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Kittson County*



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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Held on Thursday November 14th, 2013 at 7:30AM at the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation Office.

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Thursday November 14th, 2013 at 7:30 AM at the Kittson Soil and Water Office.

Members present at the meeting included: Chairman, Ron Anderson; Secretary, Justin Dagen and Treasurer, Joe Wilebski. Absent were Vice Chairwoman, Heather Peterson and Public Relations, CJ Peterson.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson; District Coordinator, Jamie Osowski; District Technician; Brian Krippner; and Jim Schwab; NRCS District Conservationist. Absent was Mark Larson; NRCS Technician.

The minutes from the October 15th, 2013 board meeting were approved, upon a motion by Wilebski and seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Jamie Osowski.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Coordinator report:

Audit: The Audit has been completed and the information from the audit was sent out in the board members packet for review. Jamie presented an invoice for \$1800.00 for the Audit from Peterson Company LTD. Upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by Dagen and Unanimous vote of the supervisors, this bill will be paid for \$1800 to Peterson Company LTD.

Kittson SWCD 60th Anniversary: This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Kittson SWCD. In the past, the anniversary has been celebrated with a get together honoring the district. Jamie asked the board if they would like to have an open house or if we should just have a district get together after Christmas and outline all the accomplishments the district has had in the last 10 years. The board agreed that a district get together including the board members, staff and outstanding Conservationists and their spouses sounds like a good idea. The staff will also put together a write up for the newspaper on the 60th anniversary of the district and accomplishments.

Membership Dues: Membership dues are up for renewal for a number of groups the district is involved in. Jamie presented to the board that the National Association of Conservation Districts renewal cost is \$500; the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees Membership is \$20/employee, \$60 for the district and the Northwest Association of Conservation District Employee dues are \$10/employee, \$30 per district. Upon motion by Dagen and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors, Jamie will pay the respected groups these dues.

Waterfest: Jamie reported to the board that she received a bill from Pennington County SWCD who handles all the expenses for the Waterfest. All the expenses from the event are split evenly between districts and out part of the expenses is \$145.43. Upon motion by Dagen and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors, Jamie will pay this bill for the 2013 Waterfest.

Other: Jamie reported that there is an Area 1 meeting on November 19th in Ada.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS report:

November is American Indian Heritage Month

CSP: Jim reported that he is working on CSP payments and he has 14 contracts left.

EQIP Signup: Jim reported that there will be an EQIP signup coming up but they are not aware of any of the details or amounts.

PL566: The PL 566 project is complete and the seeding is done.

Brian Krippner gave the District Technician report:

Tegner 26 Violation: Brian reported that a restoration order is out by the DNR on this violation. Brian stated that he is going along with the DNR's order and that the owner needs to follow this restoration order otherwise the Army Corp will become involved.

Gary Johnson: Brian conducted a site visit at Gary Johnson's potential stock pond site in McKinley 15. After the site visit Brian determined that there is no impact the landowner can go ahead with his project.

Truscinski Violation: Brian reported that the Truscinski restoration order is written and he is waiting for the OK from the higher ups at state.

Feedlots: Brian reported that he is still receiving Feedlot registrations and entering them into the system.

Feedlot Conference: Brian gave a report on the Feedlot Conference he attended on October 14-16th.

CAI: Brian reported that he attended a County Ag Inspector meeting in Mahanomen on November 13th. The topic was on moving Wild Parsnip, Leafy Spurge, Canada thistle and Purple Loosestrife to a lower level on the Noxious Weed list. Brian will be bringing this to the County Commissioners to get their opinion on these weeds moving off the list. Our board had discussion about this topic and they want to see these 4 weeds stay on the Noxious Weed list.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager report

FY 2013 Natural Resources Block Grant (NRGB): Darren reported the amounts remaining in the FY 2013 grants, CLWP \$2,785.38 remaining, Feedlot \$-4,302.94 remaining, SSTS \$1,335.56, Shoreland \$-913.00, WCA \$-14,627.46. These funds need to be encumbered by June 30th, 2014.

FY 2013 Conservation Delivery Grant: Remaining balance is \$-470.32 and needs to be encumbered by 6/30/2014

Annual Convention: The annual Convention will be held on December 1-3 in Bloomington MN.

Darren asked the board if anyone would be interested in attending, board members were given until Monday November 18th to let us know as registration is due November 20th. Cody Schmaltz will not be able to attend.

New Lease agreement: Darren reported to the board on the decision for the SWCD lease from the county. The commissioners want to increase our rent by 25% due to the improvements that were made in FSA's office. We were given a list of possible alternatives for the Kittson SWCD rent. The board discussed that they don't believe our rent should have to increase because of those improvements. From the options given to the board, option E is the alternative choice by the board which is to propose a 10 year lease with changes; the first 5 years rent is \$15.63 and the second 5 years, the rent will increase to \$18.50. The improvements discussed at the October meeting (Carpet and paint) will need to be done by June 1st, 2014.

SWCD Tree Program: Darren reported to the board that he has ordered 8400 trees. Some of the larger tree plantings we will see in 2014 will be Kurt Amundson, Jim Wilwant and Mike Ratzlaff.

SSTS upgrade grant: Darren reported that this grant was received for \$37,900 to upgrade imminent threat or failing to protect groundwater SSTS systems. The funds must be spent by June 30th, 2016.

2011 CWF Lake Bronson Watershed: All funds have been spent and grant requirements have been fulfilled. The final \$10,000 from BWSR for implementation was received in September and we have received \$5,000 from Two River Watershed District last week for part of the required 25% match.

Kevin Williamson FY 12-05 CWF: Darren reported to the board that he received an application for Clean Water Funds. The proposed piece is 3.4 acres in Hereim 14 NE ¼. The request for funds is \$4,302. Motion was made by Dagen and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the application for Kevin Williamson.

2013 SWAG Monitoring: Darren reported that the first year requirements have been completed and the funds for the monitoring have been received from the IWI for \$5,376.41 for staff time and mileage.

2013 Joe River Watershed District Monitoring: Funds for this monitoring project have been received for staff time and mileage (\$2,056.76) from the MPCA. More monitoring will potentially be coming in 2014. Informational meeting will be held on November 22nd in Thief River Falls.

New Grant Requests: Darren reported that he has submitted grant requests for Soil erosion and Drainage Law Compliance, Cooperative Weed Management Area Program and Minnesota Department of Ag Sustainable Ag Grant.

Other: Darren reported that there is an Area 1 Meeting in Ada on November 19th, and the FY 2013 RIM Easement and Conservation Delivery money is spent.

December Board Meeting: The December Board meeting is scheduled for December 12th, 2013 at 7:30 AM.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Justin Dagen, Secretary

