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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 January 10, 2018 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 January 10th, 2018 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 and Public Relations, Ron Anderson. Absent was Treasurer Justin Dagen.

Others present at the meeting were District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Technician, Justin Muller, District Administrator Jamie Osowski, District Outreach Technician Maddy Rehn, and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer.

Organizational meeting: District Administrator Jamie Osowski called the Organizational meeting to order. Osowski welcomed the new employee, Maddy Rehn. Osowski then opened the floor to a nomination for 2018 Chairman. By unanimous vote, all current board positions were kept the same. Heather made a motion, Joe seconded.

The minutes from the December 13th, 2017 Board meeting were approved upon motion by Joe and Seconded by Heather and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the December 2016 minutes.

Upon a motion by Heather, a second by Joe, and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Jamie presented that IRS mileage is now at 54.5 cents. IRS mileage was approved after a motion by Joe, second by Ron, and unanimous vote.

The Official Bank for the SWCD was approved after a motion by Joe, second by Heather, and unanimous vote.

Per Diem for supervisors: Rates were kept the same after a motion by Joe, second by Heather, and unanimous vote.

MASWCD Dues: Jamie presented to the board that the MASWCD dues have increased to \$2,315.76. Heather motioned and Ron seconded. Dues were passed with a unanimous vote.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Manger report:

It was first decided that new business would now be conducted at the beginning of meetings rather than the end.

It was then presented to the board by Jamie that there was no Hazardous Weather policy in the handbook and that staff would like to add that with pay. It was decided three days of Hazardous Weather pay would be included in the Handbook to be approved at the District Managers discretions. Heather motioned, Ron seconded, and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Health Insurance: Addition of a family plan was discussed with the cap kept at \$375. Heather motioned, Joe seconded, passed by unanimous vote.

Strategic Planning Meeting: Strategic planning meeting was then discussed. It was decided that the date would be chose via email once board members could check their schedules. Meeting was then set for February 1st, 2018.

Kittson SWCD Open House: SWCD open house was brought up. Board elected to have the staff choose a date at their leisure. Staff chose February 28th, 2018. Open house will be catered by Rachelle Donaldson.

Reporting: Jamie mentioned that she was working on reporting.

New Equipment: It was brought to the boards attention that Justin's computer's warranty will be expiring in February 2018. Joe motioned for the purchase of a new computer, Heather seconded, passed by unanimous vote. It was also brought up that Maddy's desk has very little storage and there is a need for more shelving. Jamie is looking into steel storage from the same company as the rest of our office equipment.

Time off: Maddy requested time off for a trip that was planned before she accepted the position. Ron motioned and Heather seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Michael Steinhauer gave the NRCS Report:

CSP/EQIP: Nothing new to report on CRP. For EQIP there were 10 applications and 3 were lost.

Hiring: There was nothing new to report on hiring.

Projects: NRCS currently has 3 grazing projects being worked on.

Area 1: Michael reported that Jim is still helping in Macintosh about 3 days a week. There is also a new Acting State Conservationist from Idaho.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: Justin reported that he has been working on year end for WCA and violations.

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

CAI: Justin applied for a Noxious Weed Grant and is writing for staff time. It also includes herbicide and equipment which would be around \$28,840. Joe motioned and Heather seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.

Other:

Local Capacity Work Plan: Also approved by unanimous vote. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Joe.

SWCD would like to purchase an 8ft Truax drill with no till attachment quoted about \$25,700 plus the shipping.

Staff would also like to purchase a 500 prowler - \$8,000

Or a 570 prowler - \$12,000

Board would like quotes from another place before deciding.

Jeremy Benson gave the District Technician Report

Jeremy began his report by talking about Pictometry and proposing it to the county. Board would like more thought put into the tool and would like to know where the county stands.

Buffers: Jeremy reported to the board that there has been a problem with submitting data with buffers.

State Cost Share: There has also been a contract signed for the Weberg project. However, the Army Corps has put a hold on the contract for 45 day citing a cultural resource in the area. Gillie's project has not been looked at yet by the state engineer.

Shared services: Joint funds for the new shared engineer position were also discussed.

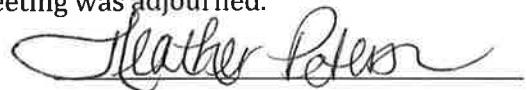
MAWQCP: Jeremy reported that Kris Folland is enrolling his farm and that the assessment is ongoing.

Rainfall: Jeremy reported that there was an average of .61" in Nov. 2017, .51" in Dec. 2017 and a total average of 12.55" for 2017.

Other: Jeremy and Maddy will be attending Crop Improvement Day on January 18th, 2018 where Jeremy will give an update on the Buffer Law.

February Board Meeting: The February Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 14th, 2018 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
