

*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 Wednesday February 11, 2017 at 8:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse
Meeting Room.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on February 11th, 2017 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

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

Others present at the meeting were District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Technician, Justin Muller, and District Administrator Jamie Osowski, District Conservationist Jim Schwab and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer. Guests included members of the Kittson County Fair board Mike Wollin.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson.

The minutes from the January 11th, 2017, Board meeting were approved upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the January 2017 minutes.

Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS Report:

African American History Month

CSP/EQIP: Jim reported that Mike has been handling the EQIP and CSP.

CRP: Jim reported that he is working on CRP plans.

NRCS Computer: Jim reported to the board that he had no new information on the NRCS computers. Questions were asked to the SWCD staff on what steps we should take next in preparing for the possible shutoff from government computers. Discussion was had on the board members contacting legislators and contacting Jennifer Sweeny from NRCS to get some further answers. We will also extend an invite to Jennifer Sweeny to our March Board meeting. Heather will contact Jennifer.

Other: Michael reported that due to a hiring freeze within NRCS, the Roseau position opening is frozen for the time being.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: Justin reported that he has been working on year end for WCA and working on a couple projects.

Feedlot: Justin reported that he has been working on year end reporting for Feedlot.

Buffers: Justin reported to the board that he gave a short presentation at Crop Improvement Day and reported that there were 60-75 in attendance at the Public Buffer Meeting on January 24th at the City Hall. Tom Gile gave a great presentation to the audience. He reported that between the meetings and the postcards, the office has seen 200 landowners with questions about the law.

Jeremy Benson gave the District Technician Report

One Watershed One Plan: Jeremy spoke to the board about meeting with the Two River Watershed District Board on the 1W1P. Their board voted 6-1 in favor of the 1W1P. Jeremy will meet with Roseau County for their support on February 14th. Following the approval from Roseau County, the application process can begin.

State Cost Share: Jeremy reported that he had 1 landowners interested in Field Windbreaks and 1 landowner interested in a streambank Stabilization. He will do a site visit with Jim Hest on April 6th.

Buffers: Jeremy reported that the Buffer radio ad is done, it has now changed to Cover Crops. He has also been working on CRP contracts for a couple landowners on Buffers.

Ag BMP: Jeremy spoke to the board about the MDA contacting the office on doing a voluntary release of \$300,000 from our Ag BMP allocation. The board stated that this year could be a larger year for the loan and were concerned, Jeremy spoke with the MDA and if there is a need for more funds, the statewide interim allocation pool has been able to meet all those requests. Upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors, Kittson County will voluntarily release \$300,000 into the statewide allocation pool.

Other: Jeremy reported that the Grand Forks County SCS Soil Health clinic will be held on February 23rd at the Ramada in Grand Forks and Envirothon will be April 26th at Lake Bronson State Park.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Manger report:

Health Insurance: Jamie discussed with the board the Motion that was made December 2015 to contribute \$2,000 into the staff's HSA's. Discussion was has on Justin's account as these contributions were not made in 2016 due to individuals policies and the restrictions. Board discussion was had and motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to contribute \$2,000 to employees and \$4,000 to Justin Muller's account for 2016 and 2017.

Local Capacity Grant: Discussion was had on the 2017 Local Capacity work plan submission. Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the work plan budget as presented.

Adult and Youth Outreach: \$20,000
Building: \$25,000
Pickup: \$10,000
Advertising (Signs, Radio) \$10,000
State Cost Share Project: \$10,000
Staff Retention/Health Ins. \$25,000

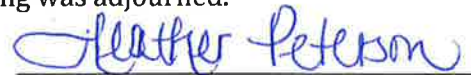
\$100,000

Strategic planning meeting: Jamie reminded the board that our Strategic planning meeting will be held on February 16th and is scheduled from 8-2pm.

Kittson County Fair board member Mike Wollin joined the board meeting for discussion on the building at the fair grounds. The district spoke to Mike on the options they are considering. Mike stated that another board members has the plans and he will back the beginning of March so they will discuss and get back to us on final plans and numbers.

March Board Meeting: The March Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 8th, 2017 at 8:00 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.



Heather Peterson, Secretary