

*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 August 2nd, 2023, 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 August 2nd, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Treasurer Joe Wilebski, Secretary Carey Mortenson. Absent was Public Relations Sam Anderson.

Other's present were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Sky Olsonawski, and District Conservationist Bonnie Hasbrouck.

The minutes from the July 12th, 2023, board meeting was approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Due to the meeting being moved up for harvest, the July financials were not available at the August Meeting.

New Business:

County Budget: Jamie reported on the County Budget requests and stated that since Brian is done this week, the County Board wanted to hold a meeting to initially see the budget requests. Jamie asked the board if we would like to ask for the normal 3% increase or more. Following discussion, the board asked for a 3.5 % increase to our County Ag Inspector budget and a 3% increase to the County Allocation. A motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimously by board members to approve the County Budget requests presented.

Wagon Wheel Ridge Letter to the County Attorney: Jeremy reported on the letter that he drafted for both the County and the SWCD to send to the County Attorney asking for recommendations in who could represent us in this case since there was a conflict of interest for the Kittson County Attorney. The motion was made by Muir and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors to send this letter on behalf of the Kittson SWCD. Chairman CJ Peterson signed the letter and staff will mail it following the meeting.

Zentra Cloud Subscription: Jeremy reported on renewing the Zentra Cloud subscription for the data loggers for the Soil Health Demo. Jeremy stated that we previously ordered the 1-year subscription, but it would make more sense to buy the 3-year subscription since we will need it for the next 3 years and we will not have to think about it again. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors to do a 3-year subscription to finish out to project.

Staff Reports:

Bonnie gave the NRCS Update reporting that they have been busy working on CSP and they have an approved application that is in the obligation period and they are currently taking applications for EQIP. Bonnie also reported that they have been busy conducting CPR field checks and writing plans. She also mentioned to the board about an influx of people moving their CRP too early and the only early mowing should be for noxious weeds which requires a signup first. Bonnie also reported that she enjoyed the Strip Till tour and learned a lot about sugarbeets.

Sky gave an update to the board on the Strip Till tour, she stated that we had great feedback and had 1 landowner signup for 40 acres. Sky updated the board on the well water clinic we are doing through WBIF funding. We will use the WBIF funds to pay for staff time on the project and we will pay for the well tests through our Local Capacity funds. Sky will begin advertising for the tests to be returned to the office on August 22nd to be sent to the lab. Sky reported she has been working on getting her access to the Feedlot reporting system, Tempo. She is also going to work on the required inspections with Taylor this year, so she knows how to do them.

Jeremy gave his technician report, he reported that he is beginning to do some site inspections and working with a producer to help him get back into compliance. Next Jeremy reported that he has a TEP meeting for the Karlstad Airport, he stated that with moving the SWCD board meeting up there will not be able to be an application submitted for a decision, Jeremy requested an extension for the decision making to September 23rd. Jeremy also reported that there might be issues with the wetland bank that the airport has a purchase agreement with as the agency might be on hold. Next Jeremy touched more on Wagon Wheel Ridge and stated that the case was submitted to the supreme court at the last minute, and this should not affect anything moving forward with the prosecution process. With the Klondike projects, there was a TEP meeting held on July 31st to discuss the application further, there was discussion on how these changes would have impacts on their mitigation site. Next Jeremy reported on 1W1P, he stated that they had a steering team meeting where they looked at the proposed work plan for the FY 24 funds. Jeremy reported that they added the proposed extra funds into the current programs and then visited with the new Roseau County Engineer and discussed potential projects they might have. They also added in a new Livestock program to the work plan, he reported that he is not sure what this program will look like at this time,

but they will work on drafting a policy. Also, in the process of drafting the policy for the State Incentive CRP program, Jeremy discussed some payment options with the board and they thought the rates they were proposing sounded reasonable. He will also be looking into making changes to the cooperative agreement, so we do not run into the same issues with shifting funds around in the next round of funds. Next, Jeremy reported that they have done a couple weed complaint inspections with Canada Thistle, Wild Parsnip, and a potential spotting of Palmer Amaranth with ended up being pigweed. Finally, Jeremy spoke to the board on the tractor and the option of getting autosteer of tree plantings, he had a GIS specialist from Hanson Equipment stop by and look at the tractor to give us a quote for an autosteer, but he found out that our tractor has the redesigned steering column and is not have the opportunity to add the autosteer to it. Discussion was had amongst the board to look at a different tractor that comes with Autosteer and trading in our current tractor.

Jamie gave her report, she reported on the County Administrator changes, she stated that the interim they had lined up to come from Mower County fell through and they will now need to advertise for the position again. The County Board met on August 1st and they voted to have Kathy Johnson be the temporary county administrator and Shirley Swenson as the interim CFO. Kathy and Loren Younggren will be the go-to contacts for the time being. Jamie also asked the board what they would like to do with the bids that close on Friday and since we moved the meeting up, we will not be able to open them at the meeting. The board advised the staff to open the bids on the morning of Monday August 7th and let the board know who the highest bidders were. They all agreed that there was no reason to hold the process up. Jamie then updated the board on the upcoming meetings and events for the office.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday September 13th, 2023, at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.


Secretary Carey Mortenson

9-13-23
Date