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410 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (855) 744-0398- [www.kittsonswcd.org](http://www.kittsonswcd.org)

**Minutes of the Meeting of**

**Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors**

**Held on Wednesday, February 10th, 2016 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson Farm Service  
Agency Committee Room**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on February 10th, 2016 at 8:00 AM in the Kittson Farm Service Agency Committee Room.

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 Administrator, Jamie Osowski, District Technician Justin Muller, District Technician, Sarah Gossman, and NRCS District Conservationist; Jim Schwab. Guests present were Matt Fischer with the Board of Soil and Water Resources, Dan Money with Two River Watershed District and Shane Stewart and Leroy Clow with the Joe River Watershed District.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson.

The minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board meeting were approved upon motion by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors.

Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Jamie Osowski.

Jamie Osowski welcomed Matt Fischer with BWSR to the meeting to talk to the Board and guest about One Watershed One Plan. Matt announced that the Joe River Watershed Water Plan expires in 2016, Two River Watershed District expires 2017 and the Kittson County Comprehensive Water plan expires in 2020. Matt explained that WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) process for the Lower Red will be complete in July 2016 and for the Two River will be complete in July 2017. "The *One Watershed, One Plan* vision is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans – the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota." With approval from the Kittson SWCD board, the Watershed Districts and Kittson SWCD have the opportunity to begin the 1W1P in Kittson County. Matt explained to the Kittson SWCD and other guests present that combining the plans would provide efficiencies (financially and time) and plan writing would be more efficient. Matt also explained that there are grants available for helping to write the plans.

The Red Lake Watershed is currently a pilot plan for our area and Matt explained some of the pros and cons that the committee for the Red Lake Pilot is experiencing. Many questions were asked to Matt Fischer about proceeding with the 1W1P. Kittson SWCD will need to make a decision at their March Board Meeting if they want to proceed with the process or continue our own plan writing.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS Report:

EQIP and CSP: No High Ranking Applications were received. No other updates.

CRP: Jim explained that he has been working on buffers and all agencies have been working together to accomplish.

Tech Opening: Jim reported that the Tech position opening at the Kittson County office has been changed to a Soil Conservation Technician. Position is currently open.

Ultima Staff: Jim reported that Ultima employee began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Her name is Brenda Evenson. When the new Technician begins the office will need to be rearranged.

State Conservationist issue: Discussion was had on the phone call that was made by Chairman Peterson to the Minnesota State Conservationist and no response was made to his 2 phone calls. Board discussed that a letter should be written to the proper channels on these issues.

February is Black History Month

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

WCA: Justin reported that he will be attending the Drainage Wetland Conference on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Feedlot: Justin reported that all his year-end reporting for Feedlot was accepted.

Justin spoke with the board about the 100K incentive/cost share options. Justin explained to the board that he met with Mark Hayek on the option of offering a Harvestable Buffer Cost Share program with the upcoming buffer initiative. He also spoke with Mark Hayek on the option of offering a Feedlot Water System cost share program that would assist livestock farmers with cost share on watering system. Justin also spoke to the board about offering an incentive on Cover Crops and farmstead shelterbelt restoration. Justin and other Kittson SWCD staff will continue to putting options together for this money.

Sarah Gossman gave the District Technician Report

Ag BMP: Sarah spoke to the board about Kelly Bengtson is unsure about purchasing his piece of equipment that he submitted an Ag BMP application for. Sarah asked the board if they would like to put expiration dates on the applications once approved. After board discussion, motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Anderson and unanimous vote by supervisors to put a 12 month expiration date on all Ag BMP applications. Sarah also spoke to the board about well drilling being an option for the Ag BMP loans.

Clean Water Funds: Sarah reported to the board that she has 27 acres/ 18,000 committed to the Red River of the North Clean Water Fund program. Sarah is currently working on identifying the landowners in the Lake Bronson Project.

Open House: Sarah mentioned to the board that the Kittson SWCD Open House and Rain Gauge appreciation will be held on Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 in the Kittson County Courthouse upstairs meeting room.

Jamie Osowski gave the District Coordinator/Manger report:

Local Capacity Funds: Jamie reported that the Local Capacity Work Plan has been approved and the Local Capacity funds have been received. Work can begin on all plans except the Cost Share and incentives as Local Policies need to be written and approved by Matt Fischer before work can begin.

MASWCD Dues: Jamie received information from LeAnn Buck with MASWCD on the reason for the increase each year for the MASWCD dues. Following a brief discussion on the dues, motion was made by H. Peterson and seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors to pay the MASWCD dues as noted on Invoice.

Plotmaster: Jamie spoke to the board about the Plotmaster and there was some interest from area SWCD's but no one submitted a bid. Jamie asked the board if they would like the Plotmaster to go out on bids and be advertised in the local papers. Jamie reported that she will write up a bid example for the board to review.

Reporting: Jamie stated that the Kittson SWCD E-Link reporting was submitted on February 1<sup>st</sup> to BWSR, Pera reporting is due February 28<sup>th</sup>, MCIT reporting was submitted on February 5<sup>th</sup> and Year end financials March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Other: Jamie reported that Kittson SWCD staff hosted the Area 1 Meeting in Crookston on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>.

March 2016 Board Meeting: The March Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

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

Justin Dagen, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Dagen", is written over a horizontal line.