

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

Other's present were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Jeremy Benson, and District Outreach Specialist, Heather Donoho.

The minutes from the January 11th, 2023, board meeting was approved upon motion by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from January 2023 was presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the January 2023 financials, motion was made by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Additions to New Business: Additional topics for new business include CD Rates at Prime Security Bank and Northcote Dam removal. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimously by supervisors.

New Business:

District Technician position: Jamie reported to the board that they have not had any more applicants for the job opening. The board discussed what we will need to do if we cannot hire anyone before busy season starts.

2022 Audit: Jamie presented the audit engagement packet from Peterson Company for the 2022 financial year. The quoted fee for the audit is \$3500-\$4000. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimously by board members to accept the audit bid from Peterson Company.

CD at Prime Security Bank: Jamie reported that there are 2 CD's that are maturing at Prime Security Bank, she stated that the current CD rates are .30 % for 12 months and 3.35% for 13 months. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimously by board to enroll the CD's ending in 928 and 924 into 13-month CDs with Prime Security Bank if there is no need for withdrawing them at this time.

Northcote Dam Removal: Jeremy reported to the board that we were approached again by Nick Kludt with the DNR on the Northcote Dam removal. Jeremy reported that he stated to Nick that the SWCD is shorty staffed and would not be able to take over the whole administration of the grant. The DNR will apply for the funding from Lessard Sam and will provide administrative assistance for this grant moving forward. Jeremy suggested a resolution of support for the Northcote Dam application from the Kittson SWCD Board, motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimously by supervisors to support the Northcote Dam Stream Restoration Priority request application.

Staff Reports:

NRCS staff was attending training the day of our meeting so Jamie gave the NRCS update, she reported that they still ask that appointments are made due to weather and work schedules. The CSP applications are being accepted and loaded into their systems with a deadline of February 10th. EQIP Applications are in the system and plan are written and being ranked for pre-approvals on February 8th and approvals on March 17th, they have 2 eligible applications at this time. They are starting the process of CRP expirations and are waiting for guidance on the new signup. Most stand evaluations are completed but there might be some re-evaluations in the spring. They will be attending trainings coming up and are working on organizing in the office space.

Heather gave her outreach report. First, she updated the board on the equipment that has been purchased for events for the district including a projector and screen, new updated boards for the display board and a portable speaker system since ours quit working. Heather gave an update on the upcoming events including the Carbon markets training on February 15th. Heather updated on the Rain Gauge appreciation gifts that were sent out to the all volunteers and that we have received lots of appreciation from those that have received the gifts. Heather updated the board on the upcoming school outreach that will be happening while she is on maternity leave and the office will be handling those events. She stated that she is working on 4-H events including snowshoe adventures and Ag Exploration Day. She will be conducting interviews with our 2 local Education scholarship recipients to use for advertising our scholarship for 2023. She stated that they are holding a Soil Health Demonstration producer meeting on February 16th and has completed the 2022 Feedlot reporting.

Jeremy gave his technician report, Jeremy reported that he is developing the 2023 inspection list to do this year and working on Dan Hunter buffer extension deadline. Hopefully we can get this taken care of and finished up. Also, will be meeting with a few others such as Brian Dahl on some SWI's that didn't get installed. With 1W1P he finished up eLINK reporting and that was approved. He has been working with Roy Stenmark and had a meeting with Logan Handyside about the project and answered some questions Roy and Reed had about it. He has signed up more producers for cover crops and is working on signing up those that cancelled earlier on when we changed the payment tiers. Jeremy spoke to the board on the BEAST Tool from Houston Engineering and stated that this will help making the reporting much simpler. He just wanted to have our board approval before bringing it to the full JPB meeting next week. He stated that he finished up WCA reporting and will be meeting with BWSR and Andrea at the County Highway Department to go over some projects that have been submitted. He updated the board on trees, he stated that he ordered 500 Tubex Tree Tubes, 500 Wooden Stakes, 625 Wooden Lath and 800 Tree mats. More and more people are getting interested in the tubes and mats and we have 4 large plantings lined up for this spring. He updated the board on the inventory remaining. Jeremy gave program updates on CAI and an update on the upcoming WRAPS study that MPCA is conducting. Next Jeremy updated the board on the TSA stating that Pennington is going to advertise to fill Jeff's position and are not limiting it to a tech though. They are going to purchase the priority pieces of equipment and try to get by with the vehicles they have for now.

Jamie gave her report, she reported on how important the next MASWCD Day at the Capital is for funding for the SWCD. Jamie asked the board to send out letters to our representatives and senators expressing the importance of this funding in the general funding. If any other board members would like to attend, let the office know by next week so we can get them registered. Jamie asked the board about the potential of her taking a flight to Minneapolis instead of driving and broke down the cost. The board agreed to allow Jamie to fly down and meet up with Joe at the hotel for the meetings. Jamie gave an update on the upcoming meetings and the need for potentially changing the March Board meeting if more then Joe attends the MASWCD Day at the Capital.

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


Secretary Carey Mortenson

3-1-23
Date