

Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting



March 31, 2026

via Zoom

A special meeting of the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by David Hill, Chair.

Committee Members and guests present:

Emily Montgomery – *SSCC, Area I Supervisor*
Chris Walberg – *SSCC, Area II Supervisor*
David Hill – *SSCC, Area III Supervisor, Chair*
Bob Martin – *SSCC, Area IV Supervisor*
Mary Podoll – *SSCC Appointee, Vice Chair*
Bruce Schmidt – *SSCC Appointee*

Kelly Klosterman – *Subcommittee Member*
Carrie Johnson – *NDSU Extension Assistant Director*
Paula Comeau – *NDSU Extension Program Coordinator*
Amber Fetch – *ND State Soil Conservation Committee
Administrative Assistant*
Jessica Jones – *Guest, Barnes County SCD*

Committee Members absent:

Jess O'Brien – *SSCC, Area V Supervisor*

Subcommittee Meetings with NDSU Extension, DEQ, and the ND Department of Agriculture:

- Subcommittee Findings
 - Prolonged discussion of the subcommittee meetings with NDSU Extension, DEQ, and the ND Department of Agriculture, entities that could potentially house the SSCC going forward.
 - DEQ is interested in a stronger partnership with the SSCC and SCDs generally, regardless of whether the SSCC is housed with them or not.
 - Prolonged discussion of the follow-up subcommittee meeting after the aforementioned meetings.
 - Consensus of the subcommittee: The SSCC to discuss a recommendation to bring to the Area Meetings.
 - Bruce suggested the SSCC needs to explore other funding options regardless of the actions taken in response to the resolutions.
 - Mary suggested the committee explore the pros and cons of all potential entities all the way through.
 - David noted that the committee may need more time and may not be able to come to a decision in time for the upcoming legislative session.
 - Kelly noted that DEQ might be willing to take over the Surface Mining Report, so the SSCC may need to work with a legislator to get that changed in ND Century Code during the upcoming legislative session.

Commissions Task Force

- Paula and Carrie were both involved in the Commissions Task Force, which is looking into consolidating or eliminating redundant state committees.
 - The SSCC has no duplicative responsibilities with other state committees or organizations and at the time of the meeting was not a committee of concern.

Next Committee Meeting:

The next SSCC board meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CT at the Carrington REC.

Adjournment:

David adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.