

*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 March 14th, 2018 at 8:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse
Meeting Room**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on March 14th, 2018 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

Members present at the meeting included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, and Treasurer Justin Dagen. Justin Dagen left early, and CJ showed up part way through.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Maddy Rehn, County Board Chairman Leon Olson, BWSR Board Conservationist Matt Fischer, and MAWQCP Area Certification Specialist Glen Kajewski.

As CJ Peterson was not present at the start of the meeting, Joe Wilebski called the meeting to order and immediately gave the floor to Matt Fischer. Matt had information pertinent to Leon Olson who could not stay for the entirety of the meeting.

Matt Fischer: Matt began by discussing buffers. Overall there is decent compliance throughout the state and Kittson county is on par with that trend. The deadline for having buffers implemented is November 1st, 2018 even if a waiver had been previously signed. Cost share funds are in the process of being redistributed and he had no numbers to report. He also mentioned that the Other Waters Map needs to be added to our Local Water Plan by July 1st, 2018, and has already been done. There was also a new buffer specialist hired for our area and he is based out of Brainerd.

One Watershed, One Plan was next to be talked about. Applications to begin implementing 1W1P will be accepted beginning April 1st for 3 months. Matt mentioned the benefits of looking at local consultants to assist in writing the plan. He also stressed the importance of beginning talks and agreements with partners sooner rather than later. He also suggested adding the Joe River Watershed's existing management plan into the new 1W1P document.

Clean Water Funds were then discussed. Matt mentioned that this grant continues to be very competitive and that about \$1 out of every \$4 asked for were funded. He also mentioned the Watershed Funding Plan that some of the Clean Water Funds were diverted to. The metro area was granted over half of the Watershed Funding Plan money, with the remaining going to 1W1P pilot areas.

Local Capacity Funds were next. Matt said that they are working on getting the funds out to districts and that there is an updated policy on the Clean Water Funds.

Matt thanked the SWCD for getting E-Link reporting done and then addressed the concerns brought up at the February board meeting. He urged concerns to be brought to him if programs are not meeting local needs and explained that the state cost share policy prohibits certain methods of spending but that there are other funding opportunities available for different programs. He also offered to bring up the policy concerns to others within BWSR.

Organizational: The minutes from the February board meeting were reviewed. Justin Dagen moved to approve the minutes as presented, Heather Peterson seconded, and they were unanimously approved. The treasurer's report was also reviewed. Heather Peterson motioned to approve the report, Justin Dagen seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Old Business: Previously discussed equipment was brought up. The matter of paying for the tractor was sorted out. It was decided that the tractor would be purchased using Riparian Aid Funds contingent on the County Board approving the funds without the Memorandum of Understanding having been completed yet.

It was also decided to get more quotes on 3 point mowers before making a purchase.

Trailers were then discussed. It was decided to purchase the whichever Big Tex utility trailer is available soonest, and the highlighted equipment trailer from Big Tex. Heather motioned, Justin seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Glen Kajewski: Glen then spoke on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. He described the program to the board members and updated them on Folland's application which is nearly finished. Glen also mentioned the possibility of holding an event to introduce producers to the program.

Jamie Osowski gave the NRCS report as Jim Schwab and Michael Steinhauer were attending a training.

NRCS: The office has received 2 EQIP applications have been funded for grazing. There is no news on CRP. Jim is officially in Macintosh for another 4 months. There is a new Wetland Biologist and they will cover 29 counties. There's no news of filling openings around the state and Baudette office is now vacant.

New Business: The office had a cover crop contract come in and be filled out. Terry Osowski will be doing a multi species cover crop on 80 acres with a total payment of \$9,600. Justin motioned to approve the contract, Heather seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

County Ag Insepector grant was discussed. The grantor came back with a rebuttal which Justin motioned to accept, Heather seconded, and was passed unanimously.

The Gillie project was brought up. The cost estimate and design for a rock chute was completed and would cost about \$13,000. Paul Gillie was ok with a 75%/25% cost share arrangement. Justin motioned to approve the 75/25 cost share scenario, Heather seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Next was policy writing. It was decided to keep staff discretion in the drill policy, charge a \$90 flat rate for in county rentals, and \$100 + \$3/mile for out of county. This policy is only for the Truax drills as the Brillion will not leave the county. Justin motioned to approve this policy, Heather seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Tractor policy was next. The overall policy will mimic the drill policy liability wise. There will be a \$100 flat mobilization charge, an hourly charge of \$65, and an acre cap of 30 acres/field. Also subject to staff discretion. Justin motioned to approve, Heather seconded, it passed unanimously.

Mowing was discussed but a final rate will be set at the next meeting.

The year end financial report was brought forward. After review, Justin motioned to approve it contingent on an audit, Heather seconded.

Justin Dagen then left and CJ Peterson arrived. CJ resumed Chairman duties. Joe could then motion.

New business then moved on to Tree Plantings. It was decided to charge \$0.35 per tree with a \$150 minimum when the landowner provides their own tractor. If we provide the tractor, \$1.50 will be charged per SWCD purchased tree or \$2.50 per non SWCD purchased tree, also with the \$150 minimum. The planter will NOT be rented out, neither will the tractor. Heather motioned to pass the new policy, Joe seconded, and it passed unanimously.

A job description for a summer employee was then discussed. It was decided to follow the existing employee handbook on definitions of temporary employees. It was also decided to hire the position as full-time, temporary, seasonal with a starting pay of \$10-\$13 depending on experience. Heather motioned, Joe seconded and it was passed.

County entrance signs were also brought up. Designs were presented to the board and a final one was chosen.

Justin Muller: Justin gave the District Technician report. WCA resolutions need to be updated. He is working on year end reporting for Feedlot and also has MACFO at the end of the month. For County Ag Inspector he mentioned the grant rebuttal previously discussed. Then he also talked about the Neil Johnson bridge and core project in regards to funding. Justin also discussed the leadership conference he attended in Washington D.C. in February.

Jeremy Benson: Jeremy then gave his District Technician report. A memorandum of understanding between the SWCD and Two Rivers Watershed is in the process of being written in regards to buffer

enforcement. An edited version to send back to TRW was motioned by Heather and seconded by Joe. It then passed unanimously.

Jeremy then said that Gillie's project had been approved through state cost share and that the Weberg project is now in the process of being coordinated with Jim Hest. Jeremy mentioned that the 1W1P application will change a little bit before we submit ours and that he is working on it. The survey grade equipment to be purchased was the discussed. The warranty was in question. Joe motioned to get the warranty, Heather seconded, and it passed unanimously. It was also decided to purchase the SIM card data plan option instead of an office cell phone to use as a hot spot for the equipment.

Jamie Osowski: Jamie gave the District Manager report. She asked if everyone had done the PRAP surveys, they had. She then mentioned that she, Jeremy, and Maddy would be attending the Area Meeting on March 20 in Crookston and the RRWMB conference March 21-22 in Moorhead. The newsletter was also brought up. The SWCD is going to pay for this one, and TRW will pay the next one. She also mentioned that the area Engineering Tech position has been put in the papers.

This concluded the March meeting of the Kittson County Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Directors.



Heather Peterson
Secretary