

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



---

410 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (855) 744-0398- [www.kittsonswcd.org](http://www.kittsonswcd.org)

**Minutes of the Meeting of**

**Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors**

**Held on Wednesday March 10th, 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 March 10th, 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 NRCS Soil Conservationist Chelsea Gruber, District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager Jamie Osowski.

The minutes from the February 10th, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Muir and second by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

**New Business:**

Poster Contest Winners: Heather Donoho presented the posters from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Lancaster and Kittson Central. The theme for the poster contest was Healthy Forests=Healthy Communities. The board made decisions on the top 3 posters; 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Brenna Turn, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Lucas Sobolik and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Levi Brandon.

Ag BMP Loan: Jamie presented the board with an Ag BMP loan for Jerod Hanson for a cultivator and sprayer with VRT. Jamie spoke with the MDA on this project and the fact that our balance does not cover this application. The MDA suggests that we continue to push as many projects through as we can and put them on waiting lists, then the lender can do a bridge loan until more funding is available. Following discussion on bridge loans and fund balance, we could fund the requested \$200,000 and fund the \$160,626.36 and bridge the remaining \$39,373.64. Richard reported that we will be receiving \$10,345.68 in repayments in April. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by

Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, we will submit the loan to the lender of the applicant's choice.

TSA Update: The staff gave an update on the meetings being held for the TSA. The staff proposed to the board that we share an engineer and technician with 3 districts: Marshall, Pennington, East Polk and us. Upon discussion, the board consensus was we would be in on the partial Northern TSA Engineer and Technician if we pay the initial base payment and then following the first year there is a sliding scale to work with based on workload per district.

Sugarbeet Cover Crop/Strip Till: Heather presented an update on a grant application available for Strip Tillage through UMN. She explained a little on the responsibilities of the SWCD with the grant and wanted to see if the board was interested in pursuing this grant. Upon discussion the board was in favor of moving forward with this project and helping the interested landowners out with this.

Kittson County Fairboard Building: Jamie presented the updated revisions from the Kittson County Fairboard for the contract lease on the building at the fairgrounds. Discussion has been had on these changes at a previous meeting, we just didn't make a motion as the final copy had not been drafted up. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve this lease with the Kittson County Fairboard.

**Staff Reports:** Jim was absent from the meeting and provided a report and Soil Conservationist Chelsea Gruber was in attendance. Jim reported that he has 10 CSP applications at this time and there was no information on ranking. Jim reported that they had received 11 EQIP applications and the ranking and scoring has been done on these applications and they are waiting to hear who has been funded. The CRP signup has been extended and no known signup deadline. The continuous signup is still going on, he reported that he is still working on eligibility on new applications and some early contracts have been written and signed. Jim reported that they are still only allowing 25% employees staffed in the office at NRCS and FSA. Chelsea Gruber began 2 weeks ago, and she gave a background of herself to the board. The Kittson SWCD Board welcomed Chelsea to Kittson County.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She presented the board with an update on all outreach events. Heather reported that she sent out Rural Beatification letters on March 31<sup>st</sup> to township officials and the deadline of nominations is end of July.

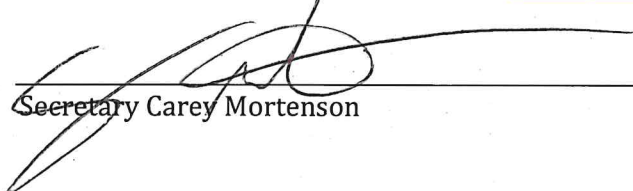
Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that he is working with Mark Prosser on his Wetland Banking project and working through the comments from BWSR. Justin reported that he is having discussion on a mitigation application for credits on the Klondike project. Next, he reported that cover crop contracts are coming in and he is working through projects for Ron Anderson and Hugh Hunt.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he is working on changes to Buffer contracts and is sending out a reminder for Buffer Compliance. Jeremy reported that they are beginning to gear up for seeding getting done this spring. Next, Jeremy gave an update on the 1W1P and stated that they have a policy meeting on March 18th and discussion was had on Joe Wilebski stepping down and the primary policy member for the 1W1P and having Andrew Muir take his

place. Motion was made by Mortenson and Seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors to have Andrew be the primary policy member and Joe Wilebski be the alternate member. Next Jeremy presented a State Cost Share contract for Jeff Mortenson for a 1500' field windbreak, the total of the contract is \$379.55 and Kurt Aakre for 2500' of a field windbreak with an estimated total of \$1500 to \$2000, but this is still not a for sure planting. Jeremy also spoke to the board on the staff approving all ecological practices for the State Cost Share, by allowing the staff to approve these contracts it helps the projects move along quicker rather than having to wait for the next board meeting. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Mortenson contract and allowing staff to approve all ecological contracts contingent on funding. Next Jeremy reported that he has been working on more MAWQCP applications and receiving phone calls from landowners on the program.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that there is a TSA managers meeting being held on Zoom on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1 PM and there will also be a Local Work Group training that same day held via Zoom. Jamie will send out the information on the meetings. Next Jamie reported that the next board meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> and was wondering if we should reschedule or plan to play it by ear. It was decided to keep the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and see what the weather does for seeding.

**The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.**

  
Secretary Carey Mortenson

4-14-21  
Date