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Kittson County*



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**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors  
Held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Kittson SWCD office located in Hallock, Minnesota.

Members present at the meeting included Chairman, Scott Klein; Vice Chairman, Greg Peterson; and Treasurer, Joe Wilebski. Absent: Secretary, Justin Dagen and Public Relations, Ron Anderson.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson; District Coordinator, Joanne Quiner; Program Coordinator, Shane Olson; Program Analyst, James Schwab; Technician, Mark Larson and Kittson FSA Director Kelly Turgeon.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Klein.

The minutes of the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, meeting was approved, upon a motion by Peterson, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Peterson and unanimous vote the treasurer's report was approved as presented by Quiner. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Peterson, and unanimous vote, for check #2958 through #2973 for the amount of \$8,204.05 for the month of Novemeber was approved as presented by Quiner.

Accounts receivable: Quiner reported that there are no accounts receivable for 2009.

Joanne Quiner gave the District Coordinator's report as follows:

Available Funds: The balances listed below are as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, unless otherwise noted: LWMP, \$5,921 County, (\$4,260.97) SWCD; CLWP Dedicated Fund \$44,160; WCA, \$13,737 County, (\$1,012.22) SWCD; Shoreland, \$1,516 County, \$285.59 SWCD; Feedlot, \$7,500 County, (\$2,201.43) SWCD; SSTS, \$5,051 County, \$318.48 SWCD; and Beaver \$0.

Audit: Quiner mentioned she has yet to see an Audit report from Maiser accounting.

AgLearn: Quiner and Olson both completed AgLearn computer training.

Position: Quiner asked what the Board wants to do with her position? Carlson received a bid from Phil Thompson & Associates in Warren for \$250 per month to pay employees, bills, Federal and State taxes, etc. Quiner mentioned that Vicki Miller, former employee at Norman SWCD charges \$6,500 per year to do that work with Norman SWCD, and West Polk SWCD. At the previous board meeting, Dagen mentioned to talk with Terry Soltvedt in Karlstad to see if he would be interested as well. The Board tabled the discussion until the January meeting to discuss it with a full board.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager's report as follows:

Health Plan: Carlson read the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees winter newsletter. On the back was quick blurb about SWCDs and Health Insurance. Dan Kneip from Streamline Benefits in New Prague provides a Group Plan for Full Time Employees. Kneip recommends waiting until Olson's baby has arrived in January and then he will send out quotes for what we want for a health/dental plan and then receives quotes from different groups.

Area I meeting: Carlson and Olson attended the Area I meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> in Ada. Don Baloun, NRCS State Conservationist and Keith Weston, of the Red River Basin were the main speakers. Baloun talked about the need for more Contribution Work Agreements with the SWCDs in the near future. He talked about one SWCD who has a CWA to do all of the NRCS wetland policies in that county. NRCS may be looking at this with other SWCDs in the future. Weston talked about what Congressman Collin Peterson is proposing in the next farm bill to accelerate flood retention projects in the Red River Basin.

CRP Tele-conference: Carlson and Larson listened in on the CRP Work Agreement Telephone meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

NRCS Contribution Work Agreements: Carlson completed 34 CRP projects which involved writing plans, creating folders, status reviews and getting signatures. NRCS will pay \$480 per active plan and \$250 for cancelled plan. He stated there was also 1 cancelled plan. He hopes to have participants to stop and sign paperwork by December 31<sup>st</sup>. An invoice must be submitted from us to MASWCD by January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Checks will be mailed by MASWCD at the end of February. Carlson said he needs signatures either this Board Meeting or the January Board meeting.

Nutrient Management Plans: Carlson received additional information for the 2011 EQIP Docket. He found out that SWCD's cannot charge landowners a per acre rate for Nutrient Management Plans since being located with NRCS is a competitive advantage with access to files, clients walking in, computer program, etc. Carlson and Schwab recommend working with NRCS in a Contribution Work Agreement.

Kittson SWCD Drill Program: Carlson said the cost of the Brillion drill is \$18,650. It will arrive at the end of January or early in February. Carlson talked about a proposed contract, Fact Sheet and MN Revenue Certificate of Exemption. Upon a motion by Peterson, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote, to charge \$75 per drop off of the drill and \$10 per acre charge for the drill.

Clean Water Grants: Carlson spoke with Chad Severts from BWSR. He said it looks like the Lake Bronson Watershed Runoff Reduction Project will be approved. Carlson should get an Official email from BWSR on December 15<sup>th</sup>. He said we should receive \$100,000 of the \$200,000 applied for.

DNR Waters surveys: Carlson attached a final worksheet that DNR Waters, Garry Bennett approved for Dan Money of the Two Rivers Watershed District and Carlson to use for surveys. Bennett would like to come up for the first couple of projects and make sure they are doing a good job.

MASWCD Convention: Carlson attended the MASWCD Convention in St. Paul December 5-8<sup>th</sup>. He attended several of the breakout sessions. Schwab also attended.

James Schwab gave the NRCS Program Analyst's report as follows:

Area Resource detail: Schwab has been detailed to do Al Gustafson's workload throughout Area I for 5% spot checks.

CSP payments: Schwab said Larson will be detailed to Roseau County in the near future to help with CSP paperwork.

EQIP: Schwab said there is no word of when the EQIP sign-up will begin.

Wetlands: Schwab mentioned that he suggested at their District Conservationist meeting in St Paul that NRCS should hire two wetland technician's at the area level to do wetland determinations for NRCS.

National Disabilities month: Schwab said December is National Disabilities month.

Shane Olson gave the Program Coordinator's report as follows:

Staff meeting: A staff meeting was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and one hasn't been held since due to Schwab being detailed, meetings and so forth.

eLINK: Olson will be entering annual information into eLINK very soon.

AgBMP annual report: The annual application and report will be due sometime in February.

AgBMP applications: Not enough AGBMP funding at this time. The current loan applications are as follows: Sevrin Anderson (Air Seeder), Joel Lindegard (Air seeder) and Aaron Kirkeby (Air seeder).

Cargill scholarship: Olson said when Aaron Kirkeby was in, he gave information about Cargill scholarships for us to give information to this year's Senior class members.

Springbrook RIM/PL566: Nearly all the areas along the Springbrook coulee system have been enrolled in CRP. Olson has a couple left to get from FSA. Olson received deeds from Doug Wonnenberg, who bought the Roger Bogestad property to send them to BWSR. Next step is to get them to a title agent from the Fergus Falls area, as Roger Malm will not do them. Jensen Brother's, Mike and Gary, do not want to enroll into RIM and want to leave it in CRP, as CRP is now higher over the life of the contract than RIM lifetime easement.

State Cost share: Olson said he hasn't gotten estimates back from Bruce Gunderson for Daniel Remer in Lancaster and Clayton Westman in Humboldt. Olson also received a State Cost application for the Kittson County Highway Department for a rip rap project which the Board tabled.

TSA: Jim Hest was here on November 16<sup>th</sup> to survey Carlson Prairie Seed Farms Side Water Inlet. There is FY08 cost share money encumbered for it.

WCA TEP: As requested by Brian Nelson and several other landowners in McKinley Township, Olosn and Wilebski traveled to Bemidji on December 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the DNR firebreak and Grunig ditch issues with DNR Forestry, DNR GIS Specialist, Larry Pulchalski of the COE and Dale Krystosek from BWSR. DNR will come up with a plan to open up two of the wetland "swales" at the West end of the DNR Firebreak and plugging Grunig ditches along the system as well. Krystosek and Olson will talk with Russ Reisz of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) about restoration of the Grunig ditches on TNC land near the Roseau River as well. Olson tried to contact him, but he was out this week. Olson spoke with Donovan Pietruszewski and he seemed all in favor of the project work on DNR land. Olson wonders if this is a possible Clean Water Legacy grant application to get some funding for the project.

WCA violation: Olson said he has heard nothing new with the wetland violation on the Roseau County side, next to the Outdoor Classroom on CRP ground owned by Ron Mooney. Kelly Turgeon said he notified Roseau FSA of the violation. Olson said Scott Johnson of Roseau SWCD is aware of it as well.

Trees: Olson said 9000 trees have been ordered for next year. He said he noticed Grand Forks SWCD is selling Tubes 3' or 4' for \$2.50 and fabric squares for \$1.50. Nedra Hoberg says she orders them from Plantra. Schwab mentioned we should make wire flags available for sale as well for marking plantings.

Feedlot: Olson has an upcoming MACFO training in Detroit Lakes on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Newsletter: Olson said a newsletter will be prepared later this month to be sent out around New Year's. A tree order form will be in it.

Crop Improvement Day: Olson said there will be a booth for Crop Improvement Day on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

January Board meeting: The next scheduled Board meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM.

Kelly Turgeon gave the Farm Service Agency report as follows:

Farm Management Director: Jerod Hanson has been hired as the new Farm management Director.

Annie's Project: Turgeon said any farm wives are encouraged to take part in the USDA program called "Annie's Project".

CRP: Turgeon talked about the high volume of acres coming out of CRP in the next few years. He spoke about how close Kittson County is getting to the CRP acreage cap.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Klein.

  
Justin Dagen, Secretary