

*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 11th, 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 January 11th, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir and Treasurer Joe Wilebski. Absent was Secretary Carey Mortenson, and Public Relations Sam Anderson.

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

Jamie Osowski called the Organizational meeting to order by opening the floor for nominations for Chairman. Upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir 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 21st, 2022, board meeting was approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimous vote of supervisors.

The treasurers report from December 2022 was presented to the board by District Manager Osowski. Upon discussion on the December 2022 financials, motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

New Business:

IRS Mileage Rate: The 2023 IRS mileage rate is 65.5 cents per mile, up 3 cents from the midyear increase in 2022. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Muir and unanimously by board to approve the 2023 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 Wilebski and seconded by Muir 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 Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to set the Supervisor per diem at \$125 per meeting.

2023 Dues: Jamie presented the 2023 due fees to the board including \$4,168.04 for the MASWCD and the yearly contract fee with Lakes County Service Coop for our phones and computers. Motion was made by Muir and seconded by Wilebski and unanimously by supervisors to approve these 2023 dues.

Capital Assets: Jamie presented the board with the current capital asset list for the district and explained that we will be incorporating this into a new workbook that BWSR requires and was asking what is not used anymore and what we can do with this equipment. The board stated that we will visit about this more with the full board.

District Technician position: Jamie reported to the board that they have not had any more applicants for the job opening. There have been inquiries about it, but no one serious enough to apply. The board discussed what we will need to do if we cannot hire anyone before busy season starts.

Staff Reports:

Jillian Fejszes gave the NRCS update, she stated that Bonnie is taking vacation for a couple weeks in January. They have 7 EQIP applications, ranking and scoring is due at the end of the month. Jill said they are working on adjusting seed mixes to meet specs and getting the mixes sent to vendors for prices. She will be doing EQIP and CSP training in February.

Heather gave her outreach report. First, she updated the board on the year end reporting for Feedlot, she said they met the CEU's for 2022. Next she reported to the board that we had good attendance at our Strip Till meeting on January 5th with 32 participants and we had good feedback and had one producer inquire about doing strip till. Heather asked board if we should serve lunch at our Carbon Market training, the board stated that we should use Ed again if he is available. Next Heather reported that she didn't feel like the Rain Gauge appreciation open house was well attended so she asked the board if sending out a gift card to the volunteers where we should get them from and how much we should give. The board suggested Visa gift cards or to the hardware store. Heather reported that the SWCD Day at the Capital is coming up March 7th and 8th in St. Paul, Jamie and Joe plan to attend and if any other board members want to attend, please let the office

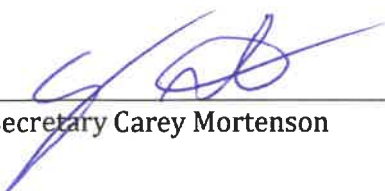
know. Heather reported that she has been working on 4-H collaborated events including Ag Exploration Day and the Snowshoe event. Heather gave an update on the scholarships we offered including to Ranching for Profit and Soil Health Summit, she stated that we have had interest from other producers in attending courses and maybe we can set aside so much funds each year for scholarships and have the producers fill out a scholarship application to be eligible.

Jeremy gave his technician report, Jeremy reported that the Buffer GIS report was due on January 1st to BWSR. He stated that he worked to finish paying on Buffer Cost Share vouchers and working with the county on sending out noncompliance letters. Next, he stated that the JPB has spent \$200,000 on NSLM practices and still have some spring payments to be made. He reported that we are eligible for FY 24 WBIF in July, he stated that he has been working with Andrea at the County Highway department to encumber some of the current funds for eligible projects. Jeremy reported that he has been working on tax forfeited parcels in the county and checking for wetlands on that property. He stated that there was a TEP meeting for the Lake Bronson Dam delineation, there will be a site visit this spring. Jeremy reported that the EEW is finished for the Karlstad Airport and they will need to submit applications for these. Jeremy reported that we have 6,000 trees and we have sold 2,000 trees so far, he stated that we were not able to get most of the varieties we normally order. Next, he asked the board on their feelings of Jeremy applying for the SWCD open spot on the Clean Water Council, he stated that it would be nice to have someone from the Northern area to represent the state on this council. The board told Jeremy they back him if he wants to put his name in the rankings for the council.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that she is working on reporting that is mostly due on February 1st. Then she updated the board on the upcoming meetings.

The strategic planning meeting was held following the regular board meeting. It was a condensed version of our typical planning meetings; we went over the 6 planned goals from our 2022 planning meeting and discussed adding any future goals for 2023 to the list. We extended the dates for office space to have a better timeline developed by June of 2023 and for the project to be completed in 2024.

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


Secretary Carey Mortenson

2-8-23
Date