

*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 February 14th, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation Office.

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Friday February 14th, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation Office.

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; Brian Krippner; and District Coordinator, Jamie Osowski; Absent were Jim Schwab; NRCS District Conservationist.

The minutes from the January 3rd, 2014 board meeting were approved, upon motion by Wilebski and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

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

Brian Krippner gave the District Technician report:

WCA: Brian gave an update on a BNSF railway project he is working on with Houston Engineering in St. Vincent. They will be adding extra rail along the other railroad for extra storage.

Ag Banking: Brian stated that the interest for Wetland banking is slowing down and he believes there will be more interest in the spring.

Feedlots: Brian stated that his work plan is in the review process and has been in discussion with the PCA on discrepancies on what has been submitted.

CAI- Brian reported that he has administered 1 test this year and the question came up if we should be charging for this service. It was decided that we do not want to charge for this testing as we already receive funding from Ag Inspector.

Seed Samples: Brian reported the main focus of seed sampling will be corn and soybeans.

Dalmatian Toadflax: Brian reported that Dalmatian Toadflax has been found in Grand Marais. Brian reported that he has been contacted for advice on fighting this noxious weed. Brian also stated that he will soon begin research on ground spraying and treatments days for this upcoming year.

District Pickup: Brian reported to the board that he received a new bid from C&M Ford on a new pickup for the district. He gave different prices and options to the board and they approved the purchase of a pickup for the district up to \$37,400. With motion by Wilebski and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote from supervisors, Chairman Peterson and Brian will take pricing up to C&M Ford and pick out a pickup.

Crop Improvement Day: Brian reported that he had the booth at the Crop Improvement day on January 23rd at the Hallock City Hall.

Jim Schwab was absent from the meeting, but gave Jamie a report to read

CSP: The CSP signup has ended and he received 1 application.

EQIP: The EQIP signup first scoring period is until February 21st, there are 6 applications that cannot be loaded into the system because of the new Farm Bill. They are still waiting for specific rules.

There are changes in EQIP and CSP that will be coming but there are no details yet.

Technician position: There is still no word on when Mark's position will be advertised yet.

New Area Conservationist: Jim gave the board a little background information on Dan Weber, the new area conservationist. He plans on visiting each office in Area 1 in the near future.

February is Black History Month

Jamie Osowski gave the District Coordinator report:

Year End Reporting: Jamie reported that she has been working on the Year End Financials and they are due by March 15th.

Area 1 Employee Session: Darren, Jamie and Brian attended the Area 1 Employee Session at Sportman's Lodge on February 11th and 12th. Jamie gave a report to the board on what was discussed at the training and gave the board a list of ideas that were brainstormed for the 2014 State Convention that Area 1 will be hosting in December.

Ag BMP: Jamie reported that Carl Christopherson stopped in with an Ag BMP application for a 2008 S205 Bobcat Skidsteer. He is looking for \$26,900. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote of supervisors to approve this Ag BMP Loan for Carl Christopherson for a Skidsteer in the amount of \$26,900. The loan will be submitted to American Federal Bank.

Kittson SWCD Open House: Jamie reported to the board that the Kittson SWCD open house will immediately follow our board meeting.

Annual Get-together: Jamie asked the board for recommendations on rescheduling the Annual Get-together that was cancelled in January due to weather. The board suggested picking a date in late March or Early April. Jamie will put a few dates together and check with area restaurants for reservations.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager report

NRBG and State Cost Share Reports: Darren presented the board with a breakdown of where the grant dollars are and when they need to be spent.

Signing Authority: Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote of supervisors giving Jamie Osowski permission to sign conservation plans on behalf of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District.

Hazardous Weather: Darren reported to the board that on January 16th, 2013 the office was unstaffed due to a blizzard. At Noon there was a CodeRED submitted advising no travel due to extreme blizzard conditions. Motion was made by Dagen and seconded by H. Peterson and unanimous vote from supervisors to allow hazardous weather leave for this day.

New Lease Agreement: Darren reported to the board that he was approached by Eric Christensen with a new lease amount. The new amount will now be \$15.60 per square foot and the lease will run from 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2023. The previous contract was \$15.83/sq. foot for the first 5 years and the \$18.50/sq. foot for the second 5 years. Paint and carpet are planned for the spring of 2014. Motion was made by Dagen and Seconded by Anderson and Unanimous vote of supervisors to approve the new lease amount of \$15.60/sq. foot for 10 years.

SWCD Tree Program: Darren presented the board with an updated tree inventory and the current list of tree plantings for 2014.

Envirothon: Darren presented to the board that Envirothon will be held on April 23rd in Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Jamie has sent out donation letters to businesses.

2013 E-link Reporting: All NRBG grants, programs & operations grants, state cost share and Clean Water Fund reporting for 2013 and 2014 has been completed. Most of these reports have been posted to the website.

BWSR Snapshot: Darren presented the board with the latest edition of the BWSR Snapshot with an article on the Lake Bronson Watershed Runoff Reduction Project article.

SEDLC (Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance) Grant: Darren reported that this grant was awarded to the Kittson SWCD for \$10,000. These grant dollars will be used for Kittson SWCD to do inventory work on County Ditches 22,27, 21 and State Ditch 1.

CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) Grant: Darren reported that this grant was not awarded to the Kittson SWCD. This grant would have allowed for \$15,000 for cost share assistance to landowners/townships for the purchase of chemical to eradicate/control nuisance weeds.

2013 Annual Reports and 2014 Annual Work Plan: Darren reported that these reports will be completed and posted on our website by 3/15/2014.

Zoning: Not much activity has been happening with Zoning at this time, Darren will be attending the next County Commissioners meeting in March.

Summer Intern: Darren reported to the board that he will be developing a summer intern job description and application and will have them submitted in early March. The intern will assist with Trees, Grants, Water Monitoring and Zoning.

March Board Meeting: The February Board meeting is scheduled for March 14th, 2014 at 7:30 AM.

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

Justin Dagen, Secretary

Heather Peterson, Vice Chair
