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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Held on Wednesday September 13th, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday September 13th, 2017 at 7 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse Meeting Room.

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

Others present at the meeting were District Technician, Justin Muller; District Technician, Jeremy Benson; District Conservationist, Jim Schwab and NRCS Technician, Michael Steinhauer.

The minutes from the August 9th, 2017 board meeting were approved, upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of the supervisors the treasurer's report was approved as presented by Kittson SWCD Staff.

Jim Schwab and Michael Steinhauer gave the NRCS Report:

September is Hispanic Heritage Month

CRP: Jim reported that there are 226 CRP contracts expiring in 2018. FSA and NRCS are going to work on getting the eligibilities done now so they have that much done ahead of expiring. Jim also reported that he is working on Wetland and HEL compliance.

CSP and EQIP: Michael stated that they had 1 CSP contract approved in Kittson County. Michael also stated that there was an EQIP application acceptance period, they received 6 to 8 applications for grazing systems and cover crops. Remaining paperwork will be done in January or February.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician report:

New Employee: Discussion was had on the District Outreach Position applicants, we received 5 applicants. The board would like to interview 3 of the applicants and have the interview in the evening of September 28th, allowing 1 hour per interview. Discussion was then had about a computer for the new employee. The set up will cost about \$2,000 and it will take about 1 month for us to receive. The board decided to wait until after the interviews.

Buffers: Justin reported that he has been working on staking buffers, answering questions for landowners and signing landowners up for cost share.

County Ag Inspector: Justin stated that he has been sending out weed letters.

SSTS Upgrade: Justin reported that he has been working on the Bakke Upgrade. He also submitted an application for the FY18 MPCA SSTS grant. He has not heard anything back yet.

Other: Justin reported that he attended the 25 by 25 meeting in Crookston on September 5th, he stated that it was a good experience and good conversation was had. He then reported that he attended a listening session with John Jaschke in Detroit Lakes on September 6th, the discussion was had on what BWSR can do better for the SWCD's.

Area 1 Engineer: Justin spoke to the board about the possibility of Northern 7 district in Area 1 hiring an Engineer or a Technician for these districts. Currently, the TSA Engineer is months behind and projects are not getting done due to this. This position would be hosted in one of the 7 SWCD's offices and each district in the area are being asked to put \$15,000 into a pot to fund this position. Discussion was had on the need for the position and the board would like to approach and pursue hiring. Justin reported that the office was contacted by RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes about having the Kittson SWCD be a pickup and drop off location for water sampling. Our office would be responsible for handing out the kits and then letting RMB Labs know a sample is ready for pickup. Upon motion by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors, the Kittson SWCD will participate in the sample process with RMB Labs. Justin reported that the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) process has changed and will be handled through a contract process now. Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the RIM contract process. Justin also presented to the board the BWSR Grant Agreement for FY 2018 & 2019 SWCD Programs and Operations grants. Upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Grant Agreement for FY 18-19 Programs and Operations Grants. Justin also presented the board with an AgBMP loan for Alex Moore for a 2013 Wishek Disc, upon motion by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors, Alex

Moore's AgBMP loan was approved and will be sent to Ag County. Justin asked the board if they would like to complete the MASWCD Resolutions, motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to table the MASWCD Resolutions until the October Board meeting.

Jeremy Benson gave his District Technician report

Buffers: Jeremy reported that there are 50 parcels for a total of 90 acres that have shown interest in Buffer Cost Share at this time, he also stated there is some interest in Side Water Inlets. He has been receiving calls for staking Buffers for landowners. He also reported on new decision making tools for Alternative practices. Jeremy presented the board the policy for the Riparian Aid funding for Cost Share, including Flat Rating for Side Water Inlets and assisting landowners wanting to go above and beyond 50 feet to square up fields. Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Riparian Aid Cost Share Policy.

State Cost Share: Jeremy reported that Jim Hest's computer crashed and this has set all his projects behind by 2 weeks, including Weberg and Gillie. Jeremy also reported that Jon Leader submitted an estimate of \$920.00 for the well sealing at the Frog Pond in Halma. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Frog Pond Well Sealing for \$920.00.

Other: Jeremy reported that the DNR Ob Well reading was down. He also reported that the average rainfall for July was 1.5 inches with 18 readers reporting and in August the average rainfall was 1.03 inches with 16 readers reporting. Precipitation to date was 7.38 inches. Jeremy also reported that the office received the 2017 Dodge and it was found that running boards will be needed, Jeremy received an estimate with Westside Motors and they could install them for \$558. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to install the running board on the '17 Dodge at Westside Motors. Jeremy reported that the four wheeler trailer needs new tires and bearings, upon motion by Dagen and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the replacement of the tire and bearings on the trailer for \$65 a tire at Johnson Oil Company. Jeremy also reported that the tree shelves are together in the tree shed.

Next Board meeting will be held on October 11th, 2017 at 7 AM.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Peterson, Secretary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Heather Peterson, Secretary