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Best Management Practices
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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Held on Wednesday August 11th, 2021 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday August 11th, 2021 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Secretary Carey Mortenson, Public Relations Sam Anderson, and Treasurer Joe Wilebski.

Others present were District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Outreach Coordinator Heather Donoho and District Conservationist Jim Schwab

Additions to the Agenda were presented including, SSTS Upgrade Contract for Spilde and request for funding, Christopherson Buffer SWI contract, and Matt Fischer update. Motion for the addition to the agenda was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The minutes from the July 9th, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors. Minutes from the special board meeting held on July 22nd, 2021 were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from July 2021 were presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the July 2021 financials, motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

NRCS Report: Jim reported that he has a busy fall coming up. He stated with the new farm bill he will be field checking all new CRP seedings before payment and for the following 3 years. He stated that there have been 28 contracts with new seedings, and he will also be checking for Roseau and Marshall County. He stated that he has done 5-6 checks so far and he can see rows, but they are not looking great due to the lack of moisture. He reported that there are 51 new and enrolled Continuous CRP and he is working on getting the signatures for these contracts with FSA. Jim

reported that they haven't heard anything on General CRP signup. Next Jim reported that he has had no CSP contracts funded and he has not heard of any new signups. He reported that he has not received any guidance from the NRCS state office on Covid-19 guidelines, he stated FSA is wearing masks and have moved desks around for adequate spacing between employees. Jim is unsure what to follow at this time, he is waiting for guidance.

New Business:

SSTS Upgrade: Justin presented to the board with 3 SSTS upgrades; the first contract is for Cody Johnson in Thompson Township; the total cost of this contract is \$15,000 and he qualifies for 80% cost share. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and a unanimous vote of supervisors, the grant will cover \$12,000 of Cody Johnson's upgrade. Next Justin presented a SSTS Upgrade contract for Terrie Verbryck in Hazelton Township; the total cost of this contract is \$7,000 and she qualifies for 90% cost share. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the grant will cover \$6,300 of Terrie Verbryck's upgrade. The next contract is for Brett and Alicia Spilde of Karlstad, the total cost of the contract is \$6,750 and they qualify for 80% cost share. Upon motion by Anderson and second by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, the grant will cover \$5,737.50 of Brett and Alicia Spilde's upgrade. Next Justin reported that with all these contracts encumbered we do not have enough to fund another upgrade. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, Justin will apply for the max amount of \$40,000 for SSTS Upgrade funds.

Soil Health Demo: Justin presented the contracts for the Kittson SWCD Soil Health Project individually to the board. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors; Joel Deere's contract for the Kittson SWCD Soil Health Demonstration was approved. Next, upon motion by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors; Carl Christopherson's contract for the Kittson SWCD Soil Health Demonstration was approved. Lastly, upon motion by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors; Justin Osowski's contract for the Kittson SWCD Soil Health Demonstration was approved. Justin Muller reported that we will continue to work on finalizing contract with General Mills and Barry Callebaut for funding.

Carl Christopherson SWI: Next Jeremy reported to the board that he was looking for an extension on Carl Christopherson's SWI contract for Buffer compliance. The amendment would extend the contract end date to December 31st, 2021. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors for the approval of Carl Christopherson's Contract amendment.

Supervisor Per Diem: Jamie reported to the board that effective as of August 1st, 2021; supervisors per diem cap has increased from \$75 to \$125. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote supervisors to increase the per diem rate to \$125 per meeting with the mileage rate still following the IRS rate.

Staff Reports:

Matt Fischer from BWSR was in attendance to give the Legislative and BWSR update. Matt presented the 2021 Legislative Session Summary and spoke to the board on funding appropriation from the General Fund and the Clean Water Fund, which includes the funding we will receive from the Watershed Based Funding. Next Matt spoke on BWSR's Covid policy and reported that he is still able to travel just needs a mask on during meetings. He gave an update on the TSA and gave information on the PRAP being conducted. Finally, Matt congratulated the board on the approved Two Rivers Plus 1W1P he also thanked the staff for working hard on the plan and handling all the curveballs thrown at them.

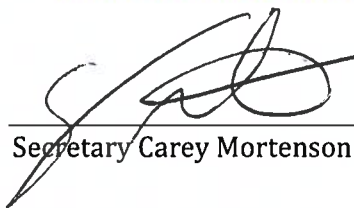
The board welcomed Heather back to the office. Heather gave her outreach update, she reported that none of the Fall school outreach has been verified yet. Next Heather presented the Rural Beautification award information to the board, she stated that we only received one nomination from Springbrook Township. Discussion was had on how we can expand this and hopefully receive more nominations in the future. Heather presented the pictures and information submitted by Springbrook Township to nominate Mark and Sally Wagner. Upon motion by Muir and second by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, Mark and Sally Wagner are the 2021 Rural Beautification award winners. Finally, Heather reported that she is looking into working with the schools on a Conservation Crew afterschool program and she is looking for ideas.

Justin gave his District Technician report, he stated that he attended the Klondike and Big Swamp meeting and gave an update on that project. Next Justin stated that the Notice of Decision for Wagon Wheel Ridge was sent to Glenn Brazier and Steve Anderson, they are now requesting June and July board minutes. Justin reported that we have spent \$44,000 in Cover Crops equaling 1300 acres planted. Justin reported that we are out of funds and was wondering the board wanted us to continue to take cover crop contracts with the dry conditions or actively look for more money to fund these projects. The board was game with moving around funding to help fund those interested. Justin stated that he has been fielding weed complaints for County Ag Inspector. He also stated that Kelly Bengtson approached him and stated that he is willing to help with designing smaller scale projects. The board stated that this would be a great opportunity and asked Justin to work with him to come up with a billable rate and timeline.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he is moving forward with Buffers and he has not had any contact with Dan Hunter, Jeremy will visit with the Board of Commissioners on the Corrective Action notice for this. Next, he stated that he is working on getting SWI's installed with Buffer Cost Share funding for 4 different landowners. He stated that they are moving forward with 1W1P implementation and he reported that he sent a Public Water Permit to the DNR for a survey he conducted for Carl Christopherson.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that the USDA currently has a mask mandate in place and the county does not have one in place and after visiting with Scot Olson with Kittson County, they might not enforce one. Jamie stated that we are currently following the county Covid-19 policy and asked if they would like to keep following that. Following discussion, the board stated to continue to follow the county policy and update them on any changes that might come. Next, Jamie reported that County Administrator Dillon Hayes last day with Kittson County will be Friday August 13th. They will be interviewing for his replacement in the next couple weeks. Jamie stated that she will be attending a department head meeting to discuss further who to contact for issues between administrators.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday September 8th, 2021 at 9 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.


Secretary Carey Mortenson

9-8-21
Date