

MINUTES
SOILS COMMITTEE MEETING
GRAND FORKS COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
November 10, 2015 @ 9:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Burkland, Bob Landman, Terry Stromsodt, and Jeff Trosen
OTHERS PRESENT: Beau Bateman, Dan Dubuque, Paul Bjorg, Mike Knudson, Paul Bernardy, Gary Lund, Gary Paur, Wayne Trottier, Michelle Linstad, Maynard Loibl, Bruce Ellertson, Herbert Schultz, Scott Ferry, Sandy Fossum, & Amber Gudajtes.

Mr. Burkland opened the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves as other counties were in attendance.

Ms. Gudajtes handed out spreadsheets of the modifiers used across the state of North Dakota.

Ms. Fossum, Richland County Tax Director explained how soils are handled in Richland County. Discussion by the group followed.

Mr. Burkland asked the group what they thought of pursuing modifiers for Grand Forks County.

- Jeff Trosen – Possibly wait until legislature decides.
- Bob Landman – Keep it simple, restrict use to limit abuse.
- Terry Stromsodt – Likes modifiers – would like to see 3 or 4.
- Paul Bernardy – Likes what Richland does, need 6 – 8 modifiers.
- Beau Bateman – Any modifier that could be determined based on science.
- Gary Paur – Likes modifiers
- Wayne Trottier - Talked to NDSU representative and RMA data is confidential and will stay that way.
- Dan Dubuque – Need saline modifier.
- Paul Bjorg – Salinity can be scientifically measured.
- Dave Burkland – Salinity biggest issue, with salinity there are spots where nothing can be produced

Mr. Stromsodt motioned to submit the seven modifiers to the state that we had before, salinity, rocks, erosion, irregular field, non conformity, inaccessibility, and stream overflow, 2nd by Mr. Landman, discussion, approved. Ms. Gudajtes stated that the modifiers must be approved at the state before a county can use them. Even though the group does not have a plan in place to use the modifiers, they wanted to make sure modifiers could be used once the process was decided. There would not be time to implement modifiers for 2016.

The soils committee thought it would be a good idea for Ms. Gudajtes to poll the townships at the township officers fall meeting on November 16, 2015. Ms. Gudajtes will work with NDSU extension on preparing a power point poll with electronic clickers.

Mr. Burkland is retiring from the soils committee. At the next meeting, the committee will vote on a new chairperson.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2016 at 9:00 AM. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Stromsodt, 2nd Mr. Trosen, approved.

Submitted by Secretary, Amber Gudajtes