

*Helping Producers Implement  
Best Management Practices  
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 Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse  
Meeting Room.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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 Technician Jeremy Benson, District Technician Justin Muller, District Administrator Jamie Osowski, District Conservationist Jim Schwab and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer.

Guests included: Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist from BWSR

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson.

The minutes from the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Board meeting were reviewed and upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the May 2017 minutes.

Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as reported by Jamie Osowski.

**Buffer Enforcement Report:**

Justin Muller spoke to the board on the Legislative updates on the Buffer Law. Discussion was had on what the office would like to do for enforcement if they were approached by the county to do the task. The office had sat down and discussed the pros and cons of enforcement in the office.

Following this discussion, the board would like to see the producers work directly with us since they have already been in communication with us and they don't want to have producers working some with the SWCD and some with the County. Matt Fischer made a recommendation that we form a committee with the county to discuss the money and figure out what will happen if the money goes away in the future. Motion was made by Dagen and seconded by H. Peterson and 3 in favor and 1 opposed vote of supervisors for the Soil and Water's intent to enter into an agreement with county with 90% SWCD and 10% county financial split with details to work out in the end.

Matt Fischer gave an update on the other waters and Justin presented a resolution to the board that states that the description of watercourses to be included in the summary of watercourses or "other

waters” be deemed eligible for the adjacent land to be voluntarily enrolled into a buffer of filter strip practice under the current eligibility criteria for state and federal programs. A list of watercourses included in this descriptive inventory are; Perennial streams, Seasonal Stream depicted on USGS topographic maps, identified by onsite visits, and drainage ditches that are perennial or seasonal streams. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to adopt the resolution as amended with the removal of soil survey maps from the descriptive inventory.

**Operational Agreement:** Jamie and Jim gave an update to the board on the state conference call pertaining to the NRCS Computer Operational Agreement. District Manager Jamie Osowski and District Conservationist Jim Schwab will work on the Operational Agreement to present to the board at the July Board Meeting. At this time, the Kittson SWCD and NRCS will need a signed Cooperative Working Agreement. This agreement was spelled out for the SWCD to use, Jamie passed this agreement around for the board to look at. Upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Cooperative Working Agreement between SWCD and NRCS was signed.

**Matt Fischer gave the BWSR Report:** Matt gave an update to the board on Legislative updates including an update on the FY '18 Local Capacity money, this will include the local matching with the county. Discussion was had on the Buffer State Cost Share money that will be voted on at the June BWSR board meeting and how it can be spent.

**Jim Schwab and Michael Steinhauer gave the NRCS Report:**

National Dairy Month

CSP/EQIP: Michael reported that there have been 4 CSP applications. The EQIP Side Water Inlet projects have been started.

CRP: Jim reported that there are no CRP acres available. They are still processing eligibility. Jim is working on HEL compliance.

**Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report**

Buffers: Justin reported that they are still working with landowners on buffers when they stop in. Justin and Jeremy have been out staking buffers for landowners that have requested the service. Justin also reported that the office had a LGU meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> and attended a Regional Buffer meeting in Thief River Falls on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

WCA: Justin reported that he has been working on a Wetland Banking application, site visits and banking projects.

CAI: Justin reported that the Conservation Corps has been up spraying Dalmatian Toadflax in the Halma area. He has also been getting questions on Palmer Amaranth.

Tree program: Justin reported that all trees are gone and for the first time in a couple years all the tree plantings are planted.

Drills: Justin reported that the Truax No- Till drill has seen 275 acres and the Brillion had only seeded 6 acres at that time, but landowners were signed up to use it.

**Jeremy Benson gave the District Technician Report**

One Watershed One Plan: Jeremy reported that the waiver extension was approved. Jeremy stated that BWSR will be making their decision on June 20<sup>th</sup> on what plans were funded. Matt stated that he will really push for our plan to be funded next year.

State Cost Share: Jeremy reported that Matt Cummins tree planting is complete with tree mats installed, Jeremy did a site inspection and sent him a payment voucher. Jeremy did Streambank Stabilization survey with Jim Hest on Steve Weberg's site in Lancaster. He will also be surveying Paul Gillie's project with Jim Hest in a couple weeks. Jeremy stated that he has been in touch with Jon Leader on upcoming well sealing projects including Arvin Baagas and Todd Nelson. Lacey Lupien's well has been sealed and her payment voucher was sent out. Justin spoke to the board on a stabilization project in Hill Township that he was approached by Kelly Bengtson on. The county gave an estimate of \$38,000. This is not a project we would have State Cost Share Funds available for, but possibly a Local Capacity Funding projects.

Other: Jeremy reported that he has not heard when the pickup will be in yet, last he heard was it was still in production status. Rain gauge reports for April showing an average of .72 inches and in May an average of .78 inches across the county. Jeremy reported that the radio ad's we have been running are done, the last ad we ran was for the drills and we had landowners call in to sign up and saying they had heard it on the radio. We will run another ad in the fall if needed.

**Jamie Osowski gave the District Manger report:**

Leadership Training: Jamie reported that the MASWCD is offering another round of the yearlong Leadership Training. Justin Muller expressed his interest in attending the training. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to accept registration for Justin Muller to apply for the Leadership Training program.

DNR Ob Well: Jamie reported that the contract was received from the DNR to continue monitoring the Ob Well in Tegner 28. These readings are performed 8 times between the time of July 2017 and June 2018. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve and sign the Ob Well Contract with MN DNR for July 2017- June 2018 at the rate of \$30 a reading, not to exceed \$240.00.

Other: Jamie reported that the next Area 1 Meeting will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Crookston, any board members that can attend are encouraged to let Jamie know by Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> for arragnements can be made.

July Board Meeting: The June Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 12th, 2017 at 7:00 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.



Heather Peterson, Secretary

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