

*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 December 8th, 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 December 8th, 2021 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Treasurer Joe Wilebski, and Public Relations; Sam Anderson. Missing was Secretary Carey Mortenson,

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

The minutes from the October 27th, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

New Business:

Two Rivers Plus Cooperative Agreement: Jeremy spoke to the board on the Cooperative agreement with the JPB for the Two Rivers Plus 1W1P, he spoke on some of the details that this agreement states and upon motion by Anderson and Seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, the board will sign into the Cooperative agreement with the Two Rivers Plus JPB and will follow the responsibilities laid out in the agreement.

Kittson SWCD staff signatures for JPB: At the last JPB meeting, it was discussed that the Kittson SWCD staff receive board approval for signing contracts and payment voucher for projects through the JPB, this will speed up the process of the contract and payments with Roseau SWCD as fiscal agent. Motion was made by Wilebski and Seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to

approve the signatures of staff on the contracts and payment vouchers with the Two Rivers Plus IPB.

MPCA Feedlot discussion: Discussion was had on how to handle the MPCA Feedlot probationary letter and to get back on good terms with the MPCA. The board asked the staff where they were with the items set forth in the letter, Justin stated that all the inspections are done and in tempo and he has put all the registrations he received in tempo as well. Discussion was had on what the staff had planned for outreach for the program, the board would like to see a formal meeting held in January and the Café Chat will be held in February. The board would like to see staff reach out to MPCA staff and find out the next steps to get back on track, following that meeting they would like us to meet with the Kittson County commissioners and discuss our plans and explain the situation further.

Health Insurance: Jamie spoke to the board on the Health Insurance policy rates for 2022, she spoke with the staff on any changes they wanted to make to their policies or if they would like to see any changes. The board didn't see any need for changes to the current policy this year.

Staff Reports:

NRCS Report: Jim gave the NRCS report and began with the new Covid-19 guidelines for the USDA, the last update was for November 30th. Following discussion on the USDA policy, the Kittson SWCD Board stated they would like to follow the USDA policy for the time being until the cases go down, they would like to avoid any issues with the USDA. Next, Jim reported that they are transitioning into all staff being back in the office with the option of teleworking starting January 3rd. Next, Jim spoke on the status reviews that are being done by staff from Iowa versus reviews done by Jim, after showing these to FSA the reviews done by Conservation crews in Iowa were unacceptable. Jim reported that he has also been working on cost share with FSA.

Heather gave her outreach update; she gave an update on the Soil Health demo stating that she has done the soil samples for each field and has sent them out to Agvise and will be meeting with General Mills and Barry Callebaut to discuss the contacts and the progress of the project. Heather spoke on the next events coming up for outreach, including Cow Calf Days and Crop Improvement Day in Lancaster. Next Heather gave the board an update on the Café Chats that will be held every Tuesday in February. Heather updated the board on Moose Point, she stated that she is waiting on an estimate from the sign company and the property survey should be completed by the end of the month. She also reported that the photo contest is over until 2022 and she is working on changes to the way it is ran.

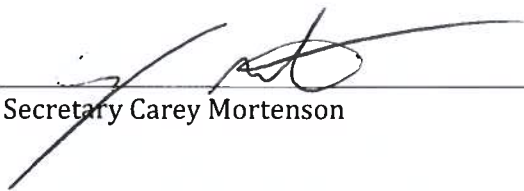
Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that the Wagon Wheel Ridge WCA appeal is now very in depth. He explained all the information he provided to BWSR for the index they are putting together for the appeal. Justin stated that he was advised to get legal up to speed on this, he contacted the County attorney, and they were not able to take on the case due to workload for their office, but they recommended we check with the legal council at MCIT. Justin contacted MCIT and they have assigned us a defense council. Justin spoke on the payment vouchers for Hugh Hunt and Ron Anderson and presented the board with before and after pictures of the project.

Justin received complements from Houston Engineering on how well Anderson Brothers were to work with and the work they did on these projects. Justin reported on Cover Crops, trees, and the surveys he has been working on.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he received the invoices on engineering for the TRWD SWI's for 75% of the cost. Jeremy reported that he is working on year end buffer tracking info and payment vouchers for other SWI projects. Jeremy reported that he has submitted the application for the JPB WBF, and it was approved. He is now developing the work plan for the funds for the next 2 years. Jeremy reported that he is working on contracts for SCS well sealing contracts with Jon Leader and reported that he will be meeting with statewide BWSR staff to introduce his tracking tool that he developed for the plan.

Jamie gave her report, she updated the board on the new copy machine, we received the machine but still do not have our new computers in place on the network so we can currently only use it for copying. We ordered the computers through CDW and have some delivered but are waiting on one computer to ship and the LCSC will come and set up the new network. Jamie reported she is working the Auditors on some billable rate changes. Jamie presented upcoming meetings to the board including the organizational board meeting, strategic planning meeting and RRWMB conference in March.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday January 12th, 2022 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.


Secretary Carey Mortenson

1-12-22
Date