

*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 January 10th, 2024, 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 January 10th, 2024, at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir and Treasurer Joe Wilebski, Secretary Carey Mortenson, and Public Relations Sam Anderson.

Other's present were District Manager Jamie Osowski, District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Outreach Specialist Sky Olsonawski, District Technician Kevin Olsonawski and District Conservationist Bonnie Hasbrouck. Absent was Soil Conservation Technician Jillian Fejszes.

Jamie Osowski called the Organizational meeting to order by opening the floor for nominations for Chairman. Upon motion by Muir and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors to keep all current positions the same. Chairman: CJ Peterson. Vice Chairman: Andrew Muir. Treasurer: Joe Wilebski. Secretary: Carey Mortenson and Public Relations: Sam Anderson.

The minutes from the December 6th, 2023, board meeting was approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

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

## **New Business:**

IRS Mileage Rate: The 2024 IRS mileage rate is 67 cents per mile, up 1.5 cents from the increase in 2023. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimously by board to approve the 2024 IRS mileage rate for the Kittson SWCD.

Official Bank: Currently the official bank for the Kittson SWCD is American Federal Bank in Hallock and it is going well working with them. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimously by board to approve American Federal Bank stay the official bank for the Kittson SWCD.

Board Per Diem: The per diem for supervisors is currently at \$125 and that is the max rate we can offer supervisors. Motion was made by Mortenson and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors to set the Supervisor per diem at \$125 per meeting.

2024 Dues: Jamie presented the 2024 due fees to the board. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Peterson and unanimously by supervisors to approve these 2024 dues.

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist: Jamie presented to the board that she was approached by NRCS and Pheasants Forever on hosting a Farm Bill Biologist position in the office. This position would be funded by Pheasants Forever and Kittson SWCD. Upon further discussion it was decided that the position was not needed in Kittson County at this time. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimously by supervisors to decline the position offer.

HWY 75 Cover Crop Tour: Sky presented to the board and staff that she had been approached by another SWCD along with the soil health coalition of Minnesota on being one of the host stops for a Hwy 75 cover crop tour. She stated it was still in the early stages of planning and the board decided to wait to receive more information before coming upon a decision. She will present on this again in February.

## **Staff Reports:**

Bonnie Hasbrouck gave the NRCS update. They have many new applications that they are working on getting submitted and setting up meetings with producers. She encourages to have customers call ahead of time to ensure she or Jill are here and available to assist them. They are looking for more CSP contracts so if we have anybody interested, please send her way.

Sky gave her an outreach report. First, she mentioned her, and Kaiya had begun planning for the Progressive Ag Safety Day. She wanted input on ideas for presenters. She then reminded everybody about the Strip till Café Chat coming up in February and took input on a few ideas for that event. She communicated that the feedlot dinner was that evening and briefed the board on what she planned to talk about with the audience. She also gave a brief update of other outreach activities she is working on such as ag exploration day and 4-H snowshoeing adventures.

Kevin gave his technician report, he talked about the upcoming Lake Bronson Dam meeting and there was discussion on if we could potentially have the funding to help with upstream improvement projects. He stated he has been working on various online trainings and continuing to keep up to date with WCA related things.

Jeremy gave his technician report, he talked about finishing up elink reporting here in the next week or so. He also reminded the board of the next Joint Powers Board meeting coming up on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It will be an organizational meeting, so attendance is important. He communicated that he applied for additional funding through 1W1P for the project costs for the Hallock Dam project. He also communicated that it has been a big year for tree sales so far, they have ordered 7900 trees.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that she is working on reporting that is mostly due on February 1<sup>st</sup>. She updated the board on the new county administrator Amey's new start date of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She also briefed them on upcoming meetings and training within the office staff.

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



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Secretary Carey Mortenson

2-16-24  
Date