NRCS, NCDEA Updates

Nebraska: Working on Envirothon. Currently in legislative session.

Kansas: All district meetings have been completed. Soil health meetings are ongoing. Districts are working on Envirothon teams. They’re working with the university regarding soil health research.

North Dakota: Board meeting recently done. Did a retreat and set priorities. Good attendance and response from attendees.

Montana: Looking for a new Executive Director.

South Dakota: Last day of general session today- discussing budget. Watershed districts are re-engaging and reactivating with some help from the governor. Target will be looking at levies. Retreat is planned for this summer. Doing a joint meeting with the conservation commission.

NASCA: Working on RCPP rule and developing some comments.

NRCS: Working on some challenges as a result of the cancellations- state cons were supposed to be meeting during the fly in and that was cancelled. The priority is to have them working at home. Chief Lohr: Mentoring program development. Webinars have been done and more info will be coming out.

NCDEA: The NCPP Website is up and running. If states or districts have events or training they would like to have on the calendar they can send them to me and the Communications Team will review them and post them. They’re looking for things that would be open to anyone and are relevant. The NCDEA N. Plains and N. Central regions are planning a leadership conference again this year. Aug 18-19 in Rochester, MN. All employees are welcome. Planning is moving forward on the NACD summer meeting. They’re really excited to showcase conservation in ND!

Next meeting: April 17, 2020- 12 PM Central

Motion to adjourn: KS.