

*Helping Producers Implement
Best Management Practices
for Conservation Purposes in
Kittson County*



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***Kittson SWCD 2018 Planning Meeting
Thursday February 1st, 2018 @ 8 AM
Kittson County Courthouse Board of Commissioners Room***

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present included Joe Welebski, Justin Dagen, CJ Peterson, and Heather Peterson. Ron Anderson was absent.

Staff Present were Jamie Osowski, Jeremy Benson, Justin Muller, and Maddy Rehn. Jim Schwab came up for a bit towards the end of the meeting.

Jamie Osowski called the meeting to order.

Kittson SWCD Assessment: It was agreed that our number one priority is getting conservation on the ground. Whether that is through actual implementation or education. Education is also a top priority for the district. The district would also like to get more trees in Kittson county as well as hold more educational outreach programs/events such as crop tours.

JAA: NRCS wasn't getting training done so staff asked the board where they want to see the staff in the future. It was stated that staff should take advantage of training to get JAA when possible.

Proposed Projects: It was discussed about a possible meeting with Kelly Bengston and the state to visit about prioritizing projects (public vs. private). Also talked about taking a project tour with staff and board to see where potential projects are located.

Create an application for projects - private vs. public and how much people can contribute.

Funds: It was talked about to flex the full amount possible - about \$83,000. Of that, \$30,000 has been set aside for survey grade equipment and mobile hotspot. Money would come out of SSTs for Justin's new computer and a new SWCD laptop. All together this would be \$40,000. Buying a pull behind mower was also discussed to maintain Moose Point and to be used for tree plantings.

Buffers: Cost share spreadsheet was discussed to show BWSR that we could spend more money that we have. Riparian aid funds were discussed in relation to Rinkie Noonan.

Drafting an MOA to split funds for legal fees with the county was also discussed for Riparian Aid funds. It would be an 80/15/5 split.

It would maybe be possible to use these funds to purchase a tractor and trailer to plant buffers instead of pictometry. But, it would be another service the SWCD provides and require seasonal help. Bids on several brands of tractors were requested.

MASWCD Resolutions: Two resolutions were discussed. The board would like to see farmstead shelterbelts back in the cost share policy to improve erosion and soil health problems in the county. This is a current energy resource concern where millions of dollars are spent on audits. There was also discussion on soil health and cover crops. The staff will write resolutions on these two topics and present to the board.

Local Capacity Funds: It was discussed to continue to fund education and outreach opportunities as well as possibly renting a few acres to demonstrate conservation practices to the public.

SSTS: A new sliding scale for SSTS cost share was presented to better help more people in the county. Heather motioned and Joe seconded. The new scale was accepted unanimously.

X 

Heather Peterson
Secretary
