

# Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



**April 29, 2025**

*via Zoom*

A special meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by David Hill, Chair.

**Committee Members and guests present:**

Emily Montgomery – *Area I Supervisor*

Chris Walberg – *Area II Supervisor*

David Hill – *Area III Supervisor, Chair*

Bob Martin – *Area IV Supervisor*

Jess O'Brien – *Area V Supervisor, Vice Chair*

Kelly Klosterman – *Governor Appointee*

Hannah Nordby – *Area V Program Coordinator*

Lindy Berg – *Area I Program Coordinator*

Paula Comeau – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*

Amber Fetch – *ND State Soil Conservation Committee  
Administrative Assistant*

Carrie Johnson – *NDSU Extension Assistant Director*

**Committee Members absent:**

Anthony Mock – *Governor Appointee*

**New Business:**

- Legislative Budget Bill Update
  - Carrie Johnson gave a brief update on the legislative budget bill that affects NDSU Extension and the SSCC (SB2020). NDSU Extension budget is 2.1% less, but the amount allocated to SCDs (DART) is the same as in the previous biennium (\$1.3 million). The additional requested \$150,000 was not adopted by the legislature.
- Discuss DART Rankings
  - A thorough discussion regarding DART rankings ensued.
    - Committee members expressed concerns that old rankings may have been used to weight the algorithm used in the DART system, which may skew current rankings.
    - Discussion of how SCDs can move up in the current ranking.
    - Thorough discussion of mill levies and whether SCDs are leveraging enough.
    - Several options for determining rankings going forward were discussed.
  - Carrie noted that we can create a spreadsheet that includes the factors the SSCC wants to consider when looking at rankings.
  - No changes will be needed to the DART system; Sarah Tunge will be informed.
  - Kelly made a motion of continuance to gather more information. Bob seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.
    - Carrie will share the aforementioned spreadsheet via email, and the Committee will vote via email on whether to use that or not.

**Adjournment:**

Emily moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.