

*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 18th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at Kittson County SWCD Office

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday March 18th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson SWCD Office. Members present at the meeting included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, Public Relations Sam Anderson and Treasurer Andrew Muir.

Others present at the meeting were, District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, District Manager, Jamie Osowski, Jim Schwab, and Michael Steinhauer.

The minutes from the February 18th, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers reports from December 2019, January 2020 and February 2020 were presented to the board by District Manager Osowski who had been on maternity leave. Upon discussion on December 2019 financials, motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors. Upon discussion on the January 2020 financials, motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors. Upon discussion on the February 2020 financials, Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

New Business:

Jamie discussed the RIM work order for the inspections done on RIM sites by the Kittson SWCD. Upon motion by Muir and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors the Kittson SWCD will sign work order and submit back to BWSR.

Next, Justin discussed the changes made to the Nonstructural Land Management Practices policy including the incorporation of Reduced tillage, No Till and Strip Till and changing the minimum acre option to include under 20 acres if the land occupier can show a need to go less than 20 acres. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the changes to the NSLM Policy.

Next; Joe spoke on his conversation with his commissioner on space issues the Kittson SWCD have. The County Board is aware of the office needs for more space and will discuss the options at an upcoming board meeting.

Jamie spoke to the board on policies for the office with the upcoming Covid-19 pandemic. Discussion was on what the board would like to staff to do if they become ill with Covid-19 and what procedures the office should follow to avoid spreading. Upon discussion, the board will be offering Board approved leave for any employee testing positive or caring for anyone testing positive for Covid-19. The board would also like the staff to follow the procedures presented to the board on Covid-19 office procedures and Public Health Emergency Utilization of paid leave. The staff should also follow the closing procedure of the courthouse. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the staff will follow the presented procedures and report to the board on happenings with the office and staff.

Staff Reports:

Jeremy gave his District Technician Report, he stated there was push back from other members of the Steering Team on hiring a consultant. He stated that Dan made progress on the plan at the last meeting and he will continue to work to catch them back up to their timeline. Jeremy then reported on the Buffer Law, he will be mailing out last chance Buffer letters to 69 landowners with a deadline of May 1st, 2020. Jeremy reported that he will begin working from home on Thursday.

Jim gave an update on NRCS, he stated that he has been working with Michael on grazing plans in Kittson County. Jim has been working with 8 landowners on WRP applications. Jim also announced that the CRP Grassland Reserve Program will be available, rates are \$10 an acre for 10 or 15 years.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She reported that a lot of her meetings are being cancelled due to Covid-19. She stated that she hopes to begin turning her efforts toward online content that teachers might be able to incorporate into their curriculum. Heather reported that we had 15 attendees at the Kittson SWCD Open House. There were 35 attendees at Ag Exploration day. She reported that State Envirothon was cancelled and we have in turn cancelled our area event. She will be working with teachers and other organizations to develop any online content she can, and the poster contest deadline is still April 8th. Heather reported that MASWCD Day at the Capital has been cancelled.

Justin gave his report, he has been working on WCA Issues between 2 landowners in Norway Township where extensive ditching had been done. Both landowners have been in contact with the office. Justin reported that he has been working with a consultant on the Wagon Wheel Ridge WCA Project. Justin then reported that he met with the County Board on year end reporting for Feedlot.

Jamie gave the District Manager report, she stated that she returned to work full time on Wednesday March 4th. She has been working to catch herself up in the office, including work on month end financial reporting, E-link reporting with BWSR and 1W1P information. Jamie reported that she will be working to keep updated with the Kittson County Emergency manager and County Administrator on updates on Covid-19 with the courthouse and with Jim Schwab and Kelly Turgeon on USDA procedures.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 at

8 AM in the Kittson County Downstairs Meeting Room.

Jamie Osowski for Secretary Due to Covid 4/8/2020

Heather Peterson, Secretary

Date

