

*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 September 9th, 2020 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 September 9th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Joe Wilebski, Secretary Heather Peterson, and Public Relations, Sam Anderson. Missing was Treasurer Andrew Muir

Others present were; District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Heather Donoho, and District Manager Jamie Osowski.

The minutes from the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from August 2020 were mailed out and presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the August 2020 financials, motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

**New Business:**

The first order of new business was to discuss Covid 19 and administrative leave. Jamie reported to the board that she would like to know if she needs to use her own sick leave when her kids can't go to school or daycare due to new Covid-19 regulations. Upon discussion among the board, it was decided that this time would be administrative leave and that all staff try and get their work done whether it be from home or the office when they can. The board does not want to see the staff using their personal time with all the unknowns of Covid. Jamie will keep track of these hours for staff and administrative leave.

Justin reported to the board on drones and stated they cannot add on RTK capabilities after the drone is purchased. Justin mentioned to the board that Jim Schwab mentioned the opportunity of a Contribution work agreement with NRCS to fly certain site for him, he is working with Alan on this.

Upon discussion by the board it was decided to purchase the Phantom 4 with RTK capability, motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

**Staff Reports:** Jim was not able to attend the August Board meeting but provided a report that was presented by Jamie Osowski. He reported that his workload has been CRP; he has been receiving signatures and getting the plans over to FSA. He reported that he had 44 continuous contracts, 33 general contracts, 19 30 year contracts, 5 grazing land contracts and 10 TIP Plans. Jim also reported that he is working with the Joe River Watershed on a PL566 bridge project that is failing and it trying to help them get it fixed.

Heather gave an update on outreach events. She stated that she is busy filming the cover crop videos, working on a biodiversity workshop for Lancaster School, adopt a tree program and the photo contest. Heather reported that she will be working with Red Canoe designs on signs for Moose Point Learning Center. She is waiting to conduct the interview with the 2020 Outstanding Conservationist and putting together virtual Waterfest activity packets.

Justin gave his District Technician report, he reported that he has been spending a lot on the WCA ag determination for the Klondike project. He is waiting on the BWSR comments for the Prosser Ag Banking project and once he receives them, he will set up a TEP meeting. He also reported that he has been working on new contracts for Cover Crops; in 2019 there were 29 contracts and so far, we have 3 contracts for 2020 funding.

Jeremy gave the District Technician Report, he reported that the deadline on the county non-compliant Buffers is September 11<sup>th</sup> and he has 4 landowners that have not called with a plan of action. Jeremy reported that there are 7 landowners that have not contacted our office on the Two River Watershed ditches, the deadline for those ditches is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy reported most of the landowners he spoke to that received letters signed up for Buffer Cost Share or would like us to stake their site. Jeremy reported that with 1W1P he is working with the steering team to build and develop section 6. He stated that the comment period for the CAC and TAC is September 11<sup>th</sup> and then those comments will go to the steering team to go through. Jeremy also reported that Theresia Gillie is signing up to become certified with the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification process. Jeremy also reported that we received the spreader and harrow he ordered in September.

Jamie gave her report, she stated that there was a TSA meeting happening at the same time as our board meeting, at this meeting it was going to be discussed on options to replace an engineer for the Northern half of Area 1. Jamie reported that she attended the Kittson County Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss an application fee for DNR Shoreland, the county board set the application fee at \$50. Jamie gave an update on upcoming meetings and asked the board what they thought about staff attending in person meetings and trainings. The board stated that they will leave that up to staff discretion.

**The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday November 4 at 8 AM at Kittson County Courthouse.**

*Jamie Osowski for Heather Peterson*

Heather Peterson, Secretary

*11/4/2020*

Date