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410 South 5th Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (855) 744-0398- www.kittsonswcd.org

Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Held on Wednesday December 14, 2016 at 8:00 AM at Kittson County Courthouse
Meeting Room.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on December 14th, 2016 at 8:00 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 Secretary, Justin Dagen. Absent was Public Relations, Ron Anderson.

Others present at the meeting were District Technician Jeremy Benson, District Technician, Justin Muller, and District Administrator Jamie Osowski, District Conservationist Jim Schwab and Soil Conservationist Michael Steinhauer. Guests included members of the Kittson County Fair board, Jeremy Folland, Joel Muir and Mike Wollin.

The meeting began with a short visit with the Kittson County Fair board members present. The Kittson SWCD is looking at potentially putting a building at the fairgrounds for the storage of the 2 drills, tree planter and district four wheeler in the winter months. Currently the staff are finding landowners with storage available and driving them around the county to store them. The building would then be available for the fair board to use during the fair. Discussion was had on how this building can be paid for, could the Kittson County Fair board build and pay for the building and the Kittson SWCD lease. Jeremy will visit with his board more and the Kittson SWCD will check on payment options as well.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson.

The minutes from the November 22nd, 2016, Board meeting were approved upon motion by Dagen and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the November 2016 minutes.

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

The Kittson SWCD held a Local Capacity Brainstorming session with the Board of Supervisors.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS Report:

CRP: Jim reported that he is working on cleaning up CRP, he stated that he received a pile from Heidi that he will be working on.

CSP and EQIP: Jim and Michael reported that they have been working on CSP renewals and the new signup has been revamped. EQIP update; 3-4 applications for Cover Crop, Side water inlets and grazing.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: Justin reported that he has been working with the Karlstad Fire Department on a couple projects they are interested in doing. Justin will be meeting with the new Wetland Specialist with BWSR, Matt Johnson.

Feedlot: Justin reported that he has been working on year end reporting for Feedlot.

Buffers: Justin gave the board an update on the Buffer Law, Justin stated that they have begun using a new Buffer Tracking software. There are 820 landowners that will need Buffers, Justin stated that the office has designed a postcard to have Morgan Printing send out at the beginning of the New Year to these landowners telling them they will need a Buffer on their land. Justin reported to the board that the office will be speaking at the Crop Improvement Day on January 19th and he will also be attending Pennington SWCD's landowner meeting that will be held on December 14th in Thief River Falls.

Convention: Justin reported he and Jeremy attended the Annual State Convention in Bloomington on December 4-6th. He gave an update on the NRCS Operational Agreement. He also attended a meeting on the Technical Approval Authority and he didn't get much information from this session.

Jeremy Benson gave the District Technician Report

One Watershed One Plan: Jeremy spoke to the board on the One Watershed One Plan, the board had a couple questions following the last meeting and Jeremy was able to find the answers to these questions for the board. Discussion was had and upon this discussion, Motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Wilebski, without unanimous vote from the supervisors with 2 I's and 1 Nay.

MAWQCP: Jeremy reported that the Area Certification Specialist out of East Polk SWCD is leaving so he will be working with a new Area Specialist in the near future. Jeremy also received more information on how the program works with NRCS's EQIP.

Buffers: Jeremy reported that he has been helping Justin with the Buffer program, Jeremy spoke to the board about the County and Watershed Districts needing to decide on if they would like to do the enforcements of the Buffers by March 31st, 2017. Justin spoke to the board about if the County or Watershed district approach the Kittson SWCD to do the enforcement. The Kittson SWCD will not be volunteering to do the enforcement and the Kittson SWCD board is behind this decision.

Radio Ad's: Jeremy spoke to the board about running a radio ad for Buffers and an ad for Cover Crops on Maverick 105 FM, BIG 106.7 FM KXPO 1340 AM, and KNDK AM 1080 FM for 2 months. The cost will be around \$3,000 and we have the Buffer money and advertisement money left from the Local Capacity Money.

Rainfall: Jeremy reported that there are 12 snowfall readers for the Kittson SWCD.

Beavers: Jeremy reported that there have been 31 tails turned in to the district this year. Jamie reported that the Beaver Bounty funds are low, in the past we have transferred \$2500 from the Comprehensive Local Water Plan. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of supervisors to transfer these funds.

Other: Jeremy reported that the Grand Forks County SCS Soil Health clinic will be held on February 23rd at the Ramada in Grand Forks.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Administrator Report:

Amendments: Jamie reported to the board that the Kittson SWCD were given Grant Agreement amendments on 4 of their grants. Including the FY 14 Kittson County Drainage Ditch Inventory and Inspection grant, FY 15 State Cost Share, FY 14 Septic Upgrade grant, and FY 13 Clean Water Fund grant. Kittson SWCD need motion and approval the Drainage Ditch Inventory and State Cost Share grant. The Septic upgrade received approval from the Kittson County Board and the FY 13 Clean Water Fund received approval from the Two River's Watershed District. Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the amendedments to these grants.

FY 2015 State Cost Share: Jamie received Todd Truedson's date amendment to his contract FY 15-03, motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve Todd Truedson's Contract Amendedment expiration date to December 31st, 2017.

Strategic Planning Meeting: Jamie spoke to the board at the November 2016 Board Meeting on the idea of having a strategic planning meeting in February. Dates and locations were discussed. Board members needed to check on these dates, will contact Jamie on dates that work later this week.

Other: Staff evaluations will be held following the December Board meeting.

January 2017 Board Meeting: The January Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 11th, 2017 at 8:00 AM in the Kittson County Courthouse meeting room. This will be the Organizational meeting.

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



Justin Dagen, Secretary