

Pembina County Soils Committee

December 06, 2021- 10:00 AM

Farmer's Room~ Pembina County Courthouse

SOILS COMMITTEE UNOFFICIAL MINUTES:

A regular meeting of the Pembina County Soils Committee was held on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Farmer's Room of the Pembina County Courthouse. **Members Present:** Camburn Shephard, Bill Gunderson, Robert Vivatson, Joel Smith, and Brad Schuster- via teleconference. **Alternate present:** Nick Heuchert. **Others Present:** Tax Equalization Director, Mikka Willits, Deputy Tax Director/GIS Specialist, Lisa Wieler, Commissioner, Nick Rutherford.

Member's Absent: Curtis Christenson (alternate)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Camburn Shephard at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes of the previous meetings on November 4 (revised), and November 15, 2021 were reviewed. Stand as submitted.

A discussion was held on modifiers and whether or not the soil committee members applied them to their soils cards. Shelterbelt, woodland, cemetery, gravel pits, railroad, farmstead, waste, water, stream/river, and drains were all applied to soils cards where needed. Mr. Shephard questioned whether or not shelterbelts and pipelines should be removed from the list. It was decided by the committee that both shelterbelts and pipeline would remain in the list even though shelterbelts are hard to track and the majority of pipelines at this time are being farmed. Mr. Gunderson questioned whether there should be a consistent number of acres applied to roads. For Ex., townships (2), county (4) and state (6) per Mr. Shephard. Mr. Vivatson mentioned that not all of them have the same amount of acres in some areas. Ms. Willits reminded everyone that unless water is owned by the Government, it remains taxable. Pasture land was again reviewed. Pasture is not considered a modifier, it is a land use. The committee will determine the amount of acres of pastureland and a value will be determined when values are set. A discussion on rocks was held comparing the identified pastureland soil type PI to the cropland PI and the NRCS Soil Survey with the mapping unit components. Per Mr. Heuchert and Mr. Vivatson a review from NRCS may take up to three years. It was decided that modifiers such as erosion, irregular fields, saline/alkaline, and non-conformity would be discussed in greater detail next year and they would focus on the major ones they have been discussing, like flooding and rocks. The committee did not determine a percentage of a rock modifier at this time. Further discussion will be held after valuations are obtained.

Ms. Willits mentioned that she and Ms. Kemp from the Water Board had a meeting with Houston Engineering on Friday, December 3. Information for the flood plain areas were discussed and maps sent to the committee for the Tongue and Cart Creek. Houston Engineering is doing further research on the Red River, including Lincoln Twp. and the Pembina

River. A piece appeared to be missing on the map in Lincoln Twp. Once information is complete and finalized, a shapefile will be created to upload to the GIS.

Mr. Heuchert questioned whether or not "shale runs" should be considered a modifier. He mentioned some of the problem areas that are affected by these include: Crystal, Thingvalla, Gardar, Park, and Elora Townships. Mr. Heuchert mentioned that an area would need to be borderline drowning for it not to show. He brought several parcels to our attention for review. These include: 11-0830000, 11-1800000, 07-0320000, 07-0950000, and 07-1450000. Ms. Willits was going to reach out to NRCS to see if this has been taking into account in the PI, or if it may be something they could review since it was noted it may affect a portion of Western Pembina County. The committee decided this would be a consideration to add to the list for next year.

Motion was made by Mr. Gunderson to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Secretary for Tax Equalization Office

Soils Committee Chairman