

*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 March 1st, 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 March 1st, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse. Members present included: Chairman CJ Peterson, Vice Chairman Andrew Muir and Treasurer Joe Wilebski and Secretary Carey Mortenson. Absent was Public Relations Sam Anderson.

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

The minutes from the February 8th, 2023, board meeting was approved upon motion by Mortenson and seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Due to the board meeting being moved to March 1st, bank statements were not available in time for staff to have the treasurer's report ready for the meeting. February and March reports will be available at the April Board meeting.

New Business:

District Technician position: Jamie reported that there have been no applications and no inquiries about the position. Jamie asked the board what they would like us to do, at this time there are 18 job openings around the state of Minnesota so there is a need for employment in SWCD's all over the state. Following discussion, the board suggested that the staff begin advertising for a part-time technician to help get the office through busy season. This position would begin on May 1st and go through September. Next, Jamie asked the board how they would like the office to be staffed when

we are out in the field during busy season. It was suggested that the office get a cell phone that can be used while staff are in the field and the office can still answer questions while out of the office. Jamie mentioned that she can stop and inquire on a phone on her way to the airport next week for the MASWCD Day at the Capital.

Staff Reports:

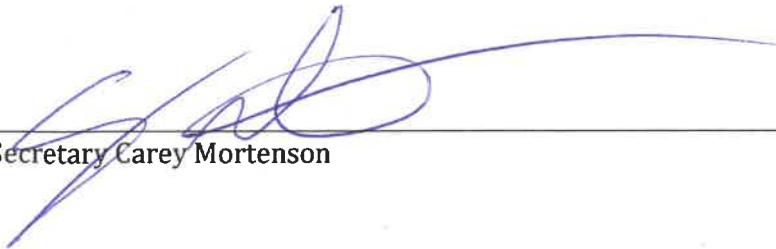
Bonnie gave the NRCS report, she stated that the office is available by appointment and the office will continue to be staffed 2-4 days a week depending on trainings and weather. She reported that letters for renewal and classic CSP have been sent out and EQIP application pre-approvals have been sent out and there is 1 application potentially funded. With CRP, they are starting the process of CRP expirations and are waiting for guidance for the new signup, most stand evaluations are completed and there will be lots of field checks being conducted this summer. Bonnie reported that there is a new program that is being advertised called IRE that staff are trying to learn.

Heather gave her outreach report, she gave the board the survey reviews from the Carbon Credits café chat. She then spoke on all the events that are planned and who will be handling the events when she is on maternity leave. Next Heather presented that board with the ongoing list of options for outstanding conservationist and Rural Beautification awards. Following discussion on these awards, the board nominated Michael Swanson for Outstanding Conservationist, Ron Anderson from Hallock for Rural Beatification award and Larry Wilebski for MASWCD and Pheasants forever wildlife habitat steward award. Next Heather spoke to the board on Conservation tour and ideas that the office had for stops for the tour. It was decided to visit the South Red River, Skane, and the Hallock township area. A date was discussed, and it was decided to tentatively plan for Wednesday July 26th.

Jeremy gave his technician report, Jeremy reported that the Kittson County Commissioners approved the project requests that the JPB pre-approved at the meeting on February 16th for CD31/SD 1 Grade Stabilization project and the CD 19 project using WBIF funds. He stated that he is working on cooperative agreements with the county for these projects. He also reported that we have 3 forest management contracts in Kittson County as well. He also updated the board on the Northcote Dam project and stated that the project application will be submitted in July 2024. Next Jeremy visited with the board about WCA projects, he has been working to try and reschedule a BWSR meeting for the County road 10 project and he also received the Karlstad Airport delineation and he will be working on reviewing that. Next he reported that he has been working on prepping for Envirothon. Jeremy is trying to find trees for people that are placing orders through the mail and we don't have varieties to fill their orders. He stated that we have just over 1300 trees available which sets us up for selling out this year.

Jamie gave her report, she reported on the MASWCD Day at the Capital plans with the board and stated that Heather was working on a pamphlet for us to bring to our appointments with the representatives. She also gave the board an update on the webinar that MASWCD sent out pertaining to the SWCD Aid bill. She also gave the board an update on the meetings for board members coming up.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday April 12th, 2023, at 8 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse.


Secretary Carey Mortenson

4-12-23
Date