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Kittson County*



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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Held on Wednesday April 11th, 2018 at 7:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse
Meeting Room**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on April 11, 2018 at 7:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

Members present at the meeting included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, Treasurer Justin Dagen, and Public Relations Ron Anderson.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Maddy Rehn, BWSR PRAP Program Coordinator Dale Krystosek, Zoning Administrator Lane Nordin, District Conservationist Jim Schwab, and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer.

Joe Wilebski left the meeting early for a prior engagement.

The minutes from last month's meeting were presented to the board. Justin Dagen moved to approve the minutes as presented and Joe Wilebski seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report from March was then presented to the board. Heather Peterson motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Joe Wilebski seconded, and the report was passed unanimously.

The meeting then moved on to new business. To start, Justin Muller brought four Cover Crop contracts to the board to be approved. While presenting the contracts, he asked the board for clarification on how the District is to allow multiple farm applications. The board clarified that if the farm has a distinct FSA number, it is a different entity and thus can apply for its own Cover Crop contract. Joe Wilebski then motioned to approve the four presented contracts, Ron Anderson seconded, and they passed unanimously.

Next Justin asked the board their thoughts on approving a draft MOU as a placeholder while waiting for the official document from Rinkie Noonan between the District and the County. Justin

Dagen motioned to approve the signing and presentation of the placeholder MOU to the County Board, Heather seconded, and motioned was passed with 3 ayes and 1 nay.

Jeremy Benson then presented Paul Gillie's signed contract for approval of the 75/25 cost share. Justin Dagen motioned to approve the cost share split, Joe Wilebski seconded, and the cost share was passed unanimously.

The rebid for the three point mower was then discussed by Jeremy. A list of bids was given to the board members consisting of the old bids and new. The board decided to purchase a Frontier mower from True North Equipment in Kennedy and add a second rear wheel. Justin Dagen moved to purchase the mower, Heather Peterson seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Justin also brought up the transportation of the new Truax drill. The options were for the District to go pick it up, hire a local trucker to go get it, or to have Truax deliver it. The board decided to hire a local trucker as long as the cost was close to what Truax would charge to deliver. If that was not possible, the District was instructed to have Truax deliver the drill.

Jamie then presented the Buffer Cost Share Amendment to the board. BWSR had excess funds to redistribute and as the District showed need for extra funds, they were awarded \$38,742 to spend by the end of 2019. The required an amendment to the previous Buffer Cost Share agreement. Heather Peterson motioned to accept the amendment, Joe Wilebski seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Up next was Dale Kystosek, BWSR PRAP Project Manager. He was present to deliver the Draft Level II Performance Review. He skimmed through the beginning summary and introduction of the review. He also talked through the findings, discussion, and comments in the review as stated by the District, County, and their partners. Dale commented on the knowledge and leadership of the SWCD Board. He also discussed the conclusions of the review one of which was for the SWCD to continue to closely work with the County and maintain the relationship. The goal of the review is to help the District sustain and improve its activities. To do this, BWSR includes action items in the review. Action items in the District's review included developing a data practices policy, and to more clearly define WCA policies. These are things that need to be done. Recommendations included conducting a strategic assessment of the SWCD, address the action items within 18 months, participating strongly in the development of One Watershed, One Plan, and setting up the website to keep the public notified of the trends and progress with One Watershed, One Plan. Dale then briefly went over the tables and appendices in the rear of the review. He also mentioned that there will be a follow up survey in a couple of years.

Following was Justin Muller's District Technician report. In it he stated there are a few projects and applications currently for WCA and has also been working on that portion of the PRAP. He attended MACFO a couple weeks ago as well in relation to the District's feedlot program. He also attended the County Commissioner's meeting to discuss funding for the District's tractor and Truax drill. Justin participated in a Leadership Conference as well where he spoke with Representative Dan Fabian and Senator Mark Johnson. Next, he asked for Board approval on project applications the District had developed for future instances. Heather motioned to approve the applications,

Justin seconded, and they were passed unanimously. He also asked to approve the out of county mileage rate for the tractor seeding service as outlined in the new tractor policy. Heather motioned to approve the rate, Justin seconded, and it passed unanimously. Justin also motioned to adopt the policies, Ron seconded, and they passed unanimously.

Next Jim Schwab gave the NRCS report. There have been two applications for EQIP for which there isn't any funding yet, and five applications for CSP one of which isn't eligible and another that is a renewal. There is still no action on CRP. Jim is still splitting his time between Hallock and Macintosh. There are also potential office closings coming for NRCS but nothing official yet. Curtis Elke, the acting State Conservationist for NRCS has said he will be making a surprise visit to the Hallock office in the near future. Jim also mentioned the joining of NRCS, FSA, and RMA which will be called FPAC – Farm Production and Conservation.

Maddy Rehn then gave her District Outreach report. She mentioned that county entrance signs have been ordered and should be here within the next few weeks. She also mentioned that schools have been contacted for Arbor Day and all have responded with class numbers so trees will be ordered for that. Lastly, Maddy reported that Kris Folland has been officially certified through the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

Next Jeremy Benson gave his District Technician report. He began by stating that Buffer Compliance reminder post cards have been sent out and that there has been more calls and interest in the cost share funds available through the District. Also in relation to buffers, the MOA between the District and the Two Rivers Watershed is still being negotiated. Next, he brought up the state cost share agreement for the Gillie project. Gillie has contacted a contractor to begin getting the project underway. Jeremy also touched on the progress of One Watershed, One plan. He is currently editing the application as the requirements were updated from last year. He also pointed out the need to include the Joe River Watershed and get them on board with the process. Jeremy also mentioned Kris Folland's certification and that there is a press day for that event on Friday April 13, 2018 and 1 pm. Kris will receive \$300 for his efforts towards becoming certified.

At this point, a board member asked for clarification on the new buffer penalties that were recently announced. As Dale Krystosek was still present and from the entity proposing the penalties, he offered to explain. Dale stated that staff within BWSR proposed an Administrative Penalty Order which included the scheme that was announced earlier this week. Dale said that after it had been proposed, it was deemed extreme and will most likely go away. Also, he pointed out that this APO would only affect areas where BWSR has buffer jurisdiction, which is not Kittson County, so the scheme would not affect our residents.

Jamie Osowski then gave the District Manager's report. She began with reminding Justin Dagen and Ron Anderson that their terms are up this year and they can file for reelection beginning May 22nd. She then went over the Biennial Budget Review which has two parts, a county section and a district section. Each has different programs that are reviewed for their funding. The review would like to know of any projects the district foresees in the near future. This review is for 2020 and 2021. Jamie then went over the Individual Development Plan that the district has been working on and explained the process of identifying priorities in training needs. After, she mentioned the

upcoming Local Work Group meeting for identifying resource concerns with the district's partners and prioritizing these resource concerns using the NRCS worksheet provided. This meeting will take place on April 26th, 2018 at 9 am at the Kittson County Courthouse. Next, Jamie touched on the upcoming Envirothon event. There is a site visit for coordinators on April 18th and Agassiz Wildlife Refuge and the event is on April 25th. She also mentioned that the day of the site visit numerous staff will be in and out of the office all day necessitating closing the office for the morning of April 18th. The board agreed, and the office will be reopened by 1 pm that day. Jamie then reported on the ongoing process of updating the District laptop that is used for QuickBooks. The Co-op that the computer is going to be purchased through requires an MOU to be signed before a catalog can be sent out. Justin moved to allow Jamie to sign the MOU and move forward with purchasing the laptop. Heather seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be May 9th, 2018 at 7 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse Meeting Room.

X *Heather Peterson*

Heather Peterson
Secretary