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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Held on Wednesday July 11th, 2018 at 7:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse Meeting Room

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on July 11th, 2018 at 7:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room. Members present at the meeting included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, Treasurer Justin Dagen, and Public Relations Ron Anderson. Others present at the meeting were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Maddy Rehn, District Conservationist Jim Schwab, and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer.

The minutes from last month's meeting were presented to the board. Justin Dagen moved to approve the minutes as presented and Joe Wilebski seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was then presented to the board. Joe Wilebski motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Heather Peterson seconded, and the report was passed unanimously.

New Business was brought up next. Jeremy informed the board that the Two Rivers Watershed District accepted the SWCD proposed changes to the MOU and that is was now satisfactory. Joe Wilebski motioned to formally accept the MOU, Ron Anderson seconded, and it was unanimously accepted.

Next Jim Schwab gave the NRCS update for the Hallock office. He reported that under CRP Michael has gotten all of the buffer strips reviewed, they found out that about 30 areas of the county aren't eligible anymore, and that they are out doing field checks and should be done by mid-August. For CSP, there has been 3 applications accepted, for EQIP there have been 2 grazers working on contracts and that they have started looking at other grazers for next year. For short term CRP contracts incentives have been lowered and it might be new option coming out. He didn't have any new updates on the NRCS restructuring. He did mention that Secretary Perdue developed a new civil rights policy as well.

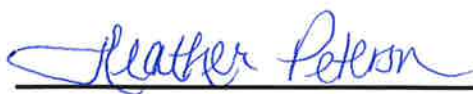
Maddy Rehn then gave her report. She asked the board if they would like to continue doing radio ads for the Buffer Financial Assistance program. The board decided to reduce ad quantity and continue the ads. She then notified the board of the upcoming Conservation Tour. Maddy then asked the board if they would like to purchase a Rainfall Simulator for outreach events and possibly share the cost with other districts. The board agreed that would be a good resource for the district so Justin Dagen moved to purchase the rainfall simulator given that the other districts would also be participating. Joe Wilebski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next was Justin Muller's report. He reported that he has been dealing with lots of WCA work lately and that this is the season for noxious weeds to show up so be aware of where your seed is coming from. Palmer Amaranth was discussed and it was decided to put a notice on the Fair Board and in the newspaper.

Jeremy Benson then gave his District Technician's report. He reported that 178 buffers are planned and that district has done 40 acres of seeding with it's tractor and drill. He also said that the county board has adopted the other waters document and that he has submitted the 1W1P application. He also mentioned that there is a grant available to possibly help with later steps in the 1W1P process. Jeremy then discussed the option of using grant monies for the district cover crop program instead of local capacity funds. He also gave an update on Gillies streambank project. The grant is now open for applications but the project is still waiting on engineering.

Jamie Osowski then gave her District Manager's report. Jamie brought up the service agreement for the new area Engineering Tech that needs to be signed by each participating district. It outlines the position's salary. Justin Dagen moved to approve the agreement. Heather Peterson seconded and the motioned was passed unanimously. Jamie then informed the board of 3 AgBMP loans needing approval. Justin Dagen moved to approve all three contracts. Heather Peterson seconded, and they were approved unanimously. She then asked the Board what they would like to do budget-wise when going to the County Board. They decided to continue the practice of a 3% increase in funds citing upcoming projects. Heather Peterson motioned to ask the County Board for a 3% increase. Justin Dagen seconded, and it passed unanimously. Jamie also mentioned a DNR Shoreland variance the office has been working on for a landowner in Lake Bronson and the details of that. She also reminded the Board of an upcoming audit in July. There have also been two completed well sealings she reported and shared with the Board that the admin session attended by herself and Maddy was a valuable trip.

The next board meeting will be August 8th, 2018 at 7 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse Meeting Room.



Heather Peterson, Secretary

Date