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**Minutes of the Meeting of
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Held on Wednesday July 10th, 2020 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 July 10th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, and Treasurer Andrew Muir. Missing was Public Relations, Sam Anderson.

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

The minutes from the June 10th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

New Business:

The first order of new business was discussion on the Area 1 MASWCD resolutions, upon discussion on each of the 8 resolutions, the decisions on each are as follows.

- Leveraging NRCS Federal Program Funding to implement 1W1P- **Approve**
- Sustainable Grazing Incentive Act- **Approve**
- Maintain or Restore co-mingling of NRCS/SWCD staff- **Disapprove**
- Supervisor Per Diem- **Approve**
- Pollinator Habitat on public land- **Disapprove**
- State Cost Share for farmstead shelterbelts and living snow fence establishment- **Approve**
- State Cost Share for Septic System replacement- **Approve**
- Increased State Cost Share for Unused Well Sealing- **Approve**

Following the decisions on all the resolutions, motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to submit these results to the Area 1 MASWCD.

The next topic of discussion was the potential of a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for Kittson and Roseau County. Jamie explained to the board that she was approached by Alan Lepp with NRCS on this, Alan lined up a conference call with Tanner Bruse from Pheasants Forever to discuss the position and answer any questions. Jamie explained the funding and how much funding the SWCD would need to provide for the position. Following discussion, Jamie stated that she still had not heard back from Kelly Turgeon with FSA on this as a large amount of the workload for this position will be CRP. The board wants to hear FSA's feeling on this before deciding. This was tabled until the August board meeting.

Next in New Business, Jamie spoke to the board on the SWCD building at the fair grounds and upcoming events. Jamie informed the board that the reason the building was not returned to its original state after the windstorm in 2019 was due to the fact that the fair board was still assuming we wanted to do overhead doors, Jamie will reach out to them again to put it back to its original state. Jamie stated that she will meet with the Fair Board president to go over the contract in the coming months.

Next, Jamie spoke to the board about their thoughts on advertising and if we should continue the year long contract for radio ads. Jamie explained the prices to the board and stated that when we have a year-long contract there are months where we don't have a lot to advertise and suggested that maybe we move to a 3 or 6 month contract, which will still save money. Jamie suggested that in place of the 6 months of radio ad's we would incorporate more newspaper advertisement and direct mailings. Following discussion, motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote by supervisors to change from a year-long Radio contract to 6 months.

Next, Justin Muller spoke to the board on SSTS Low Income Grants, Justin received a contract from a landowner in Kittson County for a Low Income SSTS Upgrade and received the estimate from Anderson Brothers Construction of \$8500.00. Following the SSTS Low Income workbook and the landowner's family size and income, the Kittson SWCD contract will be for \$6,375.00 of the total estimate for this landowner. Motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the SSTS upgrade contract for \$6,375.00 and allow District Manager signature on the contract. Next Justin spoke to the board on the opportunity to apply for more funds through the MPCA FY21 SSTS Low Income Fix Up Grant. Upon motion by H. Peterson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, Justin will apply for the FY21 SSTS Upgrade Grant.

Staff Reports:

Jim was not able to attend the July Board meeting but provided a report that was presented by Jamie Osowski. Jim is not sure when they will see face to face interaction with landowners in the next few months, stating the door between the offices always remains closed. Jim is working on CRP, he states he has completed fields checks and is currently working on the plans explaining that these landowners have the option to do 30-year contracts, he stated that he has landowners opting out of the longer contracts. Jim reports that only 10% of EQIP contracts were funded with most of them going to Pest and Nutrient Management and pollinators. Jim did not get his Erosion Control contracts funded, no beginning farmers were funded and neither of his 2 grazing contracts. Next, Jim reported that he has 4 CSP applications and they did not go anywhere with funding. Jim reported that he is continuing an interview with BWSR on Grazing with Mark Larson, BWSR is looking for more information on landowners and grazing in Kittson County.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She stated that the video equipment has arrived, and she has been testing it out. She plans to use the system for interviews for the Cover Crop producers which she has 4 landowners volunteering to do as well as an interview with Kris Folland on MAWQCP, Rural Beautification Award with Shirley Rydberg and Outstanding Conservationist with Dave Hemmes. Heather handed out Covid-19 procedures for Story Time at the Library on July 21st.

Justin gave his District Technician report, first Justin reported that he met with Roger Braizer from Wagon Wheel Ridge, their consultant Steve Anderson and Matt Johnson from BWSR. Discussion was had on where the situation stands and what should be included in the application. Justin reported that he has been doing site visits on Streambank erosion sites the office has been getting calls on. He has been taking pictures and notes on each site visit, these projects are waiting for funding options. Discussion was had on how we can get estimates for these projects so we know how much funding we are looking for, Justin suggested contacting engineer firms to see how much they would charge to come and provide us with information. Next, Justin reported that they completed all CRP seedings with the district tractor and drill. Justin reported that he has received 4 new cover crop contracts. He also reported that he is working on getting bids for Drones, he has nothing concrete, but will get numbers for the August meeting.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, stating that all Buffer seedings are at a stand still due to rain. He has been working on doing site checks and writing noncompliance letters to send out. Jeremy stated that he has been keep BWSR's Buffer specialist Darren Mayers updated. With 1W1P, Jeremy reported that the Steering team will be meeting to go over Section 5 and the implementation table. Jeremy presented the board with the preliminary tables available.

Jamie gave her report, she stated that the Local Work Group Meeting was held on June 24th via conference call. Not many changes were made from last year. Next, Jamie gave an update on the office situation, she stated that most events are being discussed on cancellation or changing to virtual meetings due to Covid including BWSR Academy, MASWCD Convention and Area 1 Meetings. For now, we will continue to hold board meetings in person, but always can have a virtual option available. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 12th and we will play it by ear due to harvest.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday August 12th at 8 AM at Kittson County Courthouse.


Heather Peterson, Secretary

8/12/2020
Date