

MINUTES

Mountrail County Soils Committee

July 18, 2018

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

Committee Members present: Michael Hynek, Charlie Sorenson, Keith Deutsch, Dustin Roise

Absent Member: Luke Lahtinen

Others present: Trudy Ruland – County Commissioner, Dan Uran – County Commissioner, Rory Porth – Property Assessor, and Lori Hanson – Tax Director

Purpose of Meeting

Meeting was called to provide information to the Soils Committee regarding agricultural land values based off of detailed soils and actual land use. Each member was presented with a copy of Mountrail County's Ag Land Valuation Manual.

Slide Presentation

Rory Porth covered the following points within the slide presentation:

- ND Land Valuation Overview
- Mountrail Ag Land Valuation Ruleset
- Productivity Index (PI) is utilized for calculating cropland values
- Animal Unit Month (AUM) Information – used for calculating non-cropland values. The formula to calculate a stocking rate is as follows: **Pounds air dry annual production x 0.25/913 lbs/month = AUM/ac.** The Web Soil Survey gives the air dry annual production for the map unit. The 0.25 is the harvest efficiency, or the amount of forage that can be allocated to the animal while maintaining the productivity of the resource. 913 is the pounds of air dry forage consumed by a 1000 pound cow in a month (1 AUM).
- NRCS Soils Survey data
- Township soils acreage information. Manual provides a listing of all townships and the actual use acres. The finalized numbers are yet to be determined as the Tax Department are still in the review process.
- Valuation Processing
- Mountrail County valuation summary
- All soils by township chart
- Wade Bott, soil scientist – email information regarding the NRCS soils data

Discussion was held following the presentation and committee members agree with the valuation methodology.

Keith Deutsch made a motion to recommend approval of the agricultural land valuation method to the Mountrail County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Charlie Sorenson. All in favor – motion carried.

Chairman Hynek will meet with the County Commissioners with the recommendation.

At this time there are 3 tiers of townships left to review (158, 157, 156) with Township reviews scheduled with 156 on July 31 and August 1. The Tax Dept. is working to have all Township reviews completed by Labor day or shortly thereafter depending on harvest schedules.

Submitted by Secretary, Lori Hanson