

*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 Friday, December 12, 2014 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson SWCD office in Hallock, MN.

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on December 12, 2014 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson SWCD office in Hallock, MN.

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

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson, District Technician Justin Muller, District Coordinator Jamie Osowski, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Jacob Swaney and Jim Schwab, NRCS District Conservationist.

The minutes from the October 24th, 2014 Board meeting were presented. Upon a motion by J. Dagen, seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the October 24th, 2014 board minutes.

The minutes from the November 17th, 2014 Board meeting were presented. Upon a motion by J. Dagen, seconded by R. Anderson and unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the November 17th, 2014 board minutes.

Jamie Osowski gave the Treasurer's report:

Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by J. Dagen and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Jamie Osowski from the October 24th, 2014 board meeting.

Upon a motion by R. Anderson, seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Jamie Osowski from the November 17th, 2014 board meeting.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Coordinator report:

Beaver Bounty Program: Matt Vig and Dennis Kinkead have been in recently with beaver tails.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS Report

EQIP Update: EQIP payments have been made except for 2 that need more information.

CSP Update: Jacob has been working on 1 CSP renewal.

Farm Bill Update: Jim gave an update on the new rules for the new farm bill.

Don Baloun: Jim gave an update that current State Conservationist Don Baloun will retire in January 2015. A new State Conservationist will be hire within 2 to 3 months of Don's retirement.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: The BNSF railroad is looking at replacing bridges by Donaldson and the Canola Plant. Justin is working with them on this. Enbridge is putting in new pipelines and Justin is working with them on this. Year End report for WCA will need to be completed by 2/1/15.

CAI: 1 pesticide application test was taken by staff member of Kittson County Highway Department. Justin will attend a mandatory training for new CAI in St. Cloud on February 17 to 18, 2015.

Feedlot: Justin attended a short course in Thief River Falls with MPCA on 11/26/14. This meeting went over the basics of the feed lot program.

Ag BMP: Justin attended a meeting in Detroit Lakes on 12/2/14. This meeting went over the basics of the Ag BMP program and how the funding works.

Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Program (SEDCLP): Justin has been working on making maps of the 20 miles this grant covers.

MASWCD Convention: Justin attended the MASWCD convention on 12/7/14 to 12/9/14 in Bloomington, MN. Justin Dagen also attended on 12/7/14 and 12/8/14. Justin gave an update on the sessions attended. He enjoyed the MASWCD annual convention as did Justin Dagen.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager report

Kittson SWCD Tree Program: Currently there are 10-12 tree plantings scheduled for 2015. A new variety was added at a request of a landowner, white lilac.

Kittson SWCD Tree Planter and Brillion Seeder: Darren reported that both the tree planter and Brillion seeder were transported and are being stored for the winter at the Carlson Farm near Angus, MN for the winter.

Health Insurance: Darren reported that Kittson County Commissioners said no to the Kittson SWCD request to be on the County Insurance. County Commissioners said it was a conflict of interest since technically the Kittson SWCD Board Members are the Kittson SWCD's supervisors and not the County Commissioners. Darren will continue to work at seeking health insurance for the Kittson SWCD staff.

FY 2012 and FY 2013 Clean Water Funds Extensions: Extensions will be needed for these Clean Water Funds. Currently funds will need to be spent by 12/31/14. The Two Rivers Watershed District has already signed an extension to extend the Lake Bronson Watershed Clean Water Funds to 12/31/15. Upon a motion by J. Dagen, second by H. Peterson and unanimous vote by the Kittson SWCD Board, the Red River Valley of the North Clean Water Funds signed an extension to extend these funds to be spent by 12/31/15.

Zoning: Recently Kittson County sent a ledger to the Kittson SWCD about 20 landowners who built structures but failed to obtain permits. Kittson SWCD will treat these as After the Fact (ATF) zoning permits. Kittson SWCD has been working on these ATF's and landowners are stopping into discuss and resolve. Also Canadian Pacific (CP) Railroad have 10 towers at 40 feet tall the will be building in 2015. An application was recently sent to them to be filled out.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Darren was approached by TNC to be a fiscal agent for one of their recent grants. After a discussion by the Kittson SWCD Board, J. Dagen moves to table the request and a seconded was made by J. Wilebski. A unanimous vote by the Kittson SWCD Board to table the discussion until the January Board Meeting. Darren will get more information for the January 2015 meeting.

State Cost Share 2012 and 2014: All the funds have been spent for these 2 State Cost Share years. A Financial Report Closeout and necessary reporting has been completed for them. Upon a motion by H. Peterson, second by R. Anderson and unanimous vote by the Kittson SWCD Board to approve the 2012 and 2014 State Cost Share Closeouts.

President Executive Order: President Obama has authorized that all executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Friday, December 26, 2014, the day after Christmas Day. Upon a motion by H. Peterson, seconded by J. Dagen and unanimous vote by the Kittson SWCD Board to allow the Kittson SWCD staff take off December 26, 2014.

Crop Improvement Day Booth: Upon a motion by J. Dagen, seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote by the Kittson SWCD Board to sponsor a booth at this upcoming Crop Improvement Day in Hallock, MN.

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

Justin Dagen, Secretary

