

*You Helping Producers Implement
Best Management Practices
For Conservation Purposes in
Kittson County*



410 South 5th Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (855) 744-0398- www.kittsonswcd.org

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Held on Wednesday June 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 June 10th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, Treasurer Andrew Muir and 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 May 13th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from May 2020 were mailed out and presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the May 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 presented by District Manager Jamie Osowski for an Ag BMP Loan for Ryan Nelson. The application is for \$55,000 for a payloader for manure removal. Jamie gave an update to the board on the balance for the Ag BMP loans from MDA. Currently Kittson County has \$551,645.05 available for Ag BMP Loans with \$400,000 allocated to 2 landowners currently working with the bank. This leaves Kittson County with \$151,645.05 available following the repayments in May. Upon discussion, motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir to approve Ryan Nelson's Ag BMP loan for \$55,000 with unanimous vote of supervisors.

The next topic of new business was to approve resolutions to submit to the Area 1 MASWCD for submission to all Area 1 SWCD's. Discussion was had on the 4 resolutions submitted by Pennington county for our SWCD's approval. The first resolution was for State Cost Share for Septic System Replacement, discussion was had, and motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski

for approval and unanimous vote of supervisors. The next resolution was for Increased State Cost Share for unused Well Sealing, upon discussion motion was made by Muir and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors. Next resolution was State Cost Share for Farmstead Windbreaks and Living Snowfence Establishment, discussion was had and upon motion by Muir and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors. Last resolution up for discussion was Leveraging NRCS Federal Program funding to implement 1W1P's, not supplanting them with State Watershed Implementation Funds. Upon discussion, motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors. Jamie will notify the districts that Kittson SWCD support is in favor of submitting these resolutions. Next Jamie reported that the Kittson County Local Work Group meeting will be held VIA conference call on Wednesday June 24th at 9:30 AM.

Next in New Business, Justin Muller spoke to the board on the Kittson County projects that are not encumbered at this time. He presented the board with a spreadsheet that listed the landowner, location and the date that they contacted the office. Justin reported to the board that he is hoping to make site visits to each project and take pictures. Justin reported that following the recent big rain events we have been receiving more phone calls for potential projects. He informed the board that we will continue to work on funding for projects.

Staff Reports:

Jim was not able to attend the June Board meeting but provided a report that was presented by Jamie Osowski. Jim is currently working on CP18C CRP re-enrollment plans and has them written and over to FSA for signatures. Buffer CRP re-enrollments have been field checked for cover, he is just waiting on the decision if they want to go with a 15 year or 30 year contract. Jim reported that all EQIP funding is gone and none of Kittson Counties applications were funded. Most of the money went to Polk, Norman and Mahnommen Counties in the NW area. CSP applications were all screened as low and only high scoring applications are being funded, Jim stated we will have more high funded plans once the 1W1P is approved. NRCS and FSA are still closed to the public and he reported that they will begin to open gradually, but not sure when this will start. Jim reported that Kathy Fillmore in Roseau County is the new team lead for Kittson, Marshall and Roseau counties.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She stated that it is still very unclear on when in person events can be held again. Heather reported that she applied for a Soil health Scholarship through NRCS and received it, the scholarship is for \$500 and with these funds she plans on doing a series of 5 interviews of producers doing cover crop and MAWQCP. She plans to buy video recording equipment to produce these videos. Next, Heather spoke to the board on Rural Beautification and Outstanding Conservationist, she presented the board with a list of names compiled by the office and discussion was had on anyone else that could be added. Following discussion, it was decided to offer the Rural Beautification Award to Jan Klein and Outstanding Conservationist to Dave Hemmes. Heather reported that Facebook likes are going up and the May Photo contest did well with 8 entries.

Justin gave his report, he stated that he is working with Glenn Brazier and his consultant on the WCA application, he reported that they submitted information on a WCA scholarship opportunity. Justin reported that this is not an option and they need to work on sequencing for the application to prove why these impacts are needed. Justin reported the deadline is July 1st, 2020. Next, Justin reported that there were 99 tree orders and 5 tree plantings with 1 remaining which is a hand planting. He reported that 6500 trees were sold, and we still have 1-gallon trees available. He stated that the drill has been moved to 4 different landowners and they have seeded buffers for 6 landowners and have 6 remaining. Justin reported that he has been making site visits of Cover Crop contracts.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he stated that he has been working on Buffers and receiving phone calls from landowners getting them installed. Jeremy reported that the date for the Notice of Non-compliance letters will be July 1st. Jeremy reported that the Two Rivers Watershed District is working on the potential for an alternative practice project on JD 3 with pipes in all ditch outlets. Jeremy next reported on the 1W1P, he presented the board with sections 3 and 4 of the plan and stated that the policy committee will be meeting to approve these sections on June 18th. Jeremy reported that the steering team is beginning work on section 5 and the beginning steps of section 6 that will include a visit from MCIT talking about the backgrounds of Joint Powers Boards.

Jamie reported to the board that all seats for the SWCD board have been filled and she thanked the candidates for working with her during Covid and getting their paperwork done. Jamie also reported that Eric Christensen has resigned as County Administrator and Shirley Swenson will be interim Administrator until the position is filled. Kittson County still does not have a County Engineer, they have been holding interviews, but all the rain has slowed down the interview process.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday June 10th at 8 AM. Location TBA


Heather Peterson, Secretary


Date