

*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 Thursday September 19th, 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 September 19th, 2013 at 7:30 AM at the Kittson Soil and Water Office.

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

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

The minutes from the August 8th board meeting and August 13th Special meeting were approved, upon a motion by J. Wilebski and seconded by CJ. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by CJ Peterson, seconded by Joe 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:

Ag BMP Loans: Jamie explained to the board the special phone meeting that was held on August 13th to approve Chris Swenson's Ag BMP loan for Manure Spreader for \$18,000. Chris came into the office 2 days following our August board meeting and had this manure spreader on hold for him. Jamie reported that she called the board members for approval and received a signature for the application and submitted the loan to Ag County. Jamie asked the board how we should handle these applications and recommended that the staff approve the loans in the office and then report on them at the meetings. There will be less wait time for the producers/landowners. The board requested that we table this topic until we have a full board.

Jacki Przekwas Ag BMP: Jacki and Matt Przekwas submitted an application for a manure spreader for managing livestock manure in holding pens. They are asking for \$25,000. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by CJ Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors to approve the Przekwas Ag BMP loan for \$25,000.

SWCD Governance training: Jamie reported that Brian and herself attended SWCD Governance training in Alexandria on September 4th and 5th.

Other: Jamie reported that she has been doing weekly Joe River and Two River Water Monitoring; the monitoring should end September 30th.

Jim Schwab was absent for the meeting, but Jamie Osowski gave a short report for Jim.

CRP: Jim wants to thank the SWCD staff for all their help during the CRP signup

EQIP: All EQIP grazing systems have been reviews and payments are being processed.

CSP: CSP payments will be going out after October 1st.

PL566: The PL 566 project is almost completed.

September is Hispanic heritage month.

Mark Larson was absent for the meeting, but Jamie Osowski gave a short report for Mark.

Mark reported that he has been dealing with grazing systems, producers have been getting fencing and water systems installed in between haying and harvest. He will have some more GPS work to do for certifying practices that were installed.

There is a need for another well driller in the area since Bruce Gunderson has stepped away from drilling and is focusing on service calls and well sealing.

Mark Hayek was up in August and did some farm visits with Mark to discuss grazing plans for the upcoming 2014 EQIP signup.

Brian Krippner gave the District Technician report:

Tegner 26 Violation: Brian stated that this was a ditch clean up in DNR protected Waterway. Landowner will need to restore where he cut through the wetlands.

Alan Truscinski: Brian met with Jeff Hane and Dale Krystosek and discussed the situation of who owns the land. Scott Johnson at Roseau SWCD is working on the restoration order.

Jim Ristad Wildlife Pond: Brian looked at the site and is working with the Army Corp for a faster way to get the permit going.

Gary Mrazek Wildlife Pond: Brian found the site eligible for wildlife exemption and he gave Gary guidance documents.

Jim Wileski Pasture Drainage: Brian gave Jim permission to drain this pasture.

Chris Swenson Ag Banking: Brian looked at the site with Ryan Heinen and found the site to have good vegetation, will be moving forward with the application.

Ryan Schwenzfeier: Brian reported that Ryan will be pulling out credits in Hazelton 6.

Common Tansy: Brian reported that there was common tansy found in Northcote. This is the first sighting in Kittson County. This is a noxious weed with little yellow flower heads.

Feedlots: Brian reported that the second registration letter was sent out to producers. Brian will be attending a feedlot conference in St. Cloud on October 14th-16th. Brian inspected Randy Coffields feedlot and reported that it looks good.

Pickup Pricing: Brian reported to the board that he went to local pickup dealerships and priced out pickups for the district. The board tabled this discussion until we have a full board.

Outstanding Conservationist: Brian reported to the board that he submitted the information included in their package to MASWCD for the State Convention.

Apparel: Brian has examples of shirts with the district logo for meetings and conventions. With 2 board members missing, we took pictures of the shirts and will present them at the next meeting.

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 \$5681.63 remaining, Feedlot \$-1862.86 remaining, SSTS \$4445.45, Shoreland \$713.00, WCA \$-10,249.29. These funds need to be encumbered by June 30th, 2014.

FY 2013 Conservation Delivery Grant: Remaining balance is \$8866.95 and needs to be encumbered by 6/30/2014

FY 2013 RIM Easement Delivery Grant: Remaining balance is \$75 and needs to be encumbered by 6/30/2014.

FY 2014 SWCD Program and Operations grant agreement: Darren reported to the board on the 2014 SWCD Program and Operations grant agreements. There are 3 programs being funded; Conservation Delivery, Rim Easement, and State Cost Share at a total of \$29,159 that need to be encumbered by December 31st, 2016. Need a motion and approval for these funds. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by CJ. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors to encumber these funds.

SSTS Fix up Grant: Darren reported on the SSTS fix up grant. Kittson SWCD applied for \$40,000 and was awarded \$37,900. \$2,000 will be awarded to Kittson SWCD for reporting and monitoring. Funds for this grant must be spent by June 30th, 2016, progress on this work will be reported through ELINK and the funding will be received with our regular SSTS funding. An estimated 4 SSTS will be upgraded.

State Cost Share:

FY 13-02 Mike Ratzlaff Field Windbreak: Date on this practice needs to be changed to when practice will be completed by. Currently it says 12/31/13, recommend it says 12/31/14. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by CJ Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to change the date on this practice.

FY 12-04 Jan Carr Well Sealing: Well was sealed for \$545.00. Jan is asking for reimbursement of 75%. State Cost Share program (50%) \$272.50 and CLWP (25%) \$136.25. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by CJ Peterson and unanimous vote from supervisors to approve cost share for Jan Carr.

FY 13-03 James Faulconbridge Well Sealing: Two well sealings in Norway 24. Cost estimate is \$790, State Cost Share will pay 50% (\$395) and CLWP will pay 25% (\$197.50). Motion was made by CJ Peterson and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve cost share for James Faulconbridge.

Kent Benson Well Sealing: Darren reported that Bruce Gunderson called and did not want to seal this well as there was fuel oil in the well. This practice is on hold.

Ester Underberg: Waiting for a cost estimate from Bruce.

RIM/PL566 Project: Darren presented the board with updates on all RIM applicants.

2014 County Budget Request: Darren met with commissioners on August 20th and asked for a 3% increase of our County Allocation which would bring it up to \$41,200. Darren also asked for a 5% increase for County Ag Inspector which would bring it up to \$10,000. We currently receive \$9,500. Commissioner Bouvette said the increases were reasonable and they would have to discuss once the other offices submit their requests.

Zoning: Darren spoke to the board about possible negotiations with the County and the zoning program. Darren stated he still does not know what the county is looking for to administer the program. Board would like to know that before a decision is made.

Clean Water Funds: Darren spoke to the board about 2014 Clean Water Funds requests, he stated that the application period runs from 9/3/13 to 10/4/13. There is \$17,345,000 available for various projects. Questioned the board to see if there were any requests they would like to see.

CCRP Contribution Work agreements: The SWCD completed 74 CCRP plans at \$480/plan, 1 plan was completed but not signed at \$250/plan. Total amount the SWCD will receive is \$35,770. 200 hours was spent on this CWA by Kittson SWCD staff.

New Lease agreement: Currently we pay \$6,975/year, the county wants to increase that by 50%

New Board Conservationist: Darren reported that we have a new Board Conservationist for our area, Matt Fischer.

2011 CWF Lake Bronson: Darren reported that the funds have been spent and reporting had been done and is on the website.

October Board Meeting: The October Board meeting is scheduled for October 15th, 2013.

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

Justin Dagen, Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JD', is written over a horizontal line.