

*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 13th, 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 June 13th, 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. Joe Wilebski moved to approve the minutes as presented and Ron Anderson seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

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

New Business was brought up next. Maddy Rehn reminded the board of nominating Kittson County Residents for Outstanding Conservationist and Rural Beautification Awards. A list was compiled and nominees were chosen, to be announced at a later date. Jamie Osowski then shared with the board that a completed, signed contract for the Hill Township Project had been turned in and needed board approval to move forward. Joe Wilebski motioned to accept the contract, Heather Peterson seconded and it was passed unanimously. Jeremy Benson then brought up the One Watershed, One Plan Memorandum of Agreement. The Joe River Watershed will be included in the plan but the Joe River Watershed District will not participate in the planning process. He also gave a quick recap of the recent 1W1P meeting where it was decided that the Kittson SWCD would be the fiscal agent and responsible for grant administration for the plan. The SWCD board also decided that Joe Wilebski would be the primary representative for the SWCD on the Policy Committee.

Heather Peterson was assigned alternate duty for that position in the event Joe cannot be present. Justin Dagen then moved to accept the MOA as presented, and Joe Wilebski seconded. The MOA was accepted unanimously. Jamie also brought up the DNR Observation Well contract. It needs to be resigned every June to continue providing that service. Justin Dagen moved to signed the contract, Ron Anderson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Next Jim Schwab gave the NRCS update for the Hallock office. He reported that CRP was now been opened and FSA is taking sign ups for continuous CRP enrollment. However, payments are down and there are fewer accepted practices. The Hallock office has about 230 contracts to review now that enrollment has been opened. Michael Steinhauer then gave the CSP/EQIP update stating that the office had 2 grazing plans receive funding through EQIP and 2 other plans receive funding through CSP. Michael turned it back over to Jim to give an update on the NRCS restructuring plan. He reported that Minnesota will be split into 4 areas, each with a Super District Conservationist. Most likely the Super DC for the our area (Kittson, Roseau, and Marshall counties) of the Northwest Region (Kittson to Roseau and down to Traverse) will be housed in Roseau. Jim also said he will most likely be converted to a Conservation Program Manager and stay based out of the Hallock office. He assured the board that residents and landowners of Kittson county would still be able to communicate with NRCS staff in the Hallock office.

Maddy Rehn then gave her report. She gave updates on the county entrance signs which need to be flagged so digging can begin, Moose Point which needs to be mowed so signs can be ordered for trails, and that a Conservation Tour is in the works with a tentative date in early August.

Next Jamie Osowski gave Justin Muller's report as he was gone. She mentioned that the WCA violation in Pelan is still being investigated, that Justin has received Prosser's wetland bank but hasn't had time to fully review it, the District is done with all things trees and has closed up the tree shed for the year, drills are still being moved around the county, and that the District has three more sites to be seeded with the tractor and drill.

Jeremy Benson then gave his District Technician's report. He brought a question to the board on contract amendments to verify that District Staff were able to sign those as they are already able to sign the related contracts. Jeremy also reported that the District has received more interest in Buffer Cost Share and a few contracts as well. He also mentioned that the District has been able to seed buffers with the new tractor. Jeremy then updated that board that the mower ordered from True North Equipment was ready to be picked up. Then he gave an update on the Weberg project through State Cost Share. The project is waiting on contractors before it can continue. He also mentioned that the well sealings waiting for inspection will be completed before the deadline. Jeremy then notified the board that the District had received the Trimble survey equipment and had also gotten a training on it as well as purchased a data plan to use it in the field.

Jamie Osowski then gave her District Manager's report. Jamie mentioned that she had sent in a response email to BWSR concerning the streamlining process discussed at the previous board meeting. She also brought up that the Pennington SWCD had asked for donations to help fund an outreach workshop later this summer called "Dirt Rich". The board decided to send \$75. Jamie also

reported that she and Jim attended Senator Tina Smith's listening session on the 2018 Farm Bill where attendance was less than anticipated. She also mentioned that the PRAP report had been officially accepted and that she was researching the best way to go about meeting their recommendations. She then gave an update on upcoming meetings to the board.

The next board meeting will be July 11th, 2018 at 7 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse Meeting Room.

Heather Peterson

7/11/2018

Heather Peterson, Secretary

Date