

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



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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Held on Friday December 13th, 2013 at 7:30AM at the Kittson Soil and Water
Conservation Office.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Friday December 13th, 2013 at 7:30 AM in the Farm Service Agency Meeting Room.

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

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson; District Coordinator, Jamie Osowski; District Technician; Brian Krippner; and Jim Schwab; NRCS District Conservationist. Absent was Mark Larson; NRCS Technician.

The minutes from the November 14th, 2013 board meeting and November 22nd, 2013 Special meeting were approved, upon a motion by Dagen and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by C. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Jamie Osowski.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Coordinator report:

Winter Newsletter: Jamie reported to the board that a winter newsletter is in production with the Stephen Messenger.

Kittson SWCD 60th Anniversary: An Anniversary celebration was discussed at the November board meeting. Dates were discussed and Friday January 3rd, 2014 was chosen for the date to have a get together. Location was discussed and the Nordheim in Karlstad was chosen for the location. Jamie stated she will make reservations and send out invites.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS report:

CSP and EQIP: Jim reported that there will be signups for these programs, but no rules have been released and Jim is not going to sign anyone up until the details are released. There will be training the second week in January.

PL566: The PL 566 project is complete

HEL: Jim gave a reminder that if anyone is taking on new HEL land, he needs to know right away so an HEL compliance can be done on it. Also if there are any Wetlands or New tiling being done, they need to be informed immediately.

Brian Krippner gave the District Technician report:

BNSF Railway: Brian reported that there are 2 railroad bridges being built in the county, he reported that they are waiting for more information before they sign off on the application.

Schwenzfeier Mitigation: Brian reported to the board that this mitigation process has been moved to the Federal side and Greg Bengston with NRCS is taking care of it.

East Farms Wetland Bank: Brian reported that Rodger Johnson has been checking with him monthly on the status of this wetland bank. Currently they are waiting for the DNR survey to be done and they cannot get the easement determined until the mistakes are fixed. Brian spoke with Dan at the DNR asking where the survey is sitting and the only comment he made is "the bid is out".

MN DOT Permit reviews: Brian stated that there are 3 bridges in Kittson County that will be repaired in the summer and there will be meetings held for each of the projects.

CAI: Brian reported that he gave Eric Christenson a letter for the commissioners on the Noxious weed list discussed at the November board meeting and he would bring it to the commissioner meeting. Brian missed the meeting due to the Annual Convention.

Feedlots: Brian reported that he is still receiving Feedlot registrations and entering them into the system. He stated he has 4 registrations left to receive.

Minimally funded counties: Brian reported that he attended a meeting in Thief River Falls on December 10th on the minimally funded Feedlot counties. At the meeting, the work plan was gone through; the work plan is used to show what they are doing with the money they receive.

District Pickup: Brian reported to the board that he went to Dahlstrom Motors in Oslo, Dodge in Thief River Falls and C&M in Hallock and priced out pickups in August. He reported these prices to the board. The board asked Brian to get more current prices and report to them next meeting. If there are good deals at the end of the year they stated they would like a special meeting called to order to discuss.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager report

Annual Convention: Kittson SWCD Staff attended the MASWCD Convention in Bloomington on December 1-3rd. Left a day early due to the storm.

New Lease agreement: Darren reported to the board on the decision for the SWCD lease from the county. The commissioners agreed with the compromise of the first 5 years at \$8,687.50, the next 5 years at \$10,286.00 and new paint and carpet/tile by the summer of 2014. Motion was made by Dagen and seconded by C. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the compromise for the 10 year lease with Kittson County.

Red River Basin Commission Success Story: Darren reported to the board that he submitted a story on Lake Bronson Watershed Runoff Reduction project. Darren reported to the board that he just received an email asking him to present his story at the "Lighting Talks" session.

State Cost Share: Ronessa Steyn stopped in about a 6 row shelterbelt of Flame Willows and Cottonwoods. Estimated cost to establish the project is \$521.60 and 75% cost share assistance is \$391.20. Motion was made by Dagen and seconded by C. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve Ronessa Steyn's tree planting contract (FY 13-04).

Steve Klopp: Darren reported to the board that Steve Klopp is interested in a State Cost Share Field Windbreak on a piece that is currently in CRP. Darren explained that Steve would like to use the fabric roller on this piece and the cost of the planting (trees, fabric, planting) would be \$14,000 and would spend most of the State Cost Share and would not allow for well decommissions or other tree plantings. The board discussed only covering the trees and the planting and no fabric or 25% of the cost of fabric. Board will wait to hear what Steve wants to do and if EQIP can be used on this project.

Tree Program: Darren gave an update to the board about the 2014 future tree plantings for the SWCD. Currently there are 5 potential plantings for a total of 7,025 trees.

New Grants: Darren reported to the board on 2 new grants that he has applied for. One grant is for the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Program for \$10,000 and the other grant is for the Cooperative Weed Management Area Program for \$15,000.

Summer Intern: Darren mentioned to the board about possibly having a summer intern this year to help with water monitoring, tree plantings and any of these other new grants we receive.

Storage unit: Kittson County Emergency Manager, Barb O' Hara sent the district an email to Darren requesting to use our refrigerated storage unit in the case of a Mass Casualty event. Should this type of event happen, Barb needs to have access to a refrigeration unit/area. The Kittson SWCD gives the Kittson County Emergency Manager approval to use of refrigerated storage unit in the case of a Mass Casualty event upon motion by Dagen and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Zoning: Darren reported to the board that he was approached by the county to be the administrators of the Zoning program. They are not looking at giving us allocation for the program; instead they would like to see a monthly bill with our hours, mileage and any other charges that

might occur. Darren stated that all employees should know the program but we should have one person administer it. Discussion was had on starting out fresh meaning the permits that were issued before the program was in our office will be sent to the previous zoning administrator or Eric Christenson. Hourly rates per employee were discussed and the board agrees that we should at least give the program a try. Eric Christenson came to the meeting and spoke to the board about why the county wants the program in our office. Eric stated that if there are any after-the-fact fines that surface we should let Eric know and he will send them out a letter. Also, if there are any landowners that stop in our office and are upset, we are to direct them to him. The discussion of making sure the change in program administration is known was discussed and the board stated it needs to be put in the paper yearly and announced at the Crop Improvement Day. As per the county boards request, the Kittson SWCD will be willing to administer the zoning program on an hourly wage upon motion by H. Peterson and seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The meeting was closed for personnel reviews upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Following the personnel reviews the meeting was re-opened upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors.

January Board Meeting: The January Board meeting is scheduled for January 3rd, 2014 at 7:30 AM.

With no further business to come before the board of supervisors, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Dagen and seconded by H. Peterson.

Justin Dagen, Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JD' or 'Justin Dagen', is written over a horizontal line.