

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



---

410 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 853 2619 - [www.kittsonswcd.org](http://www.kittsonswcd.org)

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors  
Held on Wednesday July 12th, 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 July 12th, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Vice Chairman Andrew Muir, Treasurer Joe Wilebski, 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, Outreach Specialist Sky Olsonawski, and District Conservationist Bonnie Hasbrouck.

The minutes from the June 13th, 2023, board meeting was approved upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Jamie presented the June 2023 financials to the board. Upon discussion, a motion was made by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

**New Business:**

Tree planter quote: Jeremy spoke to the board on bids he received from Trees Are Us for a trailer for the tree planter (\$2700 Plus shipping) and a fabric machine (\$21,200 plus Shipping). This tree season we had more sites that wanted tree mats and we find that this could now be a useful service for the office now that we are removing spraying and mowing. Motion was made by Wilebski and seconded by Mortenson and unanimously by board to approve the 2 quotes for tree equipment.

Soil Health Demo project: Jeremy updated the board on the lack on interest in the Strip till Demo 1 year contracts. He stated that we will also have more funds available following the contract

cancellation. Jeremy asked if the board would like to look into increasing the 1-year contract rate. After speaking to a couple producers, board members stated that it is not the rate that is scaring people off, it is the lack of the machine in the county. Jeremy asked the board if we should do a strip till field tour and invite those that are on the fence and have them see some of the benefits. The board asked staff to keep it informal but have the producer there to talk about their reservations and then have American Crystal agronomists there to show the benefits from the agronomy side. The board recommended that we hold off on increasing the rates and see what interest we get from the tour. The staff will begin the planning process.

District Technician Position: Jamie reported that there is a job interview for the District Technician position on Friday July 14<sup>th</sup>.

SWCD Aid Resolution: Jamie reported on the SWCD Aid funding that will be distributed to SWCD's in July and December. She stated that there is no reporting or work plans needed but we do need to adopt a Resolution on what we intend on spending the money on. We received a draft example from the MASWCD and after reading through the draft it had everything we plan to use it for. Upon motion by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimously by board members to approve the resolution and post it on our website.

### **Staff Reports:**

Bonnie gave the NRCS Update reporting that they have been busy working on CSP and EQIP applications and have begun writing some CRP plans.

Jamie welcomed Sky Olsonawski to the staff, her first day was Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> and we have already had her out in field with trees and drills. Welcome, Sky! Jamie asked the board on the Outstanding Conservationist and Rural Beautification awards and stated that Heather had contacted all the award winners before she went on maternity leave and then left these awards are due to the state in August. Does the board want us to help Sky with these awards or contact these winners and let them know they will be recognized next year and help Sky focus on the Soil Health Demo plot and holding a tour. The board asked to have Sky focus on learning the position and the strip till project and work on the awards and planning a tour to recognize the winners in 2024.

Jeremy gave his technician report, he reported that there was another workplan revision done for more funds in the FY22 WBIF NSLM pot. We are now telling producers that they will need to wait for the FY24 funds to come and that date will be announced following the BWSR board meeting in August which is also following the next JPB meeting planned for August 17<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy next spoke about the competitive Clean Water Fund grants and asked the board if they could think of any projects we would like to target and apply for these funds with. Bonnie stated that she attended the Joe River Watershed Tour and stated that they had some erosion issues and that might be a good opportunity for them to apply to help with those projects. Jeremy also mentioned the opportunity to applying for the funds to conduct Streambank analysis to help us determine what areas have the most streambank erosion. Next Jeremy spoke to the board on the CRP Incentive signup program the JPB is receiving \$53,000 with. This will be similar to the Clean Water Funds incentive program we had back in 2012 and Jeremy stated that the length of the contract will depend on how the JPB decides to write

the policy. Jeremy gave an update on the current projects and surveys that the TSA is working on. Next, Jeremy reported that our one landowner that was out of compliance with the Buffer Law seeded his strip, he planted Alfalfa and used Buffer Riparian Aid funds. Jeremy stated that he will be conducting site checks on scheduled Buffer strips soon. Jeremy reported on WCA projects, he stated that with Wagon Wheel Ridge they have until July 26<sup>th</sup> to submit to the Supreme Court and has until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at midnight to restore the project. Next, he reported on the Karlstad Airport, they are still asking for more details and the City of Karlstad is planning to build part of the tarmac for a business in Karlstad and the City is planning to mitigate and pay for these credits for the impacts of the tarmac. He reported on the Klondike TEP meeting that was held to review the application, he stated that they need to have more information supporting the need for extra mitigation. Next Jeremy reported on the Notice of Decision from the DNR on the Skull Lake project, he stated they got the go ahead to replace the structure only. Jeremy reported on County Ag Inspector and the increase in weed complaints. He stated that he had one for the City of St. Vincent for Thistle and since the City of St. Vincent does not have a City Ordinance for mowing grass or weed control, it falls back on the county. Jeremy stated he will do a site check and send a letter to the owner. Next, he stated that there is a landowner that is interested in getting Leafy Spurge Beetles for his CRP since he has a large issue but does not want to jeopardize their CRP contract. Jeremy checked with the MDA and found that they were not able to collect any extra beetles this year and will try again next year. Jeremy reported that we had completed some of the tree matting and tubes and have 1 more to do this week. Jeremy updated the board on our MDA staff changes for seed sampling, he stated the new employee will be out of Baudette. Next Jeremy updated the board on feedback we received from a neighboring landowner to the Northcote dam project, and they were worried about the design of the project. Jeremy stated that he updated the landowner that the DNR will oversee the project and the Kittson SWCD will not be involved in the design.

Jamie gave her report, she reported that Anthrax was found in Southeast Kittson County, this was reported to Scot Olson from the Board of Animal health, and he stated that they would be the contact to let the MPCA know on this. Jamie reported that she has been working on the documentation for the 2022 Audit with Peterson Company. Next, she stated that Brian Buhmann's last day with Kittson County will be August 4<sup>th</sup> and they have a new interim county administrator coming from Mower County. She will be coming to Kittson County to meet with Department Heads on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and Jamie will make sure to inform her of the WCA situation and the SWCD's need for more space. The board asked Jamie to invite her to the next board meeting as well. Jamie put together bids for the Sprayer and ATP that are not used by the district anymore, the board stated to make sure they get advertised in the County newspapers for the next 2 weeks and to post it on Facebook and the Website. Jamie updated the board on upcoming meetings for both staff and board members.

**The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday August 9th, 2023, at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.**

  
Secretary Carey Mortenson

8-2-23  
Date