

MINUTES

Mountrail County Soils Committee

August 23, 2017

Mountrail County Courthouse 101 N Main St. Stanley, ND 58784

Committee Members present: Michael Hynek, Dustin Roise, Luke Lahtinen, Keith Deutsch

Absent Member: Charlie Sorenson

Also present was Rory Porth, Property Assessor (Deputy of the Deputy Tax Director) and Lori Hanson, Mountrail County Tax Director.

Organization of the Committee

Keith Deutsch nominated Mike Hynek as chairman with concurrence with Lahtinen and Roise.

Luke Lahtinen nominated Charlie Sorenson as vice-chairman with concurrence with Roise, Deutsch and Hynek.

Lori Hanson, Mountrail County Tax Director, is designated as the secretary to the committee.

Soils Committee Policy

Brief review of the soils committee policy with a recommendation being brought forth to the County Commissioners to adjust the three year term limits to be on an alternating schedule. In three years, we do not want to have a completely new committee.

Main duties of committee are to review and verify crop/non-crop drawings, review and advise County Commissioners regarding usage of modifiers, randomly audit parcels and help develop Ag Land Valuation protest policy.

Slide Presentation

The following points were covered within the slide presentation:

- ND Land Valuation Overview
- Handouts of Guide to Assessing Agricultural Land in North Dakota and the Review of Agricultural Land Valuation Procedures
- GIS Drawing Ruleset – handed out and reviewed by committee members. Discussion was held with an addition to item 5 dealing with shelterbelts. The following wording to be added at the end – rough acreage 1 acre and above. Another addition is regarding item 8 and the concept of once cropped, always cropped with the 20-year rolling timeframe. “CRP needs to be valued as cropland and is exempted from the 20-year

rolling timeframe if still receiving a payment.” Township Boards should be able to help us locate CRP lands along with property owners.

- Dustin Roise made a motion to recommend approval of the amended land use ruleset to the County Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Keith Deutsch. All in favor, motion carried.
- Land Valuation Ruleset was handed and reviewed. Productivity index used for cropland with AUM’s (Animal Unit Month) used for non-cropland. Dustin Roise voiced concerns regarding some farmers realizing a higher value for some waterways and slough areas due to the pounds of forage being higher on some soil types creating a higher AUM.
- Review of land use on the Pre-Pilot test sections.
- A suggestion for the pilot township after being under contract with Sidwell is Rat Lake Township 154-93. It is an area that members of the committee are familiar with. Tax Equalization staff will review for complexity and report back to the members.
- GIS mapping was reviewed by committee members along with a brief discussion of the project timeline.
- Chairman Hynek will meet with the County Commissioners on September 5, 2017 to present the GIS Drawing ruleset and request the Board to change the policy regarding the 3 year term.

Submitted by Secretary, Lori Hanson