

*Helping Producers Implement
Best Management Practices
For Conservation Purposes in
Kittson County*



410 South 5th Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (855) 744-0398- www.kittsonswcd.org

Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Held on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 at 9:00 AM at VIA WebEx

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 at 9:00 AM VIA WebEx due to Covid-19. Members present via WebEx included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, Public Relations Sam Anderson and Treasurer Andrew Muir.

Others present via WebEx meeting were; District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager, Jamie Osowski.

The minutes from the March 18th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors by roll call.

The treasurers report from March 2020 were presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the March 2020 financials, motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors by roll call.

New Business:

The first order of new business was bids for the districts 2010 Brillion sure stand seeder. The district received 9 sealed bids. Due to Covid-19, Jamie Osowski, District Manager openrf the bids and read to the board. The highest bid was \$6,005.00 from Justin Peterson. Motion was made Wilebski and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors by roll call to accept the highest bid for the Brillion. Jamie will contact the bidder, if he should pass the next highest bidder will be contacted.

Next, Heather discussed the Kittson SWCD's 2020 Poster Contest and how the guidelines changed since school had changed to distant learning. Heather asked the students to take pictures of their posters and email them to her. She received 16 posters from 5th grade students from Lancaster and Kittson Central. The staff narrowed the posters down to 5 and Heather showed those 5 posters to the board. Upon discussion on each poster, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards were given to students. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors by roll call. Heather will contact the winners and work to present their awards to them.

Next; Justin spoke to the board on the changes with the 2020 tree season. This year, the Kittson SWCD will share a truck from Byfuglien Trucking in Roseau with Roseau SWCD and Pennington

SWCD. This option will be cheaper than delivery by Schumacher's. Trees will arrive on May 5 and the staff will work to organize and bag all orders. Due to Covid-19, tree pickup will be handled by drive up appointments only. Letters will be sent out to those that have placed orders and they will be asked to set up a pickup time, the staff will place their orders in their vehicles and will have minimal contact with the customer.

Jamie spoke to the board on policies for the office with Covid-19 and how the office will handle busy season and being back in the office. The staff wanted to make sure the board was comfortable with them being back in the office. The staff will continue to follow the Covid-19 policy set during the March board meeting. Jamie also informed Sam and Andrew on our tree shed being an emergency shelter for bodies in the case of mass casualties.

Staff Reports:

Jeremy gave his District Technician Report, he stated that he will be working on last chance Buffer letters. Jeremy stated that we will begin working on these letters when we return to the office, so we have their folders available to discuss options with the landowner. Jeremy reported that he will start coming to the office again to start staking Buffers and seeding when ground is ready to go on.

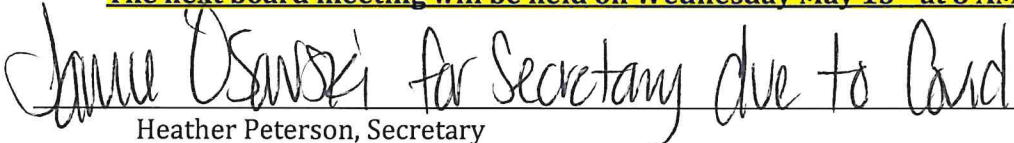
Jim was unable to join the meeting due to another meeting, but he sent a report. He has 14 EQIP applications that all rank high; 5 for livestock, 8 no-till and cover crop and 1 tree planting and pollinator. He has 8 CSP applications, 2 rank high and they are for beginning farmers. There is no word on how much money will be allocated to each program. Jim has also been working on 50 CRP General contracts offers. 37 were accepted. Michael has officially accepted a position in Baudette as a Resource Conservationist. Jim is unsure if he will be getting help. Jim also reported that he has no new updates on Covid-19 for NRCS. He is teleworking as much as he can and has been going to the office 1-2 times a week.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She stated that her events have been cancelled or postponed. She has been working on a producer list and putting together a trivia event from the Envirothon exams developed by presenters for the event. Heather has been putting together rules for a Photo contest for Kittson County.

Justin gave his report, he stated that he is working with a consultant on the Wagon Wheel Ridge WCA Project. Justin also reported that he has been researching drones to purchase.

Jamie gave the District Manager report, she reported that she has been working on catching up with reporting following maternity leave and has been keeping in contact with the courthouse and NRCS on Covid-19.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday May 13th at 8 AM. Location TBA

 for Secretary due to Covid
Heather Peterson, Secretary

5/13/2020
Date