

*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 9th, 2021 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 9th, 2021 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Secretary Carey Mortenson, Public Relations Sam Anderson and Treasurer Joe Wilebski.

Others present were District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Conservationist Jim Schwab and Dan Money from the Two Rivers Watershed District.

Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, New Business agenda items including 1W1P Letter from TRWD, Hugh Hunt State Cost Share and DNR Ob Well Contract were added to the agenda.

The minutes from the May 12th, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from June 2021 were presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the June 2021 financials, motion was made by Muir and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

New Business:

Letter from the Two Rivers Watershed District withdrawing from Two Rivers Plus One Watershed One Plan: The Two Rivers Plus 1W1P policy and steering team received a letter from the TRWD with intent not to adopt the plan and to withdraw from the planning group. Dan Money was in attendance and explained the districts reasonings behind their decisions, he stated that state agencies sending letters the night before a meeting with what they want to see changed and with the group not being able to come together to decide on implementation efforts were some of the reasons behind this decision. Andrew asked Dan on the timing aspect of withdrawing and Dan

stated that it has been coming for a while and if we wanted more of an explanation, they would have to talk to his board members.

Soil Health Demo: Justin reported to the board that the office had a meeting with the interested producers in the program to bring them up to speed on the funding and any changes that were made after the last discussion. Justin laid out the timeline we are looking at for implementing the program. Discussion on equipment was had next, Justin presented the board with a quote he received from Soil Warrior. Following discussion on all the pros and cons to owning versus custom, the board stated that having a custom service for this program would be best.

Lake of the Woods Livestock Workshop: Justin discussed with the board the opportunity to provide test kits for Kittson County attendees. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to support the workshop and provide test kits to all Kittson County residents attending.

SFA Soil Health sponsorship: Jeremy presented the Soil Health Field Day to the board stating that is will be held on Wednesday June 30th at Michael Larson's farm near Drayton. He had been asked by SFA if we would be interested in helping advertise the field day and if we could demonstrate our rainfall simulator. Upon motion by Anderson and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the board is in favor of sponsoring the Michael Larson Field Day on June 30th.

SSTS Upgrade Grant: Justin reported that he received an estimate for Jason Gohman's septic upgrade, the estimate came in at \$9,881.48 and we will cost share on 85% of the project cost which is \$8,399.26. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the SSTS Upgrade contract.

TSA Upgrade: Jamie spoke to the board on the 5 new budgets drafted for the TSA. The reason for more budgets is to work toward all 16 districts agreeing on one option. Following office discussion, the staff still feel that budget option 1 is the best for the Kittson SWCD. The executive committee is looking for a vote to bring to the next TSA board meeting on June 24th in Mahanomen. Upon motion by Mortenson and Seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Kittson SWCD will continue to support budget option 1.

Computer Upgrades: Jamie reported to the board that all the staff computers through NRCS are out of warranty. Our IT Specialist from NRCS sent us over information on new computers for all the staff. If we all upgraded now, the cost would be \$6,627.90. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors, all staff will receive new computers through NRCS.

Hugh Hunt Grade Stabilization Project: Justin reported that he received the final estimate for the Hugh Hunt project. The total cost of the project is \$12,081.60 and State Cost Share will cover 75% of the total project cost which is \$9,061.20. These funds will be coming out of both FY 2019 and 2020. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Hugh Hunt State Cost Share Contract number FY19-11/20-01 for \$9,061.20.

DNR OB Well: Jamie presented the 2022 DNR Ob Well Contract to the board and asked if they would still like us to participate with the DNR in the contract. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Kittson SWCD will continue to work with the MN DNR in 2022 with the Observation well.

Staff Reports:

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS report, he stated at this time he doesn't know anything new on CRP, EQIP or CSP. Jim stated he will be going out in the field to do CRP checks.

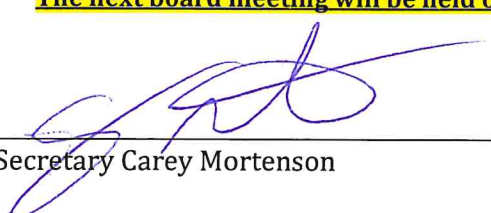
Heather is still on FMLA leave, she called and asked if she could extend her maternity leave out to August 3rd. Upon discussion with the board, they would like to see if she could come back part time to get caught up on the strip till program. Jamie stated she will talk to her and see what options we can come up with.

Justin gave his District Technician report, he stated that he received the Wagon Wheel Ridge application. He stated that he will now send this through the decision-making process, there will be a TEP meeting in June and the decision will be brought to the board at the July meeting. Next Justin spoke to the board on a tile permit that was submitted to the TRWD for 1600 acres of tile in Davis Township. He will be looking into the WCA implications of this project. Justin stated he has been doing site checks for Cover Crops and has been signing a few more cover crop contracts with producers and landowners. The seeding services have been steady with more sites to be done and the Truax has been busy around the county.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that they will be busy wrapping up the Buffer seedings. He also stated that the TRWD inquired on a Buffer Cost Share contract for 16 SWI's along JD 3, they are hoping to get this done this year. Jeremy is also working with the TRWD to have the Kittson SWCD's seeding service seed County Ditch 21 following the cleanout. Next Jeremy spoke on the BWSR Northern Region Committees unanimous vote to approve the Two Rivers Plus 1W1P, he stated that staff sat in on the meeting and were asked a couple questions on the plan and process. Jeremy stated that the KC Commissioners met and there was no entertainment from the Commissioners on an entity, discussion was had on who would do the Fiscal Agent for an Entity. Jeremy stated that Roseau SWCD would be open for doing the position if we could all agree on it. Discussion was had on what directions we can go, and we are out of options, Jeremy stated that a draft of the agreement will be presented to the Policy committee on June 17th.

Jamie gave her report, she reported on upcoming meetings including the Local Work Group meeting, Area 1 meeting, TSA, SFA field day, Kittson County Fair, and the financial audit on August 17th.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday July 14th, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.


Secretary Carey Mortenson

7-14-21
Date