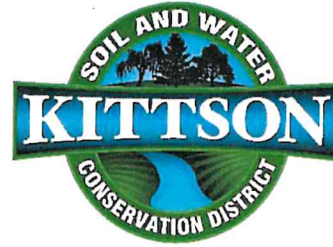


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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

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

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

Others present were; District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager Jamie Osowski. Guests included Jim Schwab, District Conservationist and Carey Mortenson.

The minutes from the November 4th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and second by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from November 2020 were mailed out and presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the November 2020 financials, motion was made by Muir and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

New Business:

The first order of new business was the discussion of project development with Houston Engineering. Justin explained the proposal to the board and discussion was had on how to handle the billing of the engineering to the landowners. Decision was made that 75% of the engineering will be paid by the Kittson SWCD and 25% will come from the landowner. Kittson SWCD will also sign into the contract with Houston Engineering. Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to follow these guidelines on engineering for projects.

Next, Jamie presented the updated Kittson County Covid-19 policy. The board is happy with the way it has been handled thus far. Conversation was had and the board would like to hold the January board meeting in person to conduct employee evaluations. Jeremy will be absent from that meeting so we will schedule his evaluations before or after the January Board meeting.

Staff Reports: Jim called into the meeting and gave an update on NRCS programs. Jim reported there are 110 expiring CRP and he has conducted all the field checks. Jim reported to the board that the 2022-2023 field checks will be done this coming summer, but local staff will not be handling these field checks, RC&D will be bringing in staff from Iowa to conduct these checks with drones, further discussion was had on this topic. Jim reported that there is no ranking period for CSP at the time and he has 12 EQIP applications that are ranking high.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She stated the at the Fall 2020 newsletters are printed and delivered. Heather reported that she has conducted all Cover Crop Soil Health videos and they will be airing on Facebook and our website starting December 2nd. Heather then spoke to the board about the Kittson SWCD open house, usually we hold the open house in February to thank the rain gauge readers for the program, due to Covid we will not be holding the open house. Heather mentioned purchasing something for the readers for appreciation for the year. Heather stated that we have one rain gauge reader that is retiring from the program, stating that maybe we can give those retiring from the program a different gift of appreciation. Heather presented the board with the idea of indoor/outdoor weather stations. Upon discussion, the board decided to purchase 10 indoor/outdoor thermometer weather stations for promotional items and retiring rain gauge readers and purchasing \$10 gift certificates to a local restaurant for all other readers. Motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors. Next, discussion was had on the purchasing of Moose Point signs at the Outdoor Learning Center. Heather also reported that she is doing a virtual Christmas Tree Lessons for Tri-County, Lancaster and Kittson Central 1st Graders, working on a Winter fun event with 4-H and planning to continue doing Story Time at the Hallock Library.

Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that WCA has been taking up a lot of time for him, he is working on a TEP meeting for the Klondike project. He has also been working with the Wagon Wheel Ridge project with Steve Anderson, Justin stated that they are getting closer having a finalized application. Justin reported that he conducted the survey for Ron Anderson's projects and is working on getting payment vouchers out to the landowners SSTS systems were installed for.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he has had a couple SWI cost share applications that have been signed and there was 1 installed after Thanksgiving due to the nice winter we have had so far. Jeremy reported that he still has not heard back from the landowner that a CAN was sent to, he stated he will be sending out a reminder this spring. He reported that with the 1W1P policy committee, due to Heather Peterson resigning from the board, we will need to nominate a new alternate member from our board. Jeremy reported that they are working on the Executive Summary with the next policy meeting being held on December 17th at 9 AM. Jeremy stated the Steering Team's goal is to have a locally adopted, BWSR approved plan by June 2021. Jeremy reported that there have been State Cost Share Well Sealings completed and he is working on certifying another farmer with the MAWQCP.

Jamie gave her report, she updated the board on the TSA meeting that was held during our September Board meeting. She stated that Peter Mead is leaving the Becker SWCD office and Bryan Malone from Pennington will be taking over in Becker. There is another meeting to go over options

for the TSA in the afternoon. Jamie reported to the board that CJ spoke to the fair board on the building stating that in the winter it will be easiest if the SWCD has full use of the building. Next Jamie asked the board about time off for the holidays, upon motion by Muir and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Kittson SWCD will be closed on Christmas Eve.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday January 13th, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.



Kittson SWCD Secretary

1-21-21

Date