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Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Held on Wednesday, August 10th, 2016 at 7:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse
Meeting Room.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on August 10th, 2016 at 7:00 AM at the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

Members present at the meeting included: Chairman CJ Peterson; Vice Chairwoman, Heather Peterson; Treasurer, Joe Wilebski and Public Relations, Ron Anderson. Absent were Secretary; Justin Dagen.

Others present at the meeting were District Technician Justin Muller, District Administrator Jamie Osowski, and NRCS District Conservationist; Jim Schwab. Guests at the Meeting included, Matt Fischer, BWSR, Danny Weber, NRCS, and Jennifer Maleitzke, Embridge.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson.

The minutes from the July 13th, 2016 Board meeting were approved upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the July 13th, 2016 minutes.

Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Matt Fischer gave a BWSR Report:

Governor Visit: Matt spoke to the board about the staff at the Kittson SWCD meeting with Governor Dayton to discuss the Lake Bronson Clean Water Funds that have been implemented upstream from Lake Bronson.

Capacity Money: Matt then spoke to the board about upcoming capacity money, the Kittson SWCD was given \$20,337 for the FY '16 additional matching allocations that will be processed as an amendment to the FY 16 \$100,000 Capacity Money. Matt explained that Kittson SWCD will be eligible for \$22,750 for FY '17 additional matching fund allocations from the State with a match from the County. Jamie and Justin will meet with the board at the next Commissioner meeting to discuss this increase.

NRBG Funds: Matt spoke to the board about options on how to spend the remaining 2015 NRBG money that expires at the end of the year. He understands it has been tough to spend this money with staff changes. He mentioned to the board the option to flex spend the WCA money and that can be used towards projects.

Danny Weber gave the Area 1 NRCS Report:

Danny spoke to the board about upcoming joint training being offered through BWSR, an upcoming training will be offered in Detroit Lakes in November. He stressed that District employees are encouraged to attend. Danny gave an update on CSP and EQIP Contracts and post cards have been sent out to area landowners, Jim has received 1 call. Danny informed the board about RCPP money that is set aside for helping Watershed District projects. Two River Watershed District has received funds for Klondike Project. Danny spoke about upcoming operational agreements and that there will be a poll coming out in December at the MASWCD Annual Convention. Danny stated that Eric Anderson Area Resource Conservationist (ARC) will be covering areas 1 and 2. Jim is still the acting DC in Roseau County, Danny explained that hiring has not been going smoothly.

Jennifer Maleitzke gave an Embridge update: Jennifer gave an update to the board on Embridge and also informed the board about upcoming Embridge projects.

Jim Schwab gave the District Conservationist report:

CRP: Jim updated the board on the CRP workload in Kittson County, he has completed all field checks and has about 70 contracts left to write. He will be receiving help on writing them from Jillian in Thief River Falls. He has 2 sites that need to be reseeded. FSA brought over a list of FSA Compliance checks, there are 64 checks that need to be done.

EQIP and CSP: Jim reported that he has 2 EQIP applications and 2 CSP renewals. Michael is taking care of CSP and EQIP in Kittson County.

FSA-569 Whistleblowers: Jim stated that there are 9 FSA-569 Whistleblowers he received.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: Justin reported that he is working on a Wetland Banking application, he recently had a TEP Meeting with BWSR and Army Corp.

Feedlot: Justin spoke to the board about the proposed hog barn in Davis 16. The consultants met with the County Board on July 19th. Currently the MPCA is looking over the Feedlot plan.

County Ag Inspector: Justin spoke to the board that he has had weed reports on Leafy Spurge and Wild Parsnips, has been writing letters to landowners. Have not wrote letters to landowners with Canada thistle as it has been too wet to mow.

Buffer Meeting: Justin spoke to the board about the Buffer Round Table meeting held in TRF on August 3rd. Board member Wilebski and County Commissioner Olson were in attendance. The meeting talked about what every LGU's duties will be in the Buffer Law. Olson stated at the meeting that the County Board is very informed and asked if we would come talk to them about enforcement. Justin also informed the Kittson SWCD board that Kittson County has approximately 700 miles of Buffers. Justin spoke to the board about different cost share options that might work for landowners.

Other: Justin mentioned that he attended a Listening session with John Jaschke with BWSR in East Grand Forks and he attended the Groundwater Workshop in Thief River Falls.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Administrator Report:

SSTS Upgrade: Jamie presented to the board the estimate for the Septic Upgrade for Derrick Bakke of Karlstad. The cost of the new installation is \$14,920.00. Upon motion by H. Peterson and Second by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the Septic Upgrade for Bakke.

Trailer Bids: Jamie presented the sealed bids for the Utility Trailer the Kittson SWCD had for bids. Two bids were received and the highest bid of \$330.33 was submitted by Mark Larson. Upon motion by Wilebski and Seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors the highest bid was accepted.

Osowski State Cost Share: Justin Osowski State Cost Share Contract SCS FY 15-07 for a Field Windbreak in SRR 25 was planted on June 17th and shelters and tree mats were then applied in between rain. Singed payment voucher was submitted to Kittson SWCD. Upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote of supervisors, Justin Osowski's State Cost Share Payment of \$1,018.68.

State Cost Share: Bill Dykhuis inquired about a sluffing project in Hill Township back in June. Staff went out and looked at the issues and it is pretty significant. The board decided to have Bill get an estimate on the work that needs to be done and then we can see how much funds we have available to help them with.

District Technician Postion: Jamie reported to the board that 10 applications have been received. Advertising for the postion was put in all local newspapers and on the MACDE website. The ending date is August 26th, 2016 at 4:30 pm. The board will meet on Monday August 29th at 9 AM to select interview candidates.

Health Insurance: Discussion was had on the upcoming Health Insurance changes and the office will need to sit down with Sjostrand Agency to discuss other options.

Local Capacity: Jamie spoke to the board about the amendment needed for the FY '16 additional matching funds that Matt Fischer spoke about at the beginning of the meeting. The additional \$20,337 will be added to the current '16 Local Capacity \$100,000. A work plan revision will need to be amended as well in E-link by September 15, 2016. Jamie also spoke with the board about the FY '17 Local Capacity dollars and the chance to receive up to \$22,750 from the county with a 1 to 1 match from BWSR. The staff will visit with the County Commissioners on Tuesday August 16th.

Other:

Jamie reported to the board that August is busy with meetings with BWSR, on Buffers and Groundwater training. Jamie also will be attending an Envirothon meeting in St. Cloud on August 25th.

September 2016 Board Meeting: The August Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 14th, 2016 at 7:00 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Heather Peterson, Vice Pres.

Justin Dagen, Secretary
