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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 Thursday January 21st, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the Kittson County Courthouse.

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Thursday January 21st, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Members present at the meeting included: CJ Peterson, Joe Wilebski, Carey Mortenson, Sam Anderson and Andrew Muir.

Others present were District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager Jamie Osowski. Guest present was Heather Peterson.

The meeting began with the Kittson SWCD board and staff thanking Heather Peterson for her dedication to the board for the last 8 years.

Organizational Meeting: District Manager Jamie Osowski called the organizational meeting to order and opened the floor to a nomination for Chairman. Motion was made by Wilebski to nominate CJ Peterson for Chairman, with second by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors. The meeting was then turned over to Chairman CJ Peterson.

Vice Chairman: Motion was made by Wilebski for Vice Chairman nomination of Andrew Muir with second by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Treasurer: Motion was made by Muir for Treasurer nomination of Joe Wilebski with second by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Secretary: Motion was made by Muir for Secretary nomination of Carey Mortenson with second by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Public Relations: Motion was made by Muir for Public Relations nomination of Sam Anderson with second by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The minutes from the December 9th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and second by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

Next, Employee evaluations were conducted, and wage negotiations were made with each employee.

New Business:

Jamie presented the IRS mileage is now at .56 cents. IRS mileage was approved after a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Muir, and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The Official Bank for the SWCD was approved as American Federal Bank after a motion by Mortenson, second by Wilebski, and unanimous vote.

Per Diem for supervisor's rates of \$75 per supervisors were set after a motion by Mortenson, second by Muir, and unanimous vote.

Jamie presented the 2020 Audit bid from Peterson Company LTD of \$2900.00. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to go with Peterson Company for the 2020 Audit.

Strategic planning meeting: Jamie presented a couple dates to the board for the 2021 Strategic planning meeting and discussion was had and the planning meeting will be held on Wednesday March 10th, 2021 following the monthly board meeting.

Next Jamie spoke to the board on the building at the fairgrounds, CJ, Joe and Jamie met with members of the Kittson County Fairboard and presented them with some potential changes to the lease between the Kittson SWCD and Fairboard. Carey Mortenson serves on the Kittson County Fairboard and stated that the changes presented to their board were approved at their last meeting. After discussion on the changes with our board, motion was made by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to accept the changes to the lease. Members of the Kittson County Fairboard will make the changes to the lease agreement.

Next Jamie presented to the board the annual dues for NACDE, MASWCD, and the Area 1 MASWCD. Motion was made by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to pay these dues.

The next order of new business was the discussion of the Klondike Wetland Delineation. Justin Muller reported that he sent this document out to the board members for review. Motion was made by Wilebski to approve the Wetland Boundary Application dated September 20, 2020 as revised on December 11th, 2020. Motion was seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Next, staff presented the board with and update on changes being made to the Area 1 TSA. Staff gave an update on the meetings that they have been attending and presented them with the option currently being discussed. With this option the TSA Would continue to employ the TSA GIS Specialist and all other employees with the TSA will become SWCD staff. The area would be broken in to 2 with the Northern and Southern area being split at Norman and Mahnomen. Those

employees would then be funded through funds that are split between all the SWCD's in the Area equally. At the time of this meeting, the current budget was unknown and the amount that each district will receive is unknown. Following discussion, the board likes this option, but want to know more on the budget and how much the district will receive before agreeing to this option.

Staff Reports: Jim was absent from the meeting but provided us with a report with updates from NRCS. There at 10 EQIP applications that will be scored and will compete for funding. Between Kittson and Marshall County there is \$325,000 that we will be competing for. Jim reported that there is no new information on when the CSP signup will be coming, but it will be soon. CRP has been taking up most of his time and he reported that there are a lot of CP23A inquiries for eligibility. There will a new Pathways Soil Con beginning on February 16th. Jim reported that he had a lot of WRP questions, most of the questions were on the \$3,019 an acre payment. He stated that he has 1 new application. Jim reported that all expiring 2023 CRP contracts will be checked out by RC&D employees from Iowa, most plans are being done by drone. He reported that all expiring 2022 contracts will be done by local NRCS staff.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She reported that she recorded the winter story time with the Hallock Library. Heather reported that she would like to invite Legislators to one of our board meetings this summer, she would like to extend the invite to them by sending them a pamphlet of information on our district. The board stated that they would be ok with this. Next heather reported that in the past it has been difficult for us to nominate Rural Beatification Award winners. Heather had the idea to allow each township to nominate from their areas as they know their townships best, the board liked this idea. Next, she spoke to the board on Arbor Day ideas, she stated that she would like to collaborate with the DNR doing a tree planting lesson for older kids. She stated she is working the DNR on a location. She did state that the DNR was unable to get the trees for the planting for this year, Heather asked the board if they would be ok with the district purchasing these trees from Schumachers. Upon motion by Muir and second by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the board would allow for purchasing Bur Oak trees up to \$200 for the collaboration. We will still be doing the Arbor Day presentation with the Kindergarten and 1st grade in May. Heather gave updates on the Poster Project, 4-H winter fun event, 4-H Ag Exploration day, 2021 Photo Contest, and the Moose Point signs.

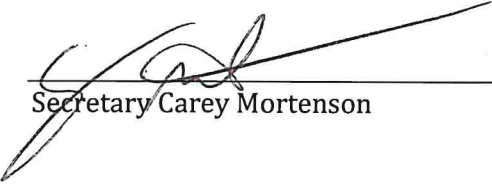
Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that he received the Wagon Wheel Ridge application, Justin stated that he has been meeting with the DNR and BWSR on comments for the application. At this time the DNR permit for this project has expired. Justin reported that he has been working on year end reporting for Septic, WCA and Feedlot. He also stated that he spoke with Ron Anderson and he was fine with the district paying 75% and him covering 25% of the engineering cost.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he is waiting for the checkouts on a couple projects with Buffer Cost Share. He stated that the Watershed district sent out their notices of noncompliance at the beginning of January and they sent out 4 notices. Jeremy spoke to the board on the Joint Powers Collaboration Agreement, discussion was had on the Fiscal Agent and plan coordinator for the office staff. This will be discussed further during the Strategic planning meeting. Jeremy gave the board an update on where the Steering Team is in planning and he stated

that they will be having a meeting the MPCA and DNR to discuss some of their comments more in depth. Jeremy reported that the Steering team hopes to have the plan submitted to BWSR by May 5th for review. Jeremy also reported that he is waiting to hear back from a landowner on becoming certified with the MAWQCP.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that she sat in on an Ag BMP workshop and it was recommended to make the program more effective and timelier for the landowners that districts allow office staff to approve certain applications. Discussion was had on this but will be discussed in further depth at the planning meeting. Jamie also reported that Jeremy's desk came significantly smaller than the past layout, Jamie reported that she spoke with Connect Interiors and found out the replacement would cost \$700 to resurface and add to the footage of the desk. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Mortenson so purchase the new desk surface.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday February 10th, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.



Secretary Carey Mortenson

2-10-21
Date