

*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 October 27th, 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 October 27th, 2021 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Secretary Carey Mortenson, and Treasurer Joe Wilebski. Absent was Sam Anderson

Other's present were District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Manager Jamie Osowski, and District Outreach Coordinator Heather Donoho.

The minutes from the September 8th, 2021 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

New Business:

Project Requests for Watershed Based Funding: Jeremy reported to the board that the deadline for submitted projects to the JPB for funding is next week. Jeremy presented the projects that have been submitted by Roseau and Kittson SWCD and Roseau and Kittson County and showed them the tracking tool that was developed by Jeremy in the office. Upon discussion of the projects and costs, motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors to submit the projects presented by Benson to the JPB.

Two Rivers Watershed Engineering Agreements: Jeremy presented 2 project agreements to the board for the Two River Watershed Districts projects in Teien Township. Jeremy explained the need for these agreements and that these agreements will only be applicable for these 2 specific projects. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors to sign into these agreements with the TRWD.

Computer and printer update: Jamie presented the quote we received for the printer from Marco services out of Thief River Falls, the total came in at \$5,995 and this includes delivery, install and training. We would be billed .008 cents per black and white copy and .049 cents per color copy print, travel time, parts and labor. Jamie then asked the board what they would prefer we do with purchasing computers for the office, they stated that they would like us to purchase the computers suitable for us and to order them from wherever is more convenient. The cost of computers above the amount budgeted in the 2022 Local Capacity funds will come out of NRBG and District Funds.

MASWCD Resolutions: Jamie read through the resolutions for MASWCD and tallied the votes to submit to the association.

Staff Reports:

NRCS Report: Jim was absent from the meeting due to workload but provided Jamie with the following report. He is unsure on an EQIP and CSP signup, he mentioned if there is a signup, he is unsure how much funding will be allocated for each program. He stated that all CSP and EQIP payments have been made for 2021. Jim reported that he has 7 CRP cost share certifications left to do. There are 105 status reviews to complete and write up for contracts expiring in 2022. Jim stated that he is working with Kelly Turgeon on the pasture losses for Kittson County, he reported that through interviews with the producers all say around 55% to 75% loss depending on the soils and areas of the county. Jim reported that Alan Lepp has left the agency and Kelly Heather from Marshall MN will be acting in his place and that Chelsea has been spending most of her time in Roseau.

Heather gave her outreach update, she reported that the photo contest has been going well on Facebook, she has submitted the Rural Beautification article to the newspapers and submitted the Outstanding Conservationist application to the MASWCD. Next, Heather reported that she received a quote for the land survey at Moose Point of \$3,500 from Fisher Land Survey. Heather gave an update on the Soil Health Demo Project and where we stand with equipment and the funds for the project.

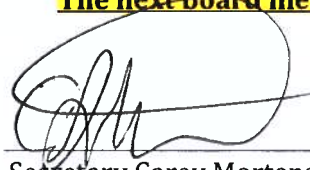
Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that he is working on the Klondike Clean Water retention mitigation application. Justin reported that while going through the application they found that it was not complete, they do not list where the mitigation area is, and they are requesting more details on the TRWD's plans for the WRP area. Further discussion was had on this project and the history of the application. Justin gave an update on the Wagon Wheel Ridge application, he stated that Glenn Braizer and Steve Anderson appealed the last decision made by the board. BWSR requested Justin put together what would be approved in the application. Wagon Wheel Ridge did not like what was proposed, and they did not reapply, they went back to the original appeal and BWSR put this project in abeyance and right now it is in BWSR's hands as they put together all the administration areas of this project. Justin also reported on the Kittson County Highway Department County Road 10 delineation project. Justin reported that he is working with Houston Engineering and the Highway department to make sure the wetlands were correct in their report. Next Justin spoke to the board on a letter received from the MPCA on the Feedlot program. Justin stated that the Kittson SWCD staff did not fulfill the requests from the

probation letter sent in March. Justin stated that he did conduct 3 inspections, but they were not submitted in Tempo, he also was waiting on re-registrations to come back to the office, and he had not entered the registrations that he had received into Tempo. Discussion was had on this program and what can be done to make this program not so intimidating. The board would like to see the office hold a meeting to discuss the program in mid-January. The board would also like the Kittson SWCD staff to get in compliance with the MPCA on the requests they are looking for. Justin reported that he is working on payment vouchers for Cover Crops and is waiting on seed tags for a couple contracts. Justin reported that he surveyed a public water for a ditch cleanout and is sending this information to the DNR. Justin stated that the Hugh Hunt and Ron Anderson projects are complete and they have been surveyed, we are waiting on the invoices to submit a voucher for payment. He has also been working on survey points needed by Houston Engineering for the Hill Township project. Justin reported that he has been attending the TSA meetings with Joe from the board, discussion was had with the board on what they would like to see from the TSA and the involvement in the process.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that he is working on closing some contracts with Buffer Cost Share and he is working with the Watershed District on some Side Water Inlets using the grant extension on the Buffer Cost Share funds. Jeremy is also working on a contract with the TRWD on the seeding of the County Ditch 21 cleanout. Next Jeremy reported that he is working with Kittson County to develop a request for funding for WBF. The next steering team meeting will be held on November 4th with the next Joint Powers Board meeting being held on November 18th to approve projects so the application process can begin. Jeremy reported that he inspected 16 RIM contracts, is working on tree plans with landowners and reporting the rainfall analysis to Kelly at FSA for disaster reporting.

Jamie gave her report, she spoke to the board on the NACD membership and reported on some of the activities they have done in 2021. Jamie reported that over the last 5 years we have submitted anywhere from \$250-\$500. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Kittson SWCD will contribute \$250 to the NACD. Jamie reported the 2022 Health Insurance policy numbers to the board, and this will be discussed at the December Board meeting after Jamie visits with all staff on their current policy. Jamie presented the board with the new pens from Crestline and gave the board an update on the upcoming schedule of meetings for the Kittson SWCD staff and Board Members. It was also discussed if we will need to hold a November Board meeting. It was decided that we will not hold a November Board meeting unless something comes up in the month that needs attention.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday December 8th, 2021 at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.

 chair
Secretary Carey Mortenson

12-8-21
Date