

*Helping Producers Implement  
Best Management Practices  
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Kittson County*



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**Minutes of the Meeting of**

**Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors**

**Held on Wednesday February 10th, 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 February 10th, 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 Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager Jamie Osowski.

Jamie added the service menu discussion to new business on the agenda.

The minutes from the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and second by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

**New Business:**

1W1P: Jeremy reported on the Capital Improvements table for the plan, he stated that this table has been passed around the policy committee and steering team want each boards thought on this. Jeremy stated he would like to have the board approval to include this in the plan. Discussion was had and since it is a requirement from BWSR to meet the plan requirement, motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to include the Capital Improvements table in the Two Rivers Plus One Watershed One Plan. Next Jeremy spoke to the board on the Joint Powers collaboration, Jeremy stated that there has been discussion on this in Roseau County and they are considering the recommendation of forming an entity rather than collaboration as they are already doing entities in Roseau County and would like to keep it consistent. More discussion will be had on this as Jeremy plans to bring it to the Kittson County

Board on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Next, discussion was had on the Kittson SWCD's current workload and the possibility of taking on being the fiscal agent and coordinator of the plan. Upon discussion, the board was in favor to support the Kittson SWCD staff in administering these duties to the policy committee. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors. Last, Jeremy reported that the Roseau River Watershed District is applying for the planning grant for their 1W1P and was looking for participation in the process. Upon discussion, the Kittson SWCD will submit a resolution to support the planning effort as Kittson County falls below the 10 % required land percentage to be required to participate. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to support the planning process of the Roseau River Watershed District.

The next item for discussion was the Kittson SWCD Service menu, Justin reported to the board there has been some confusion on the rates for the tree planting and differing between landowner tractor and our tractor services. The main issue the district runs into with the landowner's tractor is the time frame, the weather might be perfect for planting, but the landowner might not be available to plant. Upon discussion the Kittson SWCD will work with the deadline of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for landowners to get their trees planted otherwise the Kittson SWCD will plant the using their services. In the Fall of 2021, the option for the landowner tractor will be removed from the service menu. Next, Justin spoke to the board on the seeding service mobilization fee, currently 0-5 acres did not have a mobilization fee, and this was put in place to help implement the Buffer Law. Discussion was had to change the mobilization fee to be applicable for all plantings 0-30 acres, unless becoming compliant with the Buffer Law. Motion was made by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to make these changes to the Service Menu.

**Staff Reports:** Jim was absent from the meeting but provided us with updates from NRCS. He reported the new employee will be beginning on February 16<sup>th</sup>. He is working on CRP screenings for CP23A eligibilities and receiving questions from producers on if they will need to reseed their CRP acres and what the cover is at the time. He reported that he had 10 EQIP applications that are being scored for Kittson County and there is no announcement on when the next CSP signup will be.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She reported that she is doing story time on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She also asked if any board members are interested in the MASWCD Virtual Legislative Days, she asked the board to let her know by February 19<sup>th</sup> if they would be able to participate. She gave updates on the Poster Contest, Arbor Day with the DNR and in the schools and 4-H Winter Fun Event. She also handed out Ag Exploration Day flyers to the board to share with anyone in grades K-6 interested in the event.


Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that he has been spending most of his time on WCA. He received the pre-application from Wagon Wheel Ridge and met with TEP to discuss the application. Justin reported that the DNR timelines have expired and no new deadlines have been set. Justin asked the board for their thoughts on enforcement, discussion was had on how previous projects have been handled and how they want to proceed. Justin also reported that he received a permit application from the Kittson County highway department for replacement of a bridge West of Lancaster. Justin also received comments from BWSR on the Wetland Banking project application located near Karlstad. Next, Justin reported that he has been working on year

end reporting for WCA, SSTS, and Feedlot. The Ron Anderson project East of Hallock is moving forward and we will have a project plan soon. Also, Justin reported that we have had some interest in the cover crop program.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that Buffer Cost Share check out will have to be done in the spring once the snow melts out of the ditches where the projects are located. He reported that he has heard nothing from the 1 noncomplint landowner that has a corrective action notice on his parcel. He reported that he will be visiting with the county on this at the next county board meeting. He stated that the TRWD sent out their corrective action notices in December. Jeremy reported that he is working with the TSA on getting an updated parcel list in Arc GIS. He has 2 interested in the MAWQCP so he has been working on them as well as one other landowner who began the certification process back in the fall.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that she has been busy with year end reporting with BWSR, MCIT, Ag BMP, DNR and getting information to the auditors. Jamie reported that the staff will be busy with meetings coming up and they have a TSA budget meeting coming up and will bring back the information to the March Board Meeting. Finally, Jamie asked if the board had any topics, they would like to cover at the strategic planning meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She reported that this will be held following the regular March Board meeting.

**The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.**

  
Secretary Carey Mortenson

3-10-21  
Date